

THE ONLY REVOLUTION THAT CAN DEAL WITH THE CALL TO CHANGE

In May 1, 1971, shortly after my conversion to Jesus as Lord of my life, I attended the May Day war protests in Washington, D.C. My reason for attending was to share with everyone there about the One who offers us genuine peace.

I can remember that night as I tried to sleep among some fifty thousand young people and hearing a guy yelling for hash (a drug made from cannabis). “Hash, Hash,” he cried out desperately, “does anyone have some hash?!” Remember—this was during a gathering for peace.

That particular scene has always stuck with me. It captures how so many movements crying out for social or political change do so without dealing with the fundamental problem that lies hidden in the darkness of our own hearts. The man crying out for drugs was calling for peace without peace in his own heart.

We see this scene of crying out for change and revolution for transformation on many levels in our societies. Yet, it is clear that the solutions offered have not



Photo by Jeff Albertson via UMassAmherst

dealt with the overwhelming flood of depression, despair, suicide, drug overdoses, addictions, sexual perversions, violence, hatred, and isolation. They don’t deal with the transformation of the heart. They can’t.

The answer can only be spiritual. Only Christ Jesus crucified and raised from the dead can change our hearts. He alone offers the remedy: forgiveness of sins and the empowering presence of God to change us from the inside out in order to live an entirely new life.

For that good news to be reality for the sake of others, the Church must believe it, live the “Christ-life” personally, and proclaim it.

In the ChristLife process, offered in many parishes here in the States and beyond, we are witnessing ordinary people who, by the grace

of God, are becoming loving, empowered disciples. As members of the Church, they are on mission to tell others, “Jesus changed my life and he can change yours!”

A bishop I know happily shared with me how a relative had contacted him to share about the radical change that had occurred in her life as a result of being part of the ChristLife process. She told him, it’s like “I’m a born-again Catholic!”

Our contribution to the Church, precisely at this time, is offering an evangelization process that provides the means of beginning to actually make disciples who, by Jesus’ power at work within them, are living new lives for him. The Lord has called us to equip, encourage and empower parishes, small groups and individuals like you to join the only true revolution that addresses the deepest needs and longings of humanity.



Your brother,

Dave Nodar
ChristLife Founder

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

CHRISTLIFE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Wednesday, June 26 - Friday, June 28, 2019
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Ellicott City, MD

Join clergy and lay leaders from around the country who are passionate about evangelization.

More information and registration will be available soon at www.ChristLifeConference.org

FOLLOWING CHRIST RETREAT A SUCCESS

TALKS FOR THE NEW FOLLOWING CHRIST WERE RECORDED AT A WEEKEND “FILMED RETREAT”

BY: JAMES LOHRMANN

Over 80 ChristLife friends and supporters gathered at St. Louis Parish to hear the brand-new Following Christ talks presented live by Dave Nodar, Ally Ascosi, and Fr. Erik Arnold. From Friday night through Sunday afternoon, all of the talks of Following Christ were presented live and recorded by Coronation Media, a Maryland-based Catholic production company.



Participants enjoyed delicious, catered meals; small group discussion; prayer ministry; opportunities for Mass, Confession and Adoration; and getting

to hear the speakers give their new and improved Following Christ talks. Like the first edition, the talks covered essentials of Catholic discipleship including personal prayer, hearing God in Scripture, the sacraments, and walking in forgiveness. The only brand-new talk, “The Heart of a Disciple” presented by Ally Ascosi, received great feedback from retreat participants. One person shared, “For me Ally’s talk ‘The Heart of a Disciple’ really brought it all together.”

Several members of ChristLife Young Adults attended the filmed retreat. Afterwards, many of the young adults shared their appreciation for the retreat experience. “My hope has been increased so much by being here today,” said Christine, a ChristLife young adult. One middle-aged retreatant expressed gratitude for the young adults



in his small group, “The future looks good. We have great young people in the Church through ChristLife ... I can see the strength and the power coming through them and it’s very up-lifting.”

At the end of the retreat, Pete Ascosi, Assistant Director, shared his impression of the event. “I couldn’t be happier with how well the retreat experience and filming went this weekend.

