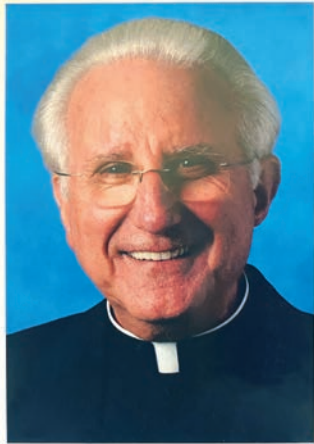




CHRISTLIFE™
CATHOLIC MINISTRY FOR EVANGELIZATION



Rev. Msgr. Joseph L. Luca
I am Joseph, your brother.
(Genesis 45:4)

BY: LEO RUDEGEAIR

On October 5th, 2022, ChristLife said farewell to one of our most enthusiastic advocates, Msgr. Joseph L. Luca.

Although no one mentioned ChristLife in the many tributes paid to him on the day of his funeral, Dave and I remembered with great gratitude the tremendous impact he had on ChristLife. He was present the day we first approached Cardinal Keeler with a proposal to establish a lay evangelization ministry in the Archdiocese, a proposal which the Cardinal accepted with great joy that laymen were interested in evangelizing. He established ChristLife as an apostolate of the Archdiocese, reporting directly to him. Shortly thereafter, Fr. Luca was assigned as pastor of St. Louis parish in Clarksville, MD, where both Dave and I were active.

TRIBUTE TO A CHRISTLIFE CHAMPION

He quickly became a treasured advisor for us. As we began developing the ChristLife process, we regularly sought and received his wisdom and counsel. He reviewed teachings and provided input to improve them, evaluating them for orthodoxy and potential acceptance by other pastors.

He saw the ChristLife Process as foundational and a complement to other spiritual activities of the parish. When Discovering Christ was completed, he was anxious to offer it to the parish. He suggested it as a spiritual activity for Lent of 2010 and set a goal of 300 participants. He spoke at all of the weekend Masses and invited parishioners "to have dinner with him on the first Monday of Lent." Over 300 people said yes—too many for us to accommodate at one time in our social hall, so we had to run two courses. A tremendous success! Msgr. Luca was on hand to welcome the guests, say a blessing, and engage them in conversation.

Msgr. Luca was a true champion for ChristLife. With his support and encouragement, we have run the ChristLife Process, all three courses, every year since that first time in 2010. Each year he personally invited parishioners to attend Discovering Christ by speaking at all of the weekend Masses prior to the start of the course. In addition, St. Louis has hosted numerous ChristLife events, including multiple National Training Conferences, various filmings,

and some significant ministry anniversaries. He always attended these events to personally welcome the guests. There was never a charge for the use of the parish facilities.

Not only did Msgr. Luca support ChristLife at St. Louis, he promoted it with fellow pastors and encouraged them to use ChristLife in their parishes. At one point we asked him if he would create a video as an endorsement of ChristLife to other pastors. He hit a home run, exceeding our greatest expectations. He started the video by saying that for most of his priesthood he sought for a way to enable parishioners to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus. Then said, "I have found it in ChristLife." Then the camera followed him into the parish social hall, where they joined Discovering Christ in process. An awesome sight!

WATCH MSGR. LUCA'S VIDEO
www.ChristLife.org/Luca



Msgr. Luca's support included prayer for the ministry, personal involvement, and financial support. He set aside 25% of the parish's portion of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal as a donation to ChristLife.

We will miss Msgr. Luca but are consoled knowing that he is advocating for us with the Father, just as he did for us with the Archbishop of Baltimore. Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord. May he rest in peace.



CHRISTLIFE YOUNG ADULTS UPDATE

YOUNG ADULTS ENCOUNTER THE LORD'S TRUTH

BY: BELLA SCHATZ

ChristLife Young Adults recently wrapped up our summer speaker series: They Speak His Truth. Throughout this series we heard from six different speakers about various topics that all tie into the Lord's Truth. We listened to talks about discernment, masculinity and femininity, redemptive suffering, and others at St. Paul's in Ellicott City, Maryland!

Each of our speakers were such blessings to the CLYA community. They truly spoke the Lord's Truth in their talks and brought important topics to the minds of many young people.

One highlight from the series was Pete Ascosi's talk on finding our way back to the Father's delight. After his talk, he offered to pray over young adults struggling with anxiety in their lives. This was so powerful for not only the individuals who were prayed over, but also for those who saw how it impacted them.

We ended the series with a night of Adoration and having Jesus present in our space was the perfect way to close out the summer season!

LISTEN TO TALKS FROM CLYA'S SUMMER SERIES



ChristLife Young Adults is an outreach of ChristLife to young adults, ages 18-35, in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Visit www.clya.org to learn more.

NEW WORKER FOR THE MISSION

We are excited to announce the addition of a new missionary disciple to our staff! Aster Evenson is an answer to prayer as our Parish Resources Coordinator.

My name is Aster and I am the newest member of the ChristLife team working as a Parish Resources Coordinator. My job is to help ensure that parish leaders are equipped with the resources they need to run ChristLife.

My previous work experience was in the corporate software world. Last April I found out that my recent job was ending after nine years. Rather than looking immediately for my next corporate job I instead spent



a month in prayer asking for God's guidance. During that time I also attended the Power and Purpose retreat at Franciscan University. That's where God spoke to my heart these three messages: Gather souls for God, Do not negotiate, Rest.

I then started looking for job opportunities in my field, which were plenty. At the same time I found out about a potential position at ChristLife while attending their Following Christ series. God's messages continued to grow in me. A corporate job vs. ChristLife, the latter aligns with, "Gather souls for God". A corporate salary vs. a nonprofit - well, God said, "Do not negotiate." How about my bills and sustaining my lifestyle? Didn't God say, "Rest in the Lord"?

