

“For each one of you, as for the apostles, the encounter with the divine Teacher who calls you friends may be the beginning of an extraordinary venture: that of becoming apostles among your contemporaries to lead them to live their own experience of friendship with God, made Man, with God who has made himself my friend.”

POPE BENEDICT XVI

DEAR SAINTS,

In this Easter season, as we praise our Savior for his victory over sin, Satan, and death, we can genuinely appreciate the truth of the traditional hymn, *What a friend we have in Jesus! All our sins and griefs to bear!*

The experience of our own personal friendship with Jesus compels us to move outward on mission. Today there are so many people in our daily lives who desperately need to know the love of God through the witness of our own changed lives. He is looking for ordinary people, like you and me who are willing to say “yes” to his calling to be a missionary disciple.

As a young man, when my own conversion was unfolding, it was the changed life of my friend Richard that had a major impact on me. I knew Richard prior to his conversion, he was a broken and messed up person like me. But through his surrender to the Lord Jesus, he had experienced a total transformation that was obvious—and he wanted to tell everyone. I couldn’t argue with the witness of his changed life!

Several weeks ago a man shared with me how he and a coworker were so impacted by the Lord during Discovering Christ that as they were talking about it at work someone overheard them, and interrupted them to say she wanted what they had!

We love hearing stories just like this of people who are personally encountering the Lord or who are now committed to personally evangelizing because of the impact of the ChristLife courses. Please continue to share testimonies with us!



DAVE SPEAKING AT THE ENCOUNTER CONFERENCE IN TOLEDO, OH, JANUARY 2019

Finally, as we approach summer, we are ramping up preparations for our National Conference, June 26-28, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help here in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. We are expecting over 200 parish leaders from across the United States and several other countries.

Will you pray for encouragement, renewal and equipping for all who attend the ChristLife National Conference united by the common mission of making disciples? Your prayers are powerful and make a difference!

Your brother in the Lord,



Dave Nodar
Founder and Director



Helping Parishes Learn About ChristLife Online

On May 6th, Dianne Davis and Jennifer King presented a webinar to share how ChristLife is bringing transformation to parishes and how to get started.

View and help us spread the word! www.christlife.org/webinars/proven-path



YOUNG ADULTS PUT THEIR FAITH INTO ACTION

Since 2009, ChristLife Young Adults has been a community where young adults can encounter the living God and receive the formation and support necessary to follow Jesus Christ as missionary disciples. Ten years later, this mission continues to bear fruit.

This past Lent, ChristLife Young Adults participated in a number of service opportunities. One group went to a local nursing home and spent time with the elderly and another served dinner through a local parish's homeless ministry. Another group sorted non-perishable food items for distribution and yet another went into the streets to serve a hot meal and pray with those in need.

It was encouraging to see so many young adults excited about putting their faith in action and sharing Jesus Christ with others.

Learn more at www.christlife.org/youngadults

ANDREW COMISKEY TO SPEAK AT CHRISTLIFE CONFERENCE

The Good News of Jesus Christ has the power to change hearts and bring healing to the broken places in people's lives. This year at the ChristLife National Conference, guest keynote speaker, Andrew Comiskey, will share how God restored him from sexual and relational brokenness to wholeness.

Andrew is the founder and director of Desert Stream Ministries, a ministry that equips the body of Christ to minister healing to the sexually and relationally broken through healing groups and leadership training for the local church.

Drawing on his own experience working with the relationally and sexually broken, Andrew will share his own testimony and pastoral experience, helping attendees better fulfill the mission of evangelization.

Please pray for Andrew and the entire ChristLife team as we present this year's National Conference, June 26-28, 2019 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Ellicott City, Maryland.

Learn more at www.ChristLifeConference.org



SHARING THE GOOD NEWS IN IOWA



In March, Dave Nodar and Pete Ascosi traveled to Des Moines, IA to give a Lenten Parish Mission for St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. While there, they also met with parish leaders from St. Pius X Catholic Church who have been running the ChristLife courses for several years.

Would you like to bring in ChristLife for a Parish Mission or ChristLife Reunion? Email jen@christlife.org for details.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE BATTLE?

BY: CONNIE - KIRKLAND, WASHINGTON

Connie works for Holy Family Parish in Kirkland, Washington and went through the ChristLife process.

I was so happy the [Following Christ] retreat talked about spiritual warfare. The cruise ship vs. battleship metaphor was used to examine our spiritual life. Is your spiritual life a cruise ship? Peaceful and relaxing, but going nowhere. Or is it more like a battleship? Locked and loaded with a definite mission.

Sometimes being a parent is like being the captain of a battleship. Satan is everywhere in our secular world and he is attacking our children. My kids always protested whenever I mentioned him, "Oh Mom, there you go again with your devil talk..." My message that Satan was real and present in their lives was not well received. Just as I wanted them to recognize God's glory and gifts, I also wanted them to be watchful for the deceitfulness of Satan.

Do you recognize Satan in your life? I admit that I am not always aware when he is around but the ChristLife retreat jogged my memory. I recalled an incident from my son's childhood and shared it with my group. I share it now with you.

I have three children and they all learn differently. When my eldest son was in fourth grade he was struggling with math concepts. He had been ill and missed a lot of school so he fell behind his classmates. One chilly afternoon he was in his room working on his homework and I heard him talking to himself. Curious as to what he was doing, I peeked around the corner. My beautiful son, my gift from God, was verbally berating himself at his desk. "You are stupid, you are stupid" were words that he had written many times on his paper and was repeating over and over to himself. You ... are ... stupid!

