



CHRISTLIFE™
CATHOLIC MINISTRY FOR EVANGELIZATION

WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Teenager Grows as ChristLife Leader

Revive Us, O Lord: Launching A Year-Long Evangelization Initiative

Discípulos en Acción: Hispanic Parish Experiences Spiritual Growth

United in Faith: Couple Finds Common Ground in Jesus

AND JESUS TOLD THEM A PARABLE, TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY OUGHT ALWAYS TO PRAY AND NOT LOSE HEART... "AND WILL NOT GOD VINDICATE HIS ELECT, WHO CRY TO HIM DAY AND NIGHT? WILL HE DELAY LONG OVER THEM? I TELL YOU, HE WILL VINDICATE THEM SPEEDILY."

LUKE 18:1,7-8

Dear sisters and brothers in our Lord,
Many years ago (over half of a century ago), my grandmother told me that she was very concerned about me (she had good reason to be concerned), and she would be saying three rosaries a day for me. I am quite sure that her prayers, along with my mother's, were crucial in my coming to know the love of God in Jesus our Lord, and saying yes to his call to follow him.

Intercession is a gift of God to his children. **A gift to bring the kingdom of God's power and purposes to earth.** "Let your kingdom come, let your will be done on earth as in heaven." Jesus frequently encouraged his disciples to join with him in interceding for the will of God to be done on earth (Rom.8:26; Heb.5:7;7:25).

Intercession is vital to our mission as Jesus' disciples. In order to take action, to advance the kingdom, we must learn to grow in using the

weapons of our warfare that the Lord gives us (2 Cor. 10:3-4). Our weapons, St. Paul tell us, aren't the weapons the world uses, but heavenly ones that have divine power to bring change!

You and I are to take action, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and intercession... keeping alert with all perseverance making supplication for the saints (Eph.6:10-18). That is quite a challenge isn't it?

Consider the times we are living in. The Lord is acting in the midst of these times. **He will have his way.** I want to be part of his purposes, don't you? Let's grow in bringing his will to bear in the current times.

Rally to me my faithful ones! (Ps.50:5). In this time of radical shaking of the nations and of the Christian people, the Lord is summoning his people to prayer. Not only for each of us to grow in daily prayer with God, but additionally in intercession as an

essential way he brings his purposes to fulfillment. ***Do you hear the Lord calling you to intercession?***

For me personally, as regards intercession, I have been saying to the Lord, teach me to pray. I encourage each of you to ask him to teach you to intercede. Pray for family, friends, neighborhoods, state, nations. Pray especially for the Lord's people.

Along with personal intercession, I invite you to consider gathering with others. Once a month, ChristLife holds an intercessory prayer meeting, which is open to all of you. Please join us!

Lord Jesus, teach us to pray! Help us to not lose heart but be encouraged by your power, promises and grace! Amen!

Your brother in our hope of glory,

Dave Nodar

ChristLife's Founder and Senior Leader

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN CHRISTLIFE'S MONTHLY INTERCESSORY PRAYER MEETING

On the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 12 Noon, we invite friends of ChristLife to gather online for a time of praise and intercession. Please join us.

Sign-up to receive our monthly invitations at ChristLife.org/PrayerPartner



HELP MAKE MISSIONARY DISCIPLES FOR JESUS



Donate to our mission growth fund today!

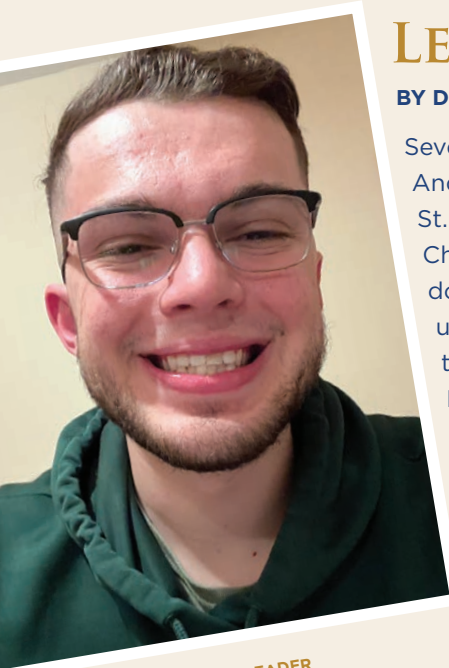
There are 100 days to raise \$94,000 before our goal deadline of June 30th.

Use the enclosed response card or give online at ChristLife.org/donate Thank you for your generous support!