After thinking about these questions I decided to make one job application - ChristLife, nothing else. Since joining, I have been blessed with many opportunities to see lives being transformed, including in my own family. God has also been providing for my needs, and my wants. Indeed, God cannot be outdone in generosity. It's so good to rest in the Lord!



DO NOT BE CONFORMED

“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

ROMANS 12:2

We can sometimes feel bombarded by the messaging of the world we live in, which then makes it difficult to hear the “still, small voice” of the Lord. In this video, Dave Nodar provides some advice on how we can listen to the Lord and avoid being conformed to this world.

WATCH DAVE NODAR’S VIDEO
www.ChristLife.org/DaveVid



EQUIPPING & INSPIRING CATHOLICS FOR EVANGELIZATION

BY: JENNIFER KING

After three years of being unable to gather together, the ChristLife team was eager to host our ChristLife National Conference once again. We spent time in prayer asking the Lord what He wanted. We decided to shift from our typical format to a single-track conference focused on the basics—providing the core, comprehensive training for running the entire ChristLife process at the parish level.

Speakers included Scott Elmer, Chief Mission Officer for the Archdiocese of Denver; Bishop Michael Saporito, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Newark; and other ChristLife practitioners. Each speaker brought their experiences and unique perspectives to equip and inspire all who were there.



BISHOP MICHAEL SAPORITO SPEAKING

85 people from 30 parishes came to the September 28-30 conference at St. Louis Parish in Clarksville, MD. Those



TABLE GROUP FACILITATED BY PAUL AND TERI POMERLEAU

who attended came either as new leaders who have never experienced ChristLife, new team members who went through the courses at their parishes, or as seasoned team members. As for what happened at the conference, there was something for everyone—whether it was learning what ChristLife is all about, being rejuvenated for the mission of evangelization, or experiencing the Lord’s presence through different practicums and prayer opportunities.

One of the attendees shared, “Everything was just invaluable... You modeled. You informed. You touched our souls.”

Another shared, “We have run ChristLife many times. **This was a great refresher.** We had forgotten some important ‘basics’. Plus we saw creative ways to reach more people.”

We heard from many who went back to their parishes excited to inspire team members and pastors with a refreshed vision for ChristLife.

One of those people was Ray, who attended from the Archdiocese of Hartford. After returning home after the conference, he shared the following reflection:

“*Being my fourth time through [ChristLife at my parish], I was beginning to wonder, ‘Is this to be my last session? Is there another program that I am supposed to be doing?’ After being at the conference... being with the people I had only known through their videos; I was able to share about the genuineness of all participants at the conference. I told the parish council, headed by our pastor and another one of our priests, that in time they would each move on to new assignments, **but ChristLife is here to stay.** It’s not something to be taken lightly and it’s always going to be new.”*

Please join ChristLife in continuing to pray for each person who joined us at our National Conference. May there be abundant fruit for God’s Kingdom in all the parishes who were present.

INVITING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PARENTS TO DISCOVERING CHRIST

BY: SUSAN TUTAJ
COORDINATOR OF DISCIPLESHIP HOLY GHOST PARISH

At Holy Ghost Parish in Wood Dale, Illinois in the Diocese of Joliet, we began Discovering Christ in small groups during the pandemic. We had 4 groups on campus and one virtual group. There was excitement over meeting, even with social distancing and masks. We were not able to have food, but had really good sessions because the videos and discussion questions always caused great conversation.

In the Fall of 2021, we hired a new Director of Religious Education and our Pastor, Fr. John Hornicak requested some changes in the program. One of the changes was a desire for inviting Religious Education parents to Discovering Christ while their children were in class. I wanted to be sure the invitation would be welcomed by parents, so I asked Fr. John to invite the parents at their first parent meeting.

I won't do justice in recreating his request because it truly was a Holy Spirit moment. He framed his invitation by reminding the parents that they are the first teachers of faith for their children and he, as pastor, their "father," also wanted the best for them and for them to grow in their faith. He encouraged them to stay while their children were in class for Discovering Christ.

I was so encouraged by seeing the parents who responded. They came the first week, the second week... and they kept coming! We were socially distanced, had to wear masks and there was no coffee at 9am on Sunday mornings and they still came!

The first week, I shared my story about coming to Holy Ghost, since most did not know me. I was thanked for being here, and some even asked to bring their spouse to the next session. After the second week, I was asked where they could buy the videos so they could show them



NANCY SIEMERS, FR. JOHN HORNICAK, AND SUSAN TUTAJ

to a family member. As I reflect on our sessions, I realize that Fr. John knew his people and they were hungry to learn and discuss their faith as they discovered new things or rediscovered something they had forgotten.

Here are just a few comments from the last session:

"I grew more aware of my faith"

"The presentations were excellent and made me really think about my faith"

"I have a deeper connection and deeper conversations with God"

"I feel it (this series) has brought me closer to Christ"

"I started sharing my new knowledge with family"

"I was spiritually impacted as it brought me closer to Christ"

"I really enjoyed doing it (series) while the kids were in Faith Formation classes"

"All the talks and videos were awesome"

This Fall, we are looking forward to sharing Following Christ. We still won't share a meal, BUT we will serve coffee and ask the tables to take turns bringing a Sunday morning treat; we will sit at round tables for small group discussions; and we will have some tables for Polish or Spanish speaking if they are more comfortable sharing in their native language. Most importantly it will be so good to be together again to share our faith experiences and encounters with the Sacred. **Come, Holy Spirit, come!**



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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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