Dear brothers and sisters,

Several years ago I met a woman from Kansas named LaDonna, who was a self-described lukewarm, cafeteria Catholic prior to a profound spiritual awakening. She likened her conversion to a special type of glasses that helps colorblind people see the way everyone else sees color. She shared:

“For me, the ChristLife program was like getting a pair of those glasses. It was as though I’d been colorblind my whole life and had no idea. Then I entered a beautiful period of consolation. For the first time I feel like I am seeing everything in full color—the way it is meant to be seen.”

Simply wonderful! Her words vividly illustrate the marvelous working of the Lord’s grace, bringing one soul completely to Himself. Her story also breathes hope because it reminds us so powerfully that God is still alive and active in our Church and in the world!

Over the last decade, 200,000 people have had the opportunity to encounter the life-changing Good News through ChristLife!

As ChristLife looks forward to 2022, our mission is to continue to equip workers (Luke 10:2) to bring the Good News and the call of missionary discipleship to more and more souls through both in-person and virtual ChristLife courses.

To accomplish so great a mission entrusted to us by the Lord, we need brothers and sisters like you to partner with us.

We also need partners in giving. While some of ChristLife’s initiatives provide income for the ministry, most do not. During our fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30, 80% of our income will come from our donors.

This year, we are launching the ChristLife Mission Growth Fund with a goal of $400,000. This fund will supply the financial support our team needs to fulfill the mission God has given us for the coming year.

God has supplied for all of our needs through many friends in wonderful ways throughout our 25-year history. During the COVID pandemic, God not only provided for us financially, He also opened doors to bring the Good News by way of the internet to people around the world who we would have been unable to reach in person.

We could never have come this far, nor can we continue to call hundreds of thousands of more people to discipleship, without friends like you.

Please consider partnering with us in an ongoing way in prayer and giving. Use the enclosed response card or give online at ChristLife.org/donate. Thank you for your generous support!

By our Baptism, each one of us is called to a life of holiness and evangelization. In the words of LaDonna,

“Everyone deserves a chance to try on these special glasses.”

Your brother in Christ,

Pete Ascosi
Assistant Director

We partner with ChristLife
Use the enclosed response card or give online at ChristLife.org/donate
Thank you for your generous support!
INTERVIEW WITH FR. JAMES DVORSCAK

Why did you decide to bring ChristLife to your parish?

After a long search, we discovered that ChristLife introduced people to the person of Jesus within the community of His Church. The tipping point for us was how it presented the Scriptures, the Sacraments, and the Tradition of the Church as vital parts of our personal encounter with Jesus. Within that meaningful relationship, developing a Catholic Christian lifestyle is convincing, and our spiritual outreach to others is compelling.

The ongoing offering of ChristLife is transforming our core parishioners. They know their faith, love their faith, and live their faith in ways that attract others. ChristLife also appeals to prospective parishioners who sense we have something they long for, a life filled with meaning, purpose, and love. Jesus can truly deliver these blessings to those who embrace Him personally in the community of His Church.

As we present ChristLife for the third time, a spiritual difference is apparent in our liturgies, ministries, and daily lives. New people are showing up at Mass and at ChristLife. Something wonderful is happening. The Spirit seems to be working in our midst through ChristLife. Other parishes in our diocese are also catching the ChristLife spirit as part of a great spiritual reset of the Church in our day.

As a priest, how has ChristLife helped to broaden your understanding and practice of evangelization?

As a perpetual student, I usually promoted the ‘what’ and the ‘how’ of our faith. After taking ChristLife, I am focusing more on the ‘who’ and the ‘why’ of faith as the foundation for everything else. In my forty-fifth year of priesthood, ChristLife is like a new pair of glasses that highlights spiritual treasures which have been hiding in plain sight. The faith story I composed at ChristLife has also been a helpful tool in my evangelization efforts.

When I share my story about how Jesus is real to me, it motivates people to search for that unique part of themselves that can help them bond with Jesus. When I relate how
Why Are You Afraid?

