

“BUT YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU AND YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES...” THE LORD JESUS, ACTS 1:8

DEAR FELLOW DISCIPLES,

As a young man of twenty, I was deeply involved in the hippy scene. A close friend, also involved in the scene, experienced a radical change in his life. The change was profound. He exhibited a peace and a joy I had never seen in him previously.

When I asked him what caused the change, he said, *“Jesus changed my life and he can change yours.”* As a very nominal Catholic, I had no idea what that meant.

Months later, I went to visit him. I told him I wanted what he had, but didn't know what to do to get it. “Just get down on your knees, Dave, and pray out loud to Jesus and tell him what you need.” I simply prayed, “Jesus help me!”

As a result of that prayer from my guts, I was flooded with God's personal love for me, a certainty that my sins were forgiven, and a

conviction that I could actually change the way I was living by God's power!

My desire to “get what he had” was wonderfully answered by simply turning to Jesus and away from the way I had been going.

The Holy Spirit, given to me at baptism, was released in power as I turned to Jesus as my Savior and the center of my life.

Few Christians, not to mention the unbaptized, actually know how to receive the power of the Holy Spirit promised to us by the Lord Jesus. They are like I was all those years ago.

The Lord has called each of us to be witnesses of his Good News and he gives us the power of his Spirit to do it! Today I invite you to surrender your life to Jesus as Lord:

Lord God, Please forgive me for all the things I have done wrong. I turn to You and turn away from sin. [Pause. Silently

ask forgiveness for anything you know is keeping you from God.]

Jesus, please be the center of my life. I welcome you personally as Lord and Savior of my life. I ask you, Holy Spirit, to fill me and empower me to live as a child of God. I want to have your grace to truly live a new life. Thank you for hearing my prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ChristLife's passion is to reach as many people as possible and help them to discover, follow, and share Jesus Christ as Lord! Together, dear brothers and sisters in the Holy Spirit, let us be witnesses for Jesus.

Your brother in him,



Dave Nodar
Founder and Senior Leader

CHRISTLIFE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2022

ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH, CLARKSVILLE, MD

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This year's conference is a single track providing the core, comprehensive training for the entire ChristLife process. This is a great opportunity for parishes new to ChristLife, as well as for experienced parishes to raise up new leaders who can carry the baton of evangelization forward.

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Dave Nodar



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Michael Saporito



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Group Rate: **\$210**/person
group of 3 or more



CHRISTLIFE SETS FAITHFUL ON MISSIONARY PATH

BY MARCUS ASHLOCK

More than three years ago, Deacon Pat Derrington, who serves at Holy Spirit Parish in Sioux Falls, was looking for something new to enrich the yearly RCIA program. He wanted to provide the candidates an opportunity to have a true conversion experience.

“Sometimes you can talk with or spend time with someone and you know they have had a conversion experience,” Deacon Pat said. “This put me on a path to find what we can do, or how could we modify the RCIA process to give people the opportunity to have an encounter with Christ.”

A Facebook message from members of a former parish said St. Mary Parish in Sioux Falls was offering a seven-week series called Discovering Christ. He reached out to the program director and became interested.

“I thought, this was something! What really piqued my interest was it was not just a seven-week course, the ChristLife series was three courses in one, and a way to grow a community of missionary disciples,” Deacon Pat said.

The three-part ChristLife series guides participants in Discovering Christ, Following Christ, and then Sharing Christ. Each part is seven weeks long, providing participants a way to encounter Jesus and renew their daily walk with him.

“**The Discovering Christ part gives people an opportunity to renew their excitement, enthusiasm and sense of joy they once felt.**”

Deacon Pat said. “In the Following Christ part, you thoroughly examine your prayer life. Are you spending time in scripture? It helps flesh out your life and brings Jesus more into the everyday ebb and flow of one’s daily life. Finally, Sharing Christ is where we learn to go out and tell others.”

Deacon Pat knew [ChristLife] would help his RCIA candidates have that encounter they needed to experience Christ and learn to grow in him, to build a relationship with Jesus and learn how to evangelize, bringing others to Christ.

Once the series took root, it expanded past the initial use in the RCIA program and became an annual series for anyone—couples or singles, members of any parish, as well as for Christians and even atheists. The first year, 100 people attended the first part, Discovering Christ. More than 90 people have made it through the third and final part. Deacon Pat says everyone is welcome to begin a relationship with Jesus.

A Spiritual Awakening

Deacon Pat describes the series outcomes in his parishioners’ lives as an awakening moment. Some participants who have completed the series have had a transformational experience. Julie Deis, of Holy Spirit Parish and a participant in the ChristLife series, describes her experience in the same terms.

“**It hit me hard, am I living the Bible? Am I truly living God’s words? Am I helping? Am I being caring and empathetic? Am I being of service? It really woke me up,**” Julie said.

“The ChristLife series was kind of an answer. What was amazing is it shared things we already know, but we don’t pay attention to. It was like a veil lifted and all of a sudden you see God in everyone around you; realizing you’ve always had the capability of sharing God with them.”

