



CHRISTLIFE™

CATHOLIC MINISTRY FOR EVANGELIZATION

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

Founder's Corner

Parish Program Catching on Fire in
Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota

Seek the Lord and His Strength

Introducing: Equipping Saints



DAVE NODAR SPEAKING AT
STRENGTHEN 2023

GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU DEAR BROTHERS
AND SISTERS IN OUR LORD JESUS!

This August we had the opportunity to host our Strengthen Gathering. It was a joyful time of prayer, praise, teaching, and fellowship. It really felt like a family reunion/retreat! We wish all of you could've been with us. Perhaps next time?

I have to say, I haven't experienced the level of joy and anointing in real Christ-centered prayer and fellowship in many years. Similarly, one person shared how it had been years since she had been in a gathering like this, of more than a 100 people who came together to love and seek the Lord together. It was as if we all had known one another for a long time! In Jesus we come to know one another as brothers and sisters of our Father, don't we?

This type of gathering is important as a place for us to support one another as we continue to mature in love of God and neighbor. We always need the Church, brothers and sisters in Christ. It is critical to have relationships with others who share a Christ-centered Catholic worldview. That's true in a particular way given the trials in the world and also within the Church. At ChristLife want to help strengthen you to continue to grow as Jesus' disciples.

I'm reminded of the Letter of Jude. It is relevant to our times. I encourage you to spend time prayerfully reading and applying it to your life.

In the first part of the letter (verses 1-19), Jude identifies the problems they are facing within the Church and calls the saints to *contend for the faith*; the faith we find in Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterium. The Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church are crucial for faith in our time!

Jude then goes on to define what is critical to contend for the faith and remain safe in the love

of God (20-25). Jude first exhorts us to build each other up:

You, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God's love.

Consider what the Holy Spirit is asking of you in terms of your own life and that of your brothers and sisters. What is he is asking of you presently? From our shared life in the grace of God, Jude calls us to move out! We are called to join in his rescue mission:

And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering. Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. Show mercy to still others, but do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives.

Finally, it always comes back to the grace and glory of our Lord. It is his initiative. He is for us. Let's continue to love him, deny ourselves, and press on to win the prize for which our Father has called us heavenward (Phil.4:13). Let us end with Jude 1:24:

Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault. All glory to him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let's continue to follow the Lord, in faithfulness to the faith, building up the Church, and helping others to know, love, and serve the Lord Jesus!

On the back of this newsletter, we introduce our new 'Equipping Saints' monthly giving initiative. I hope you'll consider joining. Your partnership and support makes our work possible.

Your brother,

Dave Nodar
Founder & Senior Leader

JOIN CHRISTLIFE IN PRAYER AND PRAISE

"Pray at all times in the Spirit...keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints"

EPHESIANS 5:18

STRENGTHEN GATHERING.

Thank God for the wonderful fruits of this Spirit-filled summer gathering!

CHANGED LIVES.

Praise God for the transformation He is bringing to individuals and parishes throughout the world!

THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL.

Intercede for the extension of ChristLife's mission to more parishes and dioceses around the world.

PARISH TEAM MEMBERS.

Pray for all team members who are on the "front lines" of evangelizing and discipling course participants.

Join ChristLife for a monthly prayer meeting on Zoom every second Wednesday from 12:00-12:45PM ET. Receive an invitation to the next prayer meeting at: ChristLife.org/PrayerPartner



PARISH PROGRAM CATCHING ON FIRE IN DIOCESE OF NEW ULM

How can we renew our parishes to become vibrant communities of faith? How can we live our Catholic faith and reach out to those who have fallen away from the Church?

BY DEACON MIKE MCKEOWN

Parishes within the Diocese of New Ulm [Minnesota] that have introduced ChristLife in their faith community have witnessed people come to Christ, Catholics return to the sacraments, authentic community form among parishioners, and passive Catholics catch fire to follow Jesus and share him with others in their everyday life!

After experiencing a deep conversion while participating in the ChristLife series in 2012, Joe and Melissa Neumann of Holy Trinity in Winsted helped bring the program to their AFC as core team members, facilitators, table leaders, and musicians.

“This series was a key part of transforming my life,” Joe explained. “I have had a complete change of life because of the personal relationship I found with Christ through ChristLife. I have been filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I never knew this was possible. I can’t stop sharing.”

Melissa echoed her husband’s enthusiasm and its impact on their

life. “As a Catholic convert, this program ignited my Catholic faith,” she said. “I went from knowing about Jesus to knowing him personally. I experienced the love of the Father for the first time in my life, and Jesus became alive in the sacraments to me through this program.”

Melissa described how ChristLife prepared her to share her faith. “I went from minding my own business about faith to a burning desire to share the Good News to everyone and anyone, which prompted me to start Revive Women’s Ministry at Holy Trinity,” Melissa said. “We’ve been facilitating the ChristLife program for eight years in our AFC,” Joe explained. “In those eight years, 231 people have experienced ChristLife at Holy Trinity. Two years ago, we also began hosting ChristLife at St. Pius X in Glencoe. It’s borne so much fruit in our AFC.”

