



CHRISTLIFE™
CATHOLIC MINISTRY FOR EVANGELIZATION

SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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Dear friends,

Recently we held our Equip training conference. We will be sharing more about the conference in this issue of the newsletter.

Based on the evaluations, for many it was a time of encouragement, equipping, and renewal in the Holy Spirit.

After the conference, as I reflected and spent time in prayer, I felt the Lord draw my attention to Mark's account of the multiplication of the loaves. Specifically, to observe that afterwards the Lord went up into the mountain to pray (Mark 6:45-46). This struck me in a new way. I realized that after major events, the Lord frequently went off and spent time in prayer interceding.

It reminded me of a privilege I had when I used to lead a renewal community and Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand spoke to us. His story is recounted in the book *Tortured for Christ*. Immediately after speaking, Pastor Wurmbbrand went off to a separate room and prayed before spending time talking to people. He recognized how important it was to spend time interceding for fruitfulness for the teaching that he had presented to us.

After Equip, I experienced the Holy Spirit convincing me of the importance of intercession, not only before events or meetings, as we already practice, but also to follow on afterwards with committed intercession, praying that the Lord produce lasting fruit in the lives of those who participated.

Through intercession we can partner with the Holy Spirit to bear fruit, "far more abundantly than all we could ever ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Brothers and sisters, if we are to continue to grow as disciples of our Lord Jesus, let us enter more fully into the life of prayer that he offers us in the Holy Spirit!

Lord, teach us to pray!

Dave Nodar
ChristLife's Founder and Senior Leader

JOIN CHRISTLIFE IN PRAYER

EQUIP CONFERENCE

Pray for lasting fruit for all those who attended the Equip Conference.

CHRISTLIFE TEAMS

Pray for the many parishes & communities preparing to launch ChristLife courses this Fall.

IOWA TRAINING

Pray for the "Let Down Your Nets" Conference, September 14-15 in Des Moines, IA.

SHARING CHRIST FILMING

Pray for Fr. Erik Arnold, Dianne Davis, and Pete Ascosi as they present updated Sharing Christ teachings Oct. 25-26 for the new edition.

SAVE THE DATE SHARING CHRIST FILMED RETREAT

Grab a front seat to the new and improved Sharing Christ course by attending the filming this Fall! Discover new ways to bring Jesus Christ to the world and be personally encouraged in the Lord by speakers Fr. Erik Arnold, Dianne Davis, and Pete Ascosi.

Find out more at: www.christlife.org/scretreat



October 25-26, 2024
St. Louis Parish, Clarksville, MD



THE POWER OF AN INVITATION

Rob Meisner's testimony, shared at Equip 2024

Five years ago, I was sitting in Mass listening to someone give an invitation to Discovering Christ. I thought: "I'm a cradle Catholic, I go to church every week, put money in the collection... Why do I need to discover Christ?" Of course, my wife said, "We should do that." I'm not quick on my feet and our youngest had just gone off to college, so I didn't have any ready made excuses, so I reluctantly said yes.

The topic the first night is "What is the meaning of life?" Intellectually, I knew the answer. I learned as a kid from the Baltimore Catechism. Our purpose is to know, love, and serve God in this world and be with Him in the next.

However, that question always left my heart restless.

This was partly because my wife and I had four kids, the second of whom was born with profound disabilities. When we got Ashley's diagnosis, it was easy to see God's purpose for my wife. I could see God's hand in calling her first to work with kids with disabilities, then leading her to get a degree in special education and then working as a Special Ed teacher, which is what she was doing when we met. God prepared her to be the mother of our child and later to have a tremendous impact on so many other families. But what about me?

What was the purpose of MY life? What did God want from ME?

That first night at Discovering Christ touched me. I found the video to be thought provoking and the small group discussion was very engaging. But the best part was the ride home. For perhaps the first time in our marriage, my wife and I had a deep discussion about our faith and that continued each week. That has been great for our marriage.

By the end of the three courses, I knew what it meant to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Now I read Scriptures every day. I pray every day. I have a relationship with the God who made me.

God has asked many things of me—some big, some small. I've said yes to being part of many things at the parish. I said yes when we were asked to help with the next round of Discovering Christ. I said yes to becoming more and more involved in ChristLife. I said yes to being the emcee one year for Discovering Christ. I even got to say the joke at the beginning each night. Though, for what it's worth, they never asked me to do that again. Perhaps stand-up comedy is not in my future.

Over time, I also learned to surrender. At one point, I told God, "You can ask me anything and whatever you ask I will say yes."

In surrendering to the Lord, I found my purpose.