TEENAGER GROWS AS CHRISTLIFE LEADER IN NEW YORK

BY DIANNE DAVIS



FREDDY CARLSSON, COLEADER OF ST. ANN PARISH IN YONKERS

Several years ago, I met with Father Andrew Carrozza, the former pastor of St. Ann's in Yonkers, NY, about running ChristLife at his parish. I didn't have to do much convincing because he already understood the importance of sharing the Kerygma as the basis of our faith. He had even mentally started forming a team. When we spoke, he shared that he was going to have some people from the youth group on the team as well. In particular he mentioned Freddy, a 15-year-old. I tried telling him that ChristLife didn't have much experience with people younger than 18 years old coming to ChristLife, let alone being part of the team. But Father Carrozza was adamant! He said this group of young people were mature beyond their years and ready. Plus, Freddy was popular among the teens. **He believed if Freddy came, other teens would come to Discovering Christ, too.** Several months later, the course was a total success from the parish viewpoint. They had over 100 people attend, including the teens, and many people encountered the powerful love of God! Their parish was being transformed.

Discovering Christ made a tremendous impact on Freddy. He says:

“ The first time I took [the course] was unique because I was very young and in a place I never expected to be. I agreed to come in blindly and had no clue what to expect. But I was blown away by every aspect of the program. From the community atmosphere that's built amongst the participants and team, to the power of the teachings. I definitely felt as though my life was changed, and **I committed my life to Jesus at that first retreat and have never looked back.** The things I learned through this program pushed me to be better at all the things I was involved in; becoming the Grand Knight of my Knights of Columbus, the President of a non-profit organization, as well as personally, in school, at home with family and even in my dating life. **I wouldn't be where I am today without ChristLife.**”

Freddy is now 21 years old, a senior in college and already has an engineering job lined up after graduation. He continues to serve as co-leader of St. Ann's ChristLife team.

REVIVE US, O LORD

Launching A Year-Long Evangelization Initiative with the Diocese of Pittsburgh

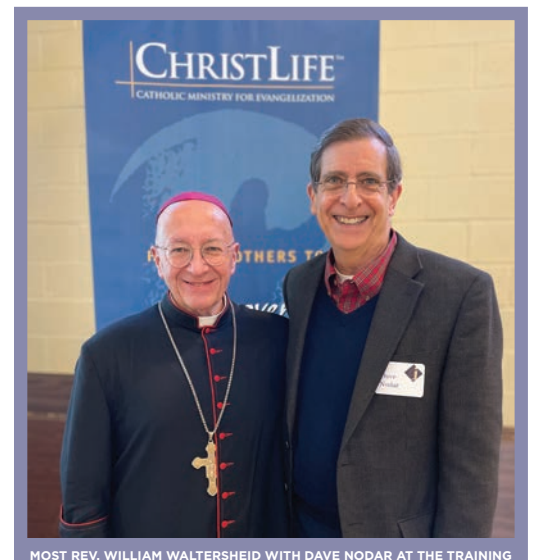
BY JENNIFER KING

Last year, ChristLife began partnering with the Diocese of Pittsburgh in a focused way to help reignite the flames of evangelization and discipleship in their parishes.

“As the Church calls us to a greater embrace of 'synodality', or oneness of heart and mind,” Bishop William Waltersheid shared, “the ChristLife process offers a practical and effective means of transforming communities into places of genuine welcome, rooted in the love of Jesus Christ and the fullness of our Catholic faith.”

This focused initiative involves hosting several events aimed at bringing together parish leaders in fellowship, prayer, and missionary disciple formation in service to the Church's mission of evangelization.

After connecting with parish leaders through a series of webinars and phone calls, ChristLife hosted a hybrid (in-person and virtual) Discovering Christ training event during the first weekend of December. It was inspiring to gather and pray face-to-face with co laborers in the vineyard and equip them to invite people in their



communities to discover Christ.

Ed, one of the training attendees, shared, “The energy and passion for

(Continued on back page...)

SIGUIENDO A CRISTO

*Following Christ Now
Available in Spanish!*

“When is Following Christ going to be available in Spanish?” For the last several years this question was often on the lips of enthusiastic Hispanic leaders involved with ChristLife.

They had experienced Discovering Christ in Spanish as good news for themselves personally and for their communities (several thousand people in over 50 parishes from Mexico City to New York City). So they were eager to go to the next course: Following Christ.

Now, thanks to the generosity of many, we are excited to extend Following Christ to the Spanish-speaking population here in the US and beyond!

Following Christ in Spanish (Siguiendo a Cristo) was adapted into Spanish by Carlos Castañeda, a talented producer and ministry leader who has helped run ChristLife at his home parish, Sacred Heart in Danville, VA, for multiple years.