I am not proud to share what my reaction was but... I lost it. I totally, totally lost it! My body and mind instantly filled with rage. I threw open his door and started yelling, "YOU ARE NOT STUPID! YOU ARE NOT STUPID! GOD DOESN'T MAKE STUPID!" I wasn't just yelling; I was practically screaming. I grabbed him and his paper and pulled him into the living room where a fire was crackling in the fireplace. Only slightly calmer I told him how special he was ... how loved he was ... what a miracle he was ... that God made him exactly the way he wanted him to be ... that not understanding something was temporary



GUIDO RENI'S MICHAEL IN SANTA MARIA DELLA CONCEZIONE, ROME, 1636.

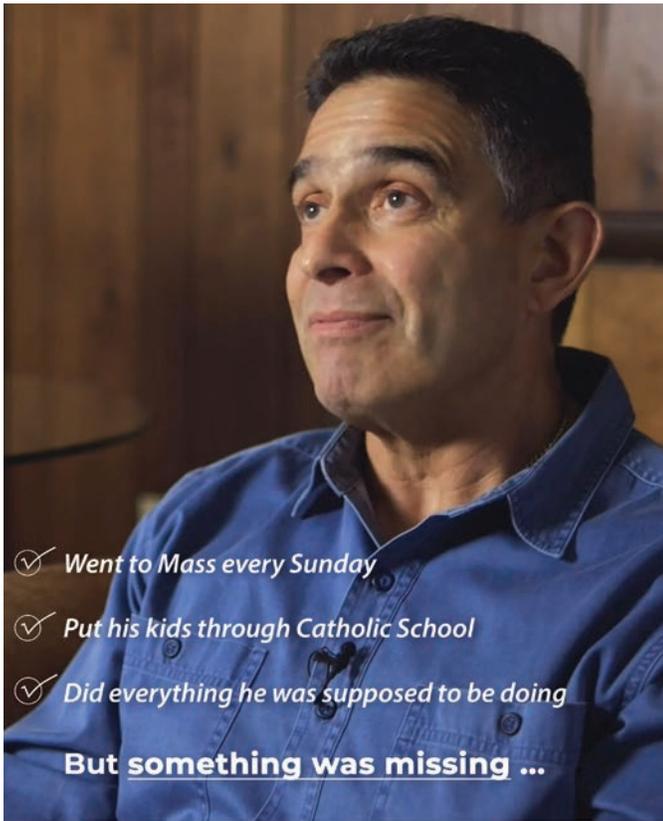
... that God didn't make stupid. I asked him if he thought the message he was repeating to himself came from God or from someone else. Finally, I helped him tear the paper that he had written on into little pieces and we threw them in the fire.

My anger still burned as hot as the fire; anger that Satan had attacked my son. As we watched the paper burn I held him close to me on the couch. I prayed with him and shared all the positive, Godly thoughts and scripture I could remember. I explained that these types of negative, harmful thoughts were never from God but this was how Satan tried to gain a stronghold in our hearts.

Do you recognize Satan in your life? Are you ready for battle? On that day, at that moment, I recognized him. I saw the Father of Lies clearly and there was nothing for him to hide behind as his lies burned in the hot fire.

May we be ever watchful for Satan and remember, James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

This testimony was originally posted on the ChristLife blog: www.christlife.org/blog/no-sympathy-for-the-devil

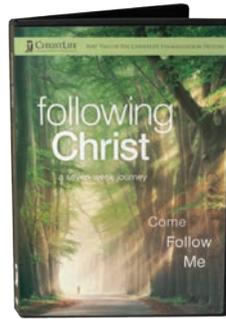


- ✓ *Went to Mass every Sunday*
 - ✓ *Put his kids through Catholic School*
 - ✓ *Did everything he was supposed to be doing*
- But something was missing ...**

Hear Freddie Cruz's full story:
ChristLife.org/Freddie

NEW FOLLOWING CHRIST BEARS FRUIT!

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, the new Following Christ in English was **fully funded** and



released on March 1, 2019. In less than three months, over 120 parishes have purchased the new edition! We've received updates from many who completed their courses, sharing how the new edition is helping them form missionary disciples of Jesus Christ!

“ We recently completed the new Following Christ. The quality is outstanding! And now thanks to having subtitles, we were able to have an entire small group of deaf parishioners attend and benefit from the course.

Jim - St. Ignatius of Loyola
Ijamsville, MD

“ Our Vicariate just started the new Following Christ. The message is so practical that it allows you take information you learn and apply it to your life as soon as you leave. It teaches you and challenges you to follow Jesus in a real way in your daily life.”

Tyler - Immaculate Conception
Stayton, OR



CHRISTLIFE WELCOMES SPRING INTERN

ChristLife is thrilled to welcome our Spring intern, Vicente! Vicente is a lifelong Catholic who was raised in a faithful, Puerto Rican family. He graduated from Mt. St. Mary's University in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in Information Systems and also interned with Family Missions Company.

***Hello ChristLife Community!** My name is Vicente Garcia and I'm excited to be answering the call to mission with the ChristLife team. When I began interning in February, I was quickly incorporated into this joyful community and involved in various projects such as the Spanish translation of Following Christ. In my post-college years, I'm striving to let my response to God's merciful love for me be a resounding "yes" by continuing to discover, follow, and share Him. Blessed be the name of the Lord, He has done great things for us!*



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

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- Leo Rudegear - *Assistant Director*
- Peter Ascosi - *Assistant Director*
- Dianne Davis - *Director of Mission Expansion*
- Jennifer King - *Communications Director*
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