



Greetings in our Sovereign Lord Jesus,

At the Last Supper, Jesus warned the apostles to expect many trials and sorrows in this world. But he also encouraged them with the words, "I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). These words apply to us, as well.

Pull out your Bibles and read Acts 4:1-22.

Shortly after Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples were anointed with the Holy Spirit. This Scripture shares testimony from when Peter and John healed a crippled man in the name of Jesus. St. Luke tells us that five thousand men now believed as a result of this healing and the apostles' proclamation (Acts 4:4)! However, as a 'reward' for their good deed, Peter and John were jailed and threatened.

Let me share a few truths from this Scripture.

There will always be resistance to the truth of the Gospel. But remember God has called and empowered us to tell the truth that Jesus was crucified for the forgiveness of our sins, raised to reconcile us to the Father, and given us the Holy Spirit to proclaim with power: Jesus is Lord and Savior!

You and I have troubles and sorrows on this side of heaven. But remember, the Lord Jesus is absolutely Sovereign over everything, including our lives. He wants us to take His words to heart: "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world" (John 16:33, NLT).

In the midst of our trials, remember that Jesus has already conquered the world and that there is nothing in the world that has power over us because Jesus is our Lord! We can trust Him and do whatever He asks us to do as we press on towards our homeland with Him!

By the way, did you notice what impressed Peter and John's accusers? That they were common men who had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).

Don't you want to be known for having been with Jesus? I do. Let's continue to draw close to him each day. Let's pray for one another.

So let's go and make disciples! In this time of increasing darkness, we are commanded to bring the light of Christ to anyone and everyone He leads us to. Let's ask for more love, more power, and more of the Holy Spirit to bear witness and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ our Lord!



In our Lord,

Dave Nodar

Founder and Senior Leader

PS - We are so grateful for all of you who gave to the Lenten matching grant. By your generosity we exceeded the goal. Your partnership with us helps us to further our common mission and equip more Catholics to be and make missionary disciples! Thank you ever so much for your generosity.



"[Jesus] said to his disciples, 'The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.'"

Matthew 9:37-38, NLT

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- The Lord to add workers to our ChristLife staff and the ChristLife teams of parishes in the larger network.
- A fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit with power and gifting to proclaim the Lord Jesus and make missionary disciples.
- Wisdom and understanding to obey the Lord's call to expand the mission.
- Grace and fruitfulness in new areas of mission: new dioceses, parishes and other ministries using ChristLife in the United States, Brazil, Mexico, and Ireland.
- Preparations and filming of the new Sharing Christ.

EXPAND THE VISION

RCIA at St. Louis Catholic Church in Clarksville, Maryland

BY: LISA WHITE

St. Louis Catholic Parish in Clarksville, MD has offered the ChristLife process since 2010 and has touched over 1,200 individuals. “We are always looking for creative ways to use the ChristLife process to bring more people to Christ,” explained Leo Rudegear, ChristLife coordinator at St. Louis.

As part of expanding ChristLife within the parish, Discovering Christ was integrated as an essential part of the RCIA faith formation process. Fr. Michael DeAscanis, Pastor of St. Louis/St. Francis Pastorate, has a heart for reaching new souls for Christ. He relayed that RCIA is not just a series of classes, but rather a way to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ through the Catholic Church.

He noted that Discovering Christ is a way to move from the educational “head knowledge” of Jesus to a relational “heart experience” of Him.

Pope Benedict said “Faith is not primarily an idea to be understood or a moral precept to be followed, but a person to be encountered. That person is Jesus Christ.” Father DeAscanis recognizes that having the emphasis on developing a relationship with Jesus Christ at the beginning of the RCIA process is critical.

The Fall 2023 offering of Discovering Christ at St. Louis/St. Francis was scheduled with RCIA in mind. The entire parish was also invited to participate and 90 participants were enrolled in the course; almost one half of them were enrolled in RCIA.

The participants engaged in the course with enthusiasm, enjoying the weekly meal and fellowship together. The talks were well-received and stimulated enriching and meaningful discussions about the meaning of life, having a personal relationship with Jesus, and understanding the Gospel message. The Holy Spirit retreat was a compelling experience of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit for many of the participants.



Feedback from one person expressed it well, “Through Discovering Christ, I personally experienced God’s love in a profound way. I realized I needed to have a real relationship with the Lord and I needed to establish a community for support.”

Father DeAscanis highlighted the benefit of fellow RCIA candidates sharing a meal, teachings and conversation for 7 weeks, along with friendly spiritual discussions. He said the format encouraged the catechumens to openly discuss life, their struggles and questions, making the rest of RCIA more fruitful.

Deacon Frank Sarro, Director of RCIA, relayed, “Discovering Christ was a perfect fit for those who participate in the RCIA process. It provides them with a solid opportunity to explore who Jesus is and to express their thoughts in a prayerful and faith-filled environment.”

RCIA candidates will continue their journey toward becoming fully initiated into the Catholic Church, then will be invited to participate in the next Following Christ course offered after completion of RCIA. Our hope at ChristLife is that many more parishes creatively use the ChristLife process to draw more of the lost and fallen away back to Christ.

“I’M TURNING MY LIFE OVER TO CHRIST”

Robert Souza was on the brink of ending his life. Here is his story of how he found hope through Discovering Christ.