We can’t wait to release this new edition of Following Christ, so that tens of thousands of Catholics can truly become committed, lifelong disciples of the Lord Jesus.”

NOW WE NEED YOUR HELP TO RELEASE THE FOLLOWING CHRIST COURSE!

\$26,000 remains to reach our fundraising goal of \$75,000

Post-production is in full swing. Our team is busy editing the videos, writing manuals, and designing the artwork for the new course. While our plan is to release Following Christ on January 7, 2019, this release date is dependent on raising the remaining \$26,000 to reach our initial fundraising goal of \$75,000 (for the English language edition).

Help make disciples of the Lord by donating to the Following Christ production!



Donate online today!
christlife.org/donate



ChristLife equips Catholics for the essential work of evangelization so that everyone might personally encounter Jesus Christ and be transformed into His missionary disciples.

STAFF

Dave Nodar - *Director*
Leo Rudegeair - *Assistant Director*
Peter Ascosi - *Assistant Director*
Dianne Davis - *NY Regional Director*
Jennifer King - *Communications Director*
James Lohrmann - *IT and Customer Support*

VOLUNTEER STAFF

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STAFF UPDATES

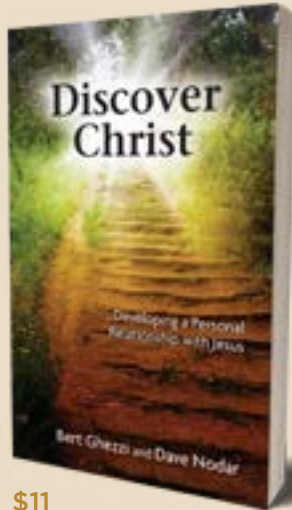
James Lohrmann married Kaitlyn Bolesa on October 27, 2018. The new couple resides in Sykesville, MD and attends St. Joseph Parish. As an indispensable member of ChristLife's staff, James provides support to parishes running the ChristLife process and serves as the coordinator of ChristLife Young Adults (CLYA). James and Kaitlyn actively serve together at CLYA, helping young adults encounter Jesus and become his disciples on mission.



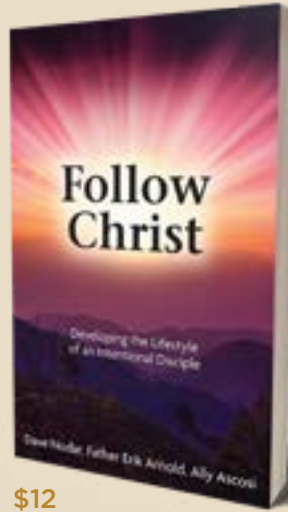
CHRISTMAS IS COMING! LOOKING FOR GIFT IDEAS?

Our three-book series, based on the ChristLife evangelization process, is used by individuals and parishes to spread the Gospel message and transform lives through the power of the Holy Spirit. These books make a great gift for your friends, family, and neighbors. **Purchase today at www.christlife.org/store/category/books**

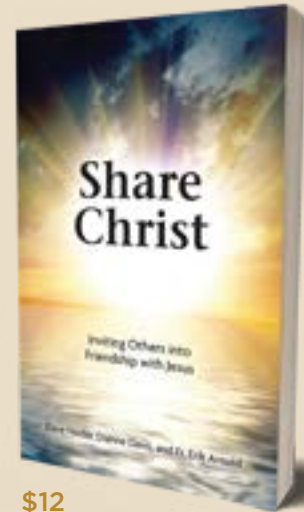
Use discount code **CHRISTMAS18** to get all three books for \$30!