Two years ago, I attended a ChristLife training conference when someone at my table, who I had never met, asked me "Why aren't you a deacon yet?" I thought it was kind of weird and told my wife. She said, "Funny thing. I've been meaning to talk to you for the last 6 weeks. Every time I go to Mass, I feel the Holy Spirit prompting me to ask you that very same question."

I had a lot of doubts. I'm too old. I would need a special waiver from the bishop. I certainly don't think I measure up to the other deacons in our parish. I don't think I'm a good public speaker. But I prayed about it and tried to discern what to do.

About six weeks later, we held the one-day retreat associated with Discovering Christ. There is a video with Fr. Erik where he talks about how he was in college living out a



typical college lifestyle when he first felt the call to the priesthood. He had a lot of doubts. Could he give up the life he knew? Could he really live out this new life? At some point, he heard the Holy Spirit tell him, "You provide the yes, I'll take care of everything else." I heard Fr. Erik say that on the video and I knew those words were for me.

Now, I've just finished my first year in the deacon formation program and, if it is still God's will, in 2028 I will put my hands in the bishop's hands and say yes, and be ordained to serve His church.

From my very reluctant yes to attend Discovering Christ, my life has changed in a dramatic way.

I have had some amazing divine appointments. I am no great evangelist, but I am a great inviter. I am available, anywhere, anytime to invite someone to take the next step—come to Discovering Christ, attend an ACTS retreat, attend a parish function, or simply have coffee and listen to their story.

I have been profoundly changed because someone invited me.

I have been profoundly changed because Leo engaged me. I have been profoundly changed because the Holy Spirit spoke through Fr. Erik and said, "You provide the yes, I'll take care of everything else."

A WEEK OF EQUIPPING CATHOLIC LEADERS

BY: LISA WHITE

“Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us—yes establish the work of our hands” (Psalm 90:17). God is so good and answered this prayer abundantly throughout the Equip Conference!

For three days in June, 110 people from parishes across the U.S. and internationally attended our Equip training conference to be spiritually refreshed and learn the basics of the ChristLife evangelization process. Kicked off by keynote speaker Dr. Ralph Martin, the President of Renewal Ministries, participants were encouraged to recognize the seriousness of the times we live in, while relying on the Lord to faithfully and boldly walk in the way of holiness. Our conference team of speakers enthusiastically shared how to use the ChristLife process to respond to this call to holiness and evangelization. Throughout the three days together, Dianne Davis, Jim Roche, Dave Nodar, Fr. Erik Arnold, Fr. Dale Picarella, and other speakers encouraged the participants with talks that explained the process while also sharing the fruit of the ChristLife courses: Discovering Christ, Following Christ, and Sharing Christ.

One participant noted:

“ One thing that became evident to me was that the [entire] Discovering, Following, Sharing Christ cycle is all about evangelization, not just the Sharing Christ course.”

In addition to learning the specifics of how to run each course, attendees were given the opportunity to experience many of the activities from the three courses: being prayed with for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, prayer practicums on forgiveness, the Spirit-empowered

life, and renunciation, and creating cardboard testimonies.

The power of these experiences were echoed by many.

“ The presentations and practices were fantastic and are a great tool for learning how to live and share life in Christ.”

Inspiring and hope-filled testimonies of changed lives, given by graduates of the ChristLife process, gave witness to the power of God’s love to transform lives.

“ I was excited and energized by everyone sharing their testimonies.”

A spiritual highlight of the conference was the Holy Hour with praise led by Fr. Erik Arnold, pastor of St. John the Evangelist and a ChristLife speaker. This was a powerful time of spiritual refreshment and renewal.

Dave Nodar, ChristLife founder and senior leader, who gave conference bookend talks, provided an inspirational send off with the final talk about the Lord’s vision of evangelization. He challenged the ChristLife teams to fully join the Church’s mission of evangelization to bring more souls into the Kingdom by the witness of our changed lives.

“ I’m willing to get out of the boat and step into the water,” relayed one participant.

The conference concluded with the celebration of Holy Mass, officiated by the Most Reverend Bruce Lewandowski, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Bishop Lewandowski’s words of encouragement and support to continue our personal faith journeys and evangelization efforts were the perfect conclusion to the conference.





MEET OUR NEW INTERN

The Lord be with you! I'm Colin Reitmeyer, a High School student, a convert to Catholicism from Atheism, and passionate about sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with everyone.

I'm very excited to intern at ChristLife because I believe ChristLife is the best tool in our time to share God's love with the lost. It's truly an honor to serve the Lord in this ministry, and I can't wait to see how God transforms our culture through it.

CHRISTLIFE HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