BY: MICK SOUZA

My brother, Robert, and I were raised by my mother and grandmother. My father left when I was three years old. Growing up, my brother and I were super close. He was bipolar. When our mom and grandmother died 5 months apart, I did everything I could to financially support him for the next 30 years.

Two years before he passed, my brother was on a bridge ready to commit suicide because, for him, living was more difficult than dying. I would pray to God to give part of my brain to my brother, and heal him, but it didn’t happen. What *did* happen was that my brother didn’t jump. He made it to a hospital, and every day my wife and I would visit him.

On the day of his release, he said to me, “I’m afraid to go home.” My wife, who was sitting next to me, said, “You come home with us then.” And he did.

On the first Sunday he was with us, he had nothing but the clothes on his back. I gave him clothes and said, “Get dressed, we’re going to Mass. If you’re gonna be with us, you’re gonna do what we do.” So he came to Mass. For two years, he never missed Mass. He also went to Mass every Wednesday, followed by our weekly Bible Study.

My parish ended up offering the Discovering Christ series at my church. I was a leader in it, and my brother partook in it.

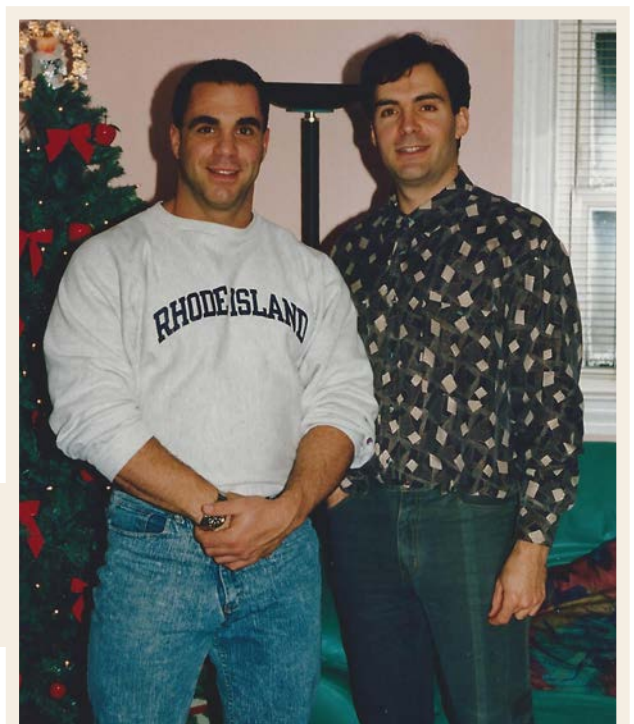
My brother never spoke during the series, but, after it was over, our priest asked the group if anyone wanted to share anything. My brother’s hand went up, and the priest gave him the microphone, and he stood up in front of the 75 people there, and said, “You guys don’t know me, but you know my brother, Mick. He’s involved at the church here a lot, and I’d just like to share how much [Discovering Christ] helped me.” Robert went on to tell them that he was bipolar, and that two years ago, to the day, he was on the bridge ready to jump, and that coming back into the Catholic Church changed his life.

He said to the group, “In front of all of you as my witness tonight, I’m turning my life over to Christ, and I no longer want to die.”

After the session, I dropped him off at his house. The next morning, I met him at Bible Study after Mass. His car had broken down so he took the bus to Mass. I gave him a ride home. We hung out at his house for while and

when I left, he said he was going to take a hot bath and listen to Tchaikovsky. That was his favorite thing to do. The next morning I went to pick him up. He wasn’t answering the door so I got a key and went into the house. I heard his music playing and the bath water running. I knocked on the bathroom door and went in. My brother had passed. One thing I realized in that moment was that my brother wanted to die for most of his life, but when he turned his life over to God, the Lord brought him home on His terms. It was only hours earlier that he turned his life over to Christ, and less than 24 hours later he went home to be with the rest of my family. The Holy Spirit gave me an overwhelming sense of peace knowing where my brother was, and knowing that he had just turned his life over to God the night before.

Mick Souza is a former World Bodybuilding Champion. He served for several years on the ChristLife team at St. Barnabas Parish in Portsmouth, RI.



Watch Mick Souza’s testimony at the 2023 Strengthen Conference

EQUIP CONFERENCE | JUNE 19-21, 2024



Equip 2024 is the starting point of training for parishes who want offer the ChristLife process. This conference is for new parishes AND new team members from veteran parishes to be set on fire and receive comprehensive training to run ChristLife.

Help us spread the word!

Only a fraction of parishes in the United States know about ChristLife.

Do you know a parish that would benefit from ChristLife? Share what ChristLife has meant to you and invite them to Equip.

Learn More: www.ChristLifeConference.org



Dianne Davis, Director of Mission Expansion, was invited to be a guest on EWTN's "At Home with Jim and Joy." She spoke about ChristLife and the need for evangelization within the Church itself, through catechesis and the proclamation of the Kerygma. The episodes can be viewed OnDemand!



Watch Part 1



Watch Part 2



NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON!

The ChristLife team has been hard at work re-envisioning how to best serve parishes in a digital environment and developing a new website to support that vision. We are pleased to announce that we are nearing the finish line and the new website will launch this Spring!

Among many improvements, the website will streamline digital access to all of ChristLife's videos and guides—helping us to better serve individuals and parishes throughout the world! Additionally, course videos will be available to all free of charge, in both English and Spanish.

Please pray that this new website will advance our mission of proclaiming the Lord Jesus!



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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