

*“And now, Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.’ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.”*

**ACTS 4:29-31**

Dear brothers and sisters,

As we read in the above passage from Acts, after the healing of a man, many believed in the Lord Jesus. The leaders were annoyed, put the disciples in prison, and planned to judge the next day. Peter boldly proclaimed the good news of Messiah Jesus through whom the man was healed. He declares, *“by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by him this man is standing before you well ... And there is salvation in no one else...’* Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they wondered; and they recognized that they had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:10-14).

The disciples had been with Jesus! They were ordinary folks who had been with Jesus! Now, empowered by the Holy Spirit, they proclaim the good news to the very leaders who had condemned the Lord! Boldness to speak truth with signs confirming Jesus is Lord!

When those in authority couldn't figure out how to get rid of them and their message, they charged the disciples to never speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But they had been given power to be Jesus' witnesses! Amazing! He now calls and empowers each one of us to continue his mission of seeking and saving the lost by his love and mercy.

Now, here is the kicker! When Peter and John go to their friends and share what happened, what do they do? Do they pray for protection? Do they ask the Lord to deal with those who would resist the grace of God?

Nope. They prayed: *“Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus”* (Acts 4:29-30).

They pray for boldness to speak his word and for the Lord to work signs and wonders in Jesus' name! The answer to their prayer? It was

as if another Pentecost occurred! They knew what they needed. They knew what had changed their lives and empowered them to be witnesses of the risen Lord Jesus!

We too need to continue to ask the Lord for the transforming, life changing power of the Holy Spirit to speak the truth in love and boldness! More than ever we need to be his witnesses as darkness continues to increase. *“Arise shine for your light has come”* (Is 60:1).

He has called you and I to be his witnesses precisely at this time and in this age. Let us ask the Lord with praise and gratitude for more boldness in his Holy Spirit. He wants to answer our prayers. Look for the opportunities he will open in your life! Let's continue praying for one another!

Your brother in  
our Lord and  
Savior,



Dave Nodar  
Founder and  
Senior Leader



## Strengthen 2023

*A ChristLife Gathering*

**August 17-19, 2023 | Severna Park, MD**

Do you need a time of *refreshment* and *spiritual inspiration*? **Strengthen 2023** is an opportunity for you and your parish team to be strengthened by an encounter with the Lord Jesus, connect with other missionary disciples, and learn practical ways to take your ChristLife Process to the next level.

**Learn more and register at [www.ChristLifeConference.org](http://www.ChristLifeConference.org)**

# A WEEKEND OF HOPE IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

BY: DIANNE DAVIS

When ChristLife partners with an (Arch)Diocese, there are many things we need to set in place. In the Archdiocese of New York, planning started in late Summer 2022 for our March 2023 'Let Down Your Nets' Conference. ChristLife has been blessed to partner with the Archdiocese of New York for almost a decade and our partnership is very important. I've heard it said many times "New York is like the capital of the world! Whatever New York does, the rest of the world wants to follow." So, sharing the Gospel and forming missionary disciples using the ChristLife process was important to all of us and hopefully beyond! In New York, we have the approval and blessing of His Eminence Cardinal Dolan, Bishop Peter Byrne, and Bishop Joseph Espallat, in addition to the Office of Adult Faith Formation and many lay leaders from Kingston, NY down to Staten Island. We were honored to have almost 30 ChristLife lay leaders from across the Archdiocese work side-by-side with us to volunteer for planning and also at the conference itself.



PARISH LEADERS FROM OUR LADY OF SHKODRA WITH DAVE & DIANNE

A most important work during the months leading up to the conference is intercessory prayer. We had a team of prayer warriors from across New York, plus our ChristLife intercessors and even a new group of intercessors from Las Vegas, praying daily for all aspects of the conference. Humanly, we did all we could to promote the conference including hosting a webinar for clergy, sending out invitations to every parish in the Archdiocese, sharing video testimonies, and calling each pastor. But registrations were slow. As we approached the deadline, registrations increased and we were overwhelmed with close to 170 attendees. I felt like the Lord was saying, "You of little faith!" (Matt. 8:26) What a great reminder that once we do everything we can do in our humanity, we need to surrender all to the Lord and let Him complete the task He called us to be a part of.

With over 30 parishes attending the conference, there was excitement in the room. People were eager to be with others who love Jesus and love the Church. Throughout the conference, beginning with teachings about Jesus' and the Church's call to evangelize and make missionary disciples, in



THE ROOM WAS FILLED WITH LEADERS FROM AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

addition to the practicums from Discovering Christ, Following Christ, and Sharing Christ, participants received a vision and a taste of what ChristLife can do for their parish.

Father David Rider, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Monroe, shared this:

**“ My team and I had a great experience at the ChristLife conference. It helped us understand what ChristLife was all about and left us feeling confident that working together we could use ChristLife to set our community on fire with the saving message of the Gospel ... But more than anything else the conference was like a mini-retreat for each one of our team members. We all left more filled with the Holy Spirit than when we arrived.”**

Sacred Heart will offer Discovering Christ on Sundays following Mass beginning October 2023.

Pjetër Nilaj, Director of the Young Adults from Our Lady of Shkodra, brought an enthusiastic team to the conference and they are looking forward to starting ChristLife. Pjetër said,

**“ What ChristLife was offering was beyond**

# RECEIVING AN UNEXPECTED SURPRISE

BY: TRINIDAD CERVANTES

My wife, Marilu, and I were invited to be part of a pilot ChristLife offering at our parish, St. Sharbel's in Las Vegas. I attended the training for the course and I was intrigued as I learned the Church's teachings on evangelization.

We eagerly attended Discovering Christ and Following Christ with the intention of serving as leaders in the future. But I received an unexpected surprise.