BY DAVE NODAR

Why are we afraid? I want to take a moment to speak to you about the fear that is so pervasive in our society: the fear of death, of losing control, of the future and what it holds, of persecution and martyrdom, and of COVID. This fear is all around us, all the time.

In my prayer time one morning, I remembered the words Jesus tells His disciples as the storm rages around their boat in Mark 4:40 “Why are you afraid, have you no faith?” In the middle of a raging storm, Jesus, as calm as can be, asks the disciples, “Why are you afraid?” Well, they had very good reason to be afraid!

It is worth noting that not everyone in the boat was a fisherman, and so they were less used to rough and stormy waters, and would’ve been really afraid. And those who were fishermen and more familiar with stormy seas knew that they were in trouble, and quite likely going to drown! All of these people had different reasons to be afraid!

Meanwhile Jesus is asleep! Jesus, in his union with the Father, is able to peacefully sleep even amidst the storm, the rocking boat, and the terrified yells of those around Him. When the disciples come to wake Him, instead of letting their fear infect Him, His own peace spreads out from Him—a peace that stills the wind and the sea.

Now let us take a look at the mission Jesus was on. At the beginning of this chapter, Jesus told His disciples, “Let us go to the other side.” Later we see that when they get to the other side, Jesus heals a possessed man (Mark 5:1-20). Now we see that this storm is the beginning of the enemy’s preemptive attack, trying to prevent Jesus from reaching the man to heal him.

One of the last things I will say is that we need to recognize that fear is a fiery dart that the enemy uses to distract us and sow distrust in our relationship with God. As Paul says in Ephesians 6, we need to take up the shield of faith. I have personally been praying for greater faith in the Lord’s faithfulness, even when I don’t know what’s going to happen. I encourage you to take a few minutes in prayer, identify your fears, recall who the Father is and who Jesus is, and renounce and repent of the mistrust you have. Then, ask the Lord to give you the grace to trust Him more, praying, “Jesus I believe, help my unbelief.”

Here is a verse you can memorize for when you feel afraid: “Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.” 1 John 4:4b

Watch a video of the full teaching on our YouTube channel or scan the QR code.
youtube.com/ChristLifeMinistry

ChristLife prayer: “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner. Fill me with your Spirit so that I may live a new life. Help me to know you, to love you, and to serve you in this world, so that I may be happy with you both now and for all eternity. Thank you, Lord! Amen.”
The Gift of Transformed Lives

BY JENNIFER KING

As Holy Spirit-St. Joseph Catholic Community in Penfield, New York was entering the fourth week of their third year offering Discovering Christ, the pandemic shut down all activities. Recognizing the importance of evangelization and building community, their team made the decision to pivot and offer the entire ChristLife process virtually.

Discovering Christ began in September 2020, after several months of planning. Those who were previously signed up were invited to come back, but an invitation was also extended to the larger community. Approximately 70 people signed up to participate.

Team members stepped up in creative ways to bring the in-person experience to the virtual setting—from the worship team continuing to lead praise online in the weekly sessions, to the hospitality team creating welcome bags for each guest that included a participant guide, candle, and snacks!

As they moved through Discovering Christ, Following Christ, and into Sharing Christ, they witnessed many people being transformed by the power of the Gospel. “Many shared how they pray more frequently, feel closer to God, have a personal relationship with Jesus and participate more fully in the sacraments,” Mike Nesbitt, the leader of the volunteer team, shared with their local Catholic paper, the Catholic Courier.

As they neared the end of Sharing Christ and prepared for the retreat, the team discussed how they might do the cardboard testimonies given their limitations. They wanted the experience to be as authentic as possible, so people in small groups were invited to come to the parish, prepare their cardboard testimony, and be filmed to share with the rest of the group. Testimonies ranged from: “I felt like an outcast -> I feel loved and chosen” to “Lukewarm and Disinterested -> Awakened and On Fire”

Praise God for the gift of seeing lives transformed and sent forth on mission!