If you would like to speak to a Hispanic parish leader about bringing ChristLife to the Spanish-speaking population in your parish or community, please contact us. **Visit ChristLife.org/spanish to learn more.**



DISCÍPULOS EN ACCIÓN

Hispanic Parish Experiences Spiritual Growth



BY MADRE JESSANDRA ROSA, S.C.R.

Our experience with ChristLife has been phenomenal. We provide a joyful and warm welcome to new participants as they arrive, especially to those who don't know how to join the group. This is really important during Discovering Christ when participants may be intimidated by not knowing what the course is, since many times they were just invited by someone else. We have a support team very committed to communicating the hospitality message of the ChristLife series. I think that the people serving as instruments of Jesus at each table, either as facilitators or any other way, reflect the fraternity and fellowship that ultimately brings the miracle of effectively communicating Jesus' message.

“ The fellowship allows us to share Jesus and let him do the rest because we are his instruments.

The human component is very important because sometimes we tend to spiritualize more than humanize. Participants come searching for a human Jesus, searching for a welcoming Jesus. We are like sowers, preparing the soil so that the Lord can plant the seed and make it fruitful.

When we started in 2016 we didn't have any volunteers, people committed to the ministry. We only had a few people committed to the parish. As we continued providing the courses, by the second year those who had previously been participants were the ChristLife volunteers. They kept growing in their own experience and kept persevering as servers and support team. More than saying that ChristLife would take participants only to a personal encounter with Jesus to make disciples, I'd say:

“ ChristLife takes them even further and transforms them into disciples of action with a firm conviction to persevere and find their own place in the Church.

They find a place, a space and also find a way to grow in the apostolate of the Church. At the end of ChristLife, we commission and encourage them to commit to any apostolate of the parish. In that way we enrich the Church and they become the new leaders.

Translation by Carlos Castañeda.

Sr. Jesussandra Rosa is a Mother Superior of the Siervas de Cristo Resucitado religious community and serves at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Bronx, NY. You can watch a video of her comments by scanning the QR code below or visiting www.ChristLife.org/Jesussandra



UNITED IN FAITH

Couple Finds Common Ground in Jesus

BY STEVE AND JEN SCHRAML

When Steve and Jen started dating, it seemed they had everything in common: a similar family upbringing, the same taste in music, a love for travel, hiking, and they both attended church regularly. Steve was a cradle Catholic, still attending the same parish into which he was born, while Jen, who grew up Protestant, was a part of a non-denominational church plant when they met. Their faith practices, while both Christian, were very different.

On their fifth date, while drinking a beer at a local pub, Jen finally broached the subject of faith. She looked across the table at Steve and asked "Do you believe in Jesus?" Steve stared back blankly, his jaw dropping to the floor. As a Catholic, he was unfamiliar and even uncomfortable with talking about Jesus. That night



jump started their conversation about faith. When Steve's parish announced the ChristLife series, they decided to sign up. Through the ChristLife series, Jen explored what the Catholic faith was really about, while Steve developed a more personal relationship with Christ.

Jen: "ChristLife demonstrated to me that behind the traditions and liturgy, the foundation of the Catholic faith is first and foremost about having a personal relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ. That is something with which I can identify! Steve and

I have had so many challenging conversations about our faith, but we always return to our common ground in Jesus. I am so grateful to ChristLife for emphasizing that message, because it brought me and Steve together in our faith."

Steve: "For as long as I can remember, I have gone to Mass weekly, prayed regularly, and tried on and off to read the Bible. However, I always felt like something was missing from my faith life. I had heard of people having dramatic religious conversion experiences, but I didn't think that applied to me since I was already a church 'regular'. During the Discovering Christ retreat, I had an extraordinary experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit while the facilitators were praying over me. Since then, I feel alive in my faith and I look forward to sharing with others how knowing Jesus more personally has changed my life. ChristLife changed the direction of my relationship with Jen and brought us to where we are today."

REVIVE US, O LORD (CONTINUED...)

sharing the Word of God with others was genuine. I was inspired by your group truly living as disciples to share the Word of God. As I talked at my table and listened to everyone in our diocese going through their merger process, it struck me very clearly that, at least in my lifetime, never has the Church been more in need of the 'flock' and lay members to do their part as disciples."

Parish leaders left the training and began planning their next steps. Some parishes are offering Discovering Christ this Lent, others will be later this year, and still others are in the beginning stages of building their team.

Our prayer for this partnership is "Revive us O Lord." We ask the Lord to revive each leader, their parish communities, and ultimately, revive the face of the earth.

Learn more about this initiative at www.DioPitt.org/ChristLife



ChristLife is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are gratefully accepted in support of the essential mission of evangelization.

All donations are tax-deductible.

www.ChristLife.org/donate

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