\$11



\$12



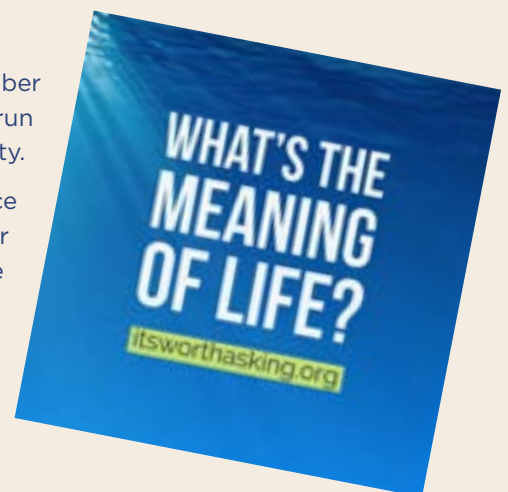
\$12

NEW YORKERS ASK, "WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?" AND THEY FIND IT'S A QUESTION WORTH ASKING

BY: JENNIFER KING

When Dianne Davis first attended a Discovering Christ training conference in November 2009, she never imagined that eight years later the Holy Spirit would lead her to run a county-wide Discovering Christ course impacting 500 members of her community.

The idea of a county-wide Discovering Christ came to her after attending a conference and meeting with her spiritual director. It seemed like the answer to her desire for a way to evangelize her community outside of the parish walls. Her prayer became "Lord, if this is not your idea, shut the door." After a series of meetings with her bishop and several other Catholic leaders, the planning began. Before every step in the process—from building the intercessory prayer team to finding a location to choosing a caterer—Dianne continued praying, "Lord, if this is not your idea, shut the door." And God continued to open the doors. *(continued on back)*



"New Yorkers ask, 'What is the meaning of life?'" continued.

The first step was recruiting and training a team of over 175 volunteers from almost all of the twenty parishes in Dutchess County. Many of the team members had already been through Discovering Christ and were excited to help others experience it.

Every person on the team was given the tools necessary to spread the word to people in their lives. Team members shared testimonies at Masses, placed lawn signs in their neighborhoods, put bumper stickers on their cars, and handed out postcards to their friends, neighbors, family and co-workers. Their love for the Lord overcame their fear of evangelizing! They were also strategic about inviting people outside of the Church pews by using billboards in the community and radio advertisements. The professionally-designed materials asked a simple question: "What's the meaning of life?" and directed them to visit itsworthasking.org.



On Sunday, September 9th, 500 people arrived to the transformed gymnasium at Our Lady of Lourdes High School. Catholics from the pews, inactive Catholics, other Christians, and non-Christians sat down around tables to discuss the meaning of life.



At each session participants found a safe place to explore the meaning of life and a relationship with God. Small group facilitators and helpers set the tone from the very beginning so that people felt comfortable sharing their thoughts. Each night guests left with huge smiles on their faces and expressed gratitude for the hospitality.

Small group discussions gave guests the chance to reflect on their own lives and provided the opportunity to enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ. One guest shared, "I did experience a change in my relationship with Christ... It is not a one-sided relationship. I know that I love Jesus, but now I have a much stronger feeling that Jesus truly does love me..."

The Holy Spirit retreat was a powerful day for the hundreds who attended. They heard talks about who the Holy Spirit is and how we need the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. For an hour, 23 prayer teams were available as many people stepped forward to commit their lives to Jesus.

Over the span of seven-weeks, many lives were changed by the love of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Catholics in the pews were inspired to live their faith with more fervor: "I believe my faith and my relationship with Jesus has been significantly deepened and renewed... I have also started reading the Bible more when I pray. I am definitely renewed and excited about my future and my faith."

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started reading the Bible more when I pray. I am definitely renewed and excited about my future and my faith."

People who were searching have found what they were looking for: "I had a very cynical experience with the church that made me question and doubt everything, including God. I have visited many churches and I always felt the same way: 'I don't agree with the theology, I don't feel the Holy Spirit,' but that's normal for me. Then I came to Discovering Christ. This is the first time in 30 years that I have felt the Holy Spirit! I am now enrolled in RCIA and am joining the Catholic Church!"



Through Discovering Christ, many people found a relationship with Jesus to be the answer to the question "What is the meaning of my life?" As one guest shared, "Jesus is my teacher... my savior. I have spoken to Christ every day. I have asked the Holy Spirit to come in and to guide me. I have never had such a personal experience."

The next step is helping people continue the journey they started through Discovering Christ. Dianne and her team are partnering with the Archdiocese of

New York to form small groups, offer Bible studies, and host a Following Christ course.

Their love for the Lord overcame their fear of evangelizing!

Many lives were changed by the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.