In addition to Revive Women’s Ministry, Melissa mentioned other ministries in their AFC which have sprung from participants in the ChristLife program, including Widows of Joy, Gift Pilgrimage,

Women of Valor, and COR Men’s ministry. “We have watched our parish transform into a vibrant community,” Melissa said. “Much of our parish leadership cite ChristLife as a key part of their faith journey.”

In the spring of 2021, after reading a story in *The Prairie Catholic* about the success of the ChristLife program, a group of parishioners from the neighboring Shepherd of Souls Area Faith Community (St. John, Darwin; St. Philip, Litchfield; Our Lady, Manannah, and the merged parish of St. Gertrude, Forest City) took part in the ChristLife program held at Holy Trinity.

Connie Gray of St. John’s in Darwin was part of the visiting group and was impressed by what she experienced. “I saw people growing in their relationship with God and sharing their faith with each other. There were great discussions, and it was obvious that the Holy Spirit was moving and changing lives,” she said. “We knew this program was something we wanted to introduce in our AFC.”

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“ChristLife taught me how to have a personal relationship and pray with God. It was the start of my faith journey that I continue to be on now.”

Todd Fleischacker, Holy Trinity



“ChristLife has made a big impact on my life. I definitely felt God and the Holy Spirit at work and began to realize how we have to reach out to each others more and build up our community and our Church.”

Carol Schumacher, St. John’s



“The ChristLife program has opened my eyes to how much God loves me and the forgiveness and mercy Jesus gives me. Along the way, I have made new friends and have enjoyed learning about their journeys.”

Julie Fairchild, Holy Trinity

SEEK THE LORD AND HIS STRENGTH

BY JENNIFER KING

In August, ChristLife held our first Strengthen Gathering at St. John the Evangelist in Maryland. 125 ChristLife leaders and team members joined us from 40 parishes for three days of worship, teaching, and fellowship. It was a time of encouragement and strengthening by the Lord for His mission.

Our team of speakers—Dave Nodar, Fr. Erik Arnold, Dr. Scott Elmer, Fr. Dale Picarella, Dianne Davis, and more—shared talks that built upon the themes shared in the ChristLife Process. There were also several workshops providing spiritual inspiration and best practices in parish evangelization.

Here is some of the feedback we received:

“ I was given the opportunity to remember the deep, merciful, unending love, and affection the Lord has for me. I was given a chance to renew my commitment and calling to bring Him to all the world!”

“ I have not been in a God gathering of 100 or more in a long time. It felt so good to be in a place of Catholic Christians who believe in the power of God.”

“ I received a lot of encouragement at a time when I had been drifting away between ChristLife seasons.”

We have good news: the main sessions were recorded and are being shared on our YouTube channel! Whether you were able to join us live or not, we pray you will use the videos for your own spiritual growth, to grow with your ChristLife small group community, and as deeper formation for your team.
www.YouTube.com/ChristLifeMinistry



INTRODUCING: EQUIPPING SAINTS

A ChristLife Monthly Giving Initiative

BY BELLA SCHATZ



We are thrilled to introduce **Equipping Saints**, a monthly giving initiative during the month of October. Our mission at ChristLife is to *equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ* (Ephesians 4:12). As we kickoff this special month of giving, we want to express our profound gratitude to our current donors. Your unwavering support has been the cornerstone upon which our mission thrives. With your generosity, you've helped cultivate vibrant faith communities, embodying Christ's call to bear fruit.

Monthly donations provide the sturdy foundation upon which we build our programs and initiatives. They grant us the ability to plan strategically, extend our reach to new parishes and communities, and leave a lasting impact by bringing others to encounter Christ. With your help, we can raise up more missionary disciples for the Lord Jesus. Fr. David Rider, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Monroe, shared how ChristLife equipped his parishioners for mission:

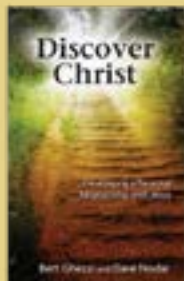
"My team and I had a great experience at the ChristLife conference... [It] left us feeling confident that working together we could use ChristLife to set our community on fire with the saving message of the Gospel."

WILL YOU JOIN OUR EQUIPPING SAINTS INITIATIVE?

————— *25 New Monthly Donors by All Saints Day, Nov. 1* —————

During the month of October, we invite you to join our mission and witness the profound impact of your generosity. For new and current monthly donors, we have a special gift—a free book of your choice from our ChristLife series: Discover Christ, Follow Christ, or Share Christ. This token of appreciation is our way of saying thank you and encouraging you as you take part in the Equipping Saints initiative. Please indicate your book preference on the enclosed card or on the giving form online.

Join us as part of our mission to change hearts for Christ!



DONATE NOW
www.ChristLife.org/donate



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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