I have had many moments in my life where God has allowed me to know Him, from studying in the Seminary following a call, to formal studies of Holy Scriptures and Christology. Throughout my life I have also participated in various parish movements.

***But participating in ChristLife stirred up something special in me and my marriage that I was not expecting.***

One of the most important things we learned is committing to daily

personal prayer. In the past, we were used to other people's prayers and reflections. During Following Christ, we committed to establishing a daily personal prayer time. Reading Scripture in this way has a special new meaning for us. We read many of the same Bible passages we have always read, but now they are speaking to us personally with application to our lives right now. We also started keeping a diary of our reflections. For me personally, this was a huge change in my prayer life. It's not that my prayers lacked authenticity before, but now I am able to articulate anything I am personally going through in my life and hear God speak to me. This is the starting point for my daily walk with the Lord.

Now, as a married couple, the most important thing for us is to know how to listen to the Lord speak to us every day.

parishes who are choosing to evangelize. They have set up a special group on FlockNote where parish leaders can connect with one another and ChristLife to share ideas, challenges, and testimonies of transformed lives. They understand that ChristLife isn't interested in just offering courses. ChristLife is about lives transformed by people falling in love with Jesus, following Him as His disciples, and then being compelled to share Him with others! That's what evangelism is all about!

As a follow up to the conference, Elizabeth, Gilbert, and Romy from the Office of Adult Faith Formation have many plans to support the



***Listening daily to the Word of God—which is unique, incomparable, without limits and very personal—is the most important thing in our lives.***

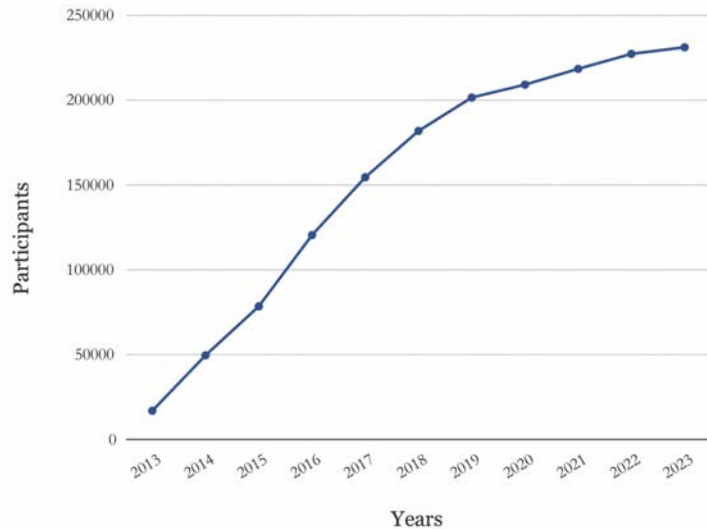
This has helped our spiritual health because now we know the true Christ who wants to transform us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We also know that as soon as we decide to follow Jesus, Satan immediately comes to rob us of the peace only God gives us. But we are a testimony that the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the miracle of the Eucharist are graces given to us to strengthen our journey.

Gilbert Rodriguez, Associate Director for Office of Adult Faith Formation, shared:

**“ I am encouraged by ChristLife's passion to share the Gospel and the grace they have been given to impart that onto others. There is no doubt in my mind that what we experienced at the Conference will bear lasting fruit in the Archdiocese of New York.”**

# CHRISTLIFE'S IMPACT

Over 230,000 people have experienced ChristLife

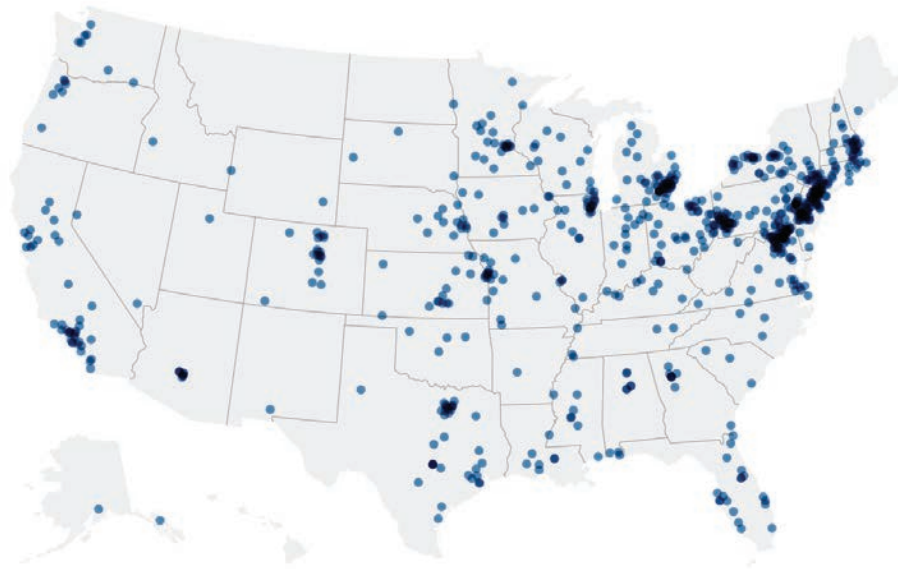


*“By this my Father is glorified, that you may bear much fruit, and prove to be my disciples.”*

John 15:8

*Since Discovering Christ was first developed, there have been over 230,000 participants. In the last ten years, ChristLife has grown from 16,000 people who have experienced ChristLife to where we are today!*

*ChristLife courses have been run in 47 US states*



*“ChristLife is actually helping ordinary Catholic parishioners encounter Jesus in a real and personal way.”*

DR. MARY HEALY



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.  
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