Julie said sometimes you can see that some people are unsure of the series when it begins and are considering why they are attending. Julie and her husband, along with other veterans of the series, begin to pray for the participants so they may open their hearts and minds to God’s presence and learn to grow in Christ’s love. According to Julie, there comes a point where they turn a corner and start to experience a renewed relationship with Jesus.



This is an excerpt from an article originally published in the Bishop’s Bulletin on 3/30/22. Scan the QR code to read the full article.

www.sfcatholic.org/bishopsbulletin/christlife-series-sets-faithful-on-missionary-path

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH: CHRISTLIFE IN MALAYSIA

Three years ago, Simon Wong from the Diocese of Penang in Malaysia, traveled to Baltimore for our National Training Conference. Months later, the Penang Diocese's New Evangelization Commission (PDNEC) ran several Sharing Christ courses in preparation for their "Extraordinary Mission Month" in October of 2019.

This March, ChristLife in Malaysia reached our ears again. The PDNEC began its formation for 2022 in early February with Discovering Christ. The turnout was fantastic—70 participants signed up from 30 parishes across West Malaysia, East Malaysia, India, and Singapore.

At the first session, Bishop Sebastian Francis of the

Diocese of Penang greeted the participants. He was excited to see their joy and their desire to know more about the Lord.

Bishop Sebastian was drawn to the words "curiosity" and "seekers" from the ChristLife material, saying that this quest for meaning—this curiosity—is infinite and thrilling. This curiosity helps us to ask the right questions and come to find the right answers.

Bishop Sebastian ended his time with the guests by singing songs of praise and worship with them and blessing them.

Please pray for the efforts of the PDNEC and all those who are running ChristLife right now!



SIMON WONG, FROM THE DIOCESE OF PENANG, WITH VICENTE GARCIA, A CHRISTLIFE INTERN, AT THE 2019 CHRISTLIFE NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Sharing Christ
St Michael Church, Ipoh

Learn more by reading an article from Herald: Malaysia Online.



\$350,000
IN DONATIONS
AND PLEDGES

**\$50,000
TO RAISE**

**20 DAYS
LEFT**

CHRISTLIFE AIMS TO REACH OVER 10,000 PEOPLE THIS YEAR WITH THE CALL TO CONVERSION AND DISCIPLESHIP. *WILL YOU HELP?*

A generous contribution to our Mission Growth Fund is the financial support we need to sustain and expand our evangelizing mission.

Our goal of \$400,000 is the largest in our history, and our deadline is less than a month away. We need *your* help!

“Through Discovering Christ I have come to make my relationship with Christ the most important relationship in my life.” -Vivian, Baltimore, MD

WE NEED

- ▶ 4 gifts of \$2,500
- ▶ 15 gifts \$1,000
- ▶ 30 gifts \$500
- ▶ 40 gifts of \$250



Use the enclosed card or give online at ChristLife.org/donate





THE GREAT COMMISSION OF CHRISTLIFE YOUNG ADULTS

BY MICHAEL DUGAN

Part of the mission of ChristLife Young Adults (CLYA) is to help others in our generation experience the saving love of Jesus. In order to live this out, CLYA decided to begin the new year by hosting a Young Adult mission season. CLYA split into "mission teams" and supported Discovering Christ at three local parishes: St. Mark's in Catonsville, St. Louis in Clarksville, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Ellicott City.

The result was an incredible amount of fruit. Attendees said that they were excited to see so many young adults coming to a parish event, and that they were encouraged just by our presence.

One young adult small group was so close that they all gathered for an end-of-series dinner at one of their houses after the final week. One young adult even asked her CLYA facilitator to be her confirmation sponsor when she entered the Church at Easter!

Here are some quotes from our young adults who participated in the Mission Season:

“ Volunteering with the Discovering Christ Children's Ministry strengthened my faith because it allowed me to view and worship God through the innocence and wondrous eyes of a child.” - Faith

“ My first experience of Discovering Christ was really great because it helped me make much deeper friendships with the other people in my group. The

sense of community that developed as a result has been a blessing to this day.” - Josh

“ Going on mission and bringing others to the Father is an essential part of our faith. It was such a joy to be able to support and walk alongside parishes as they sought to do this! It was a reminder that we, as young adults, are a part of the body of Christ and have a unique role to play in reaching out to the lost, searching, and broken.” - Katie

Thanks to the mission season, the community is thriving, and we decided to run our own Following Christ for young adults. We're only in week 3, but someone has already described the third week as the best night of CLYA in years.

ChristLife Young Adults (CLYA) is an outreach to young adults in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Learn more at www.clya.org.



ChristLife says goodbye to Michael Dugan. Michael joined our team last summer and has made contributions in the areas of development, customer support, and ChristLife's outreach to young adults. Join us in praying for Michael and his wife as they move to Germany for the next chapter of their lives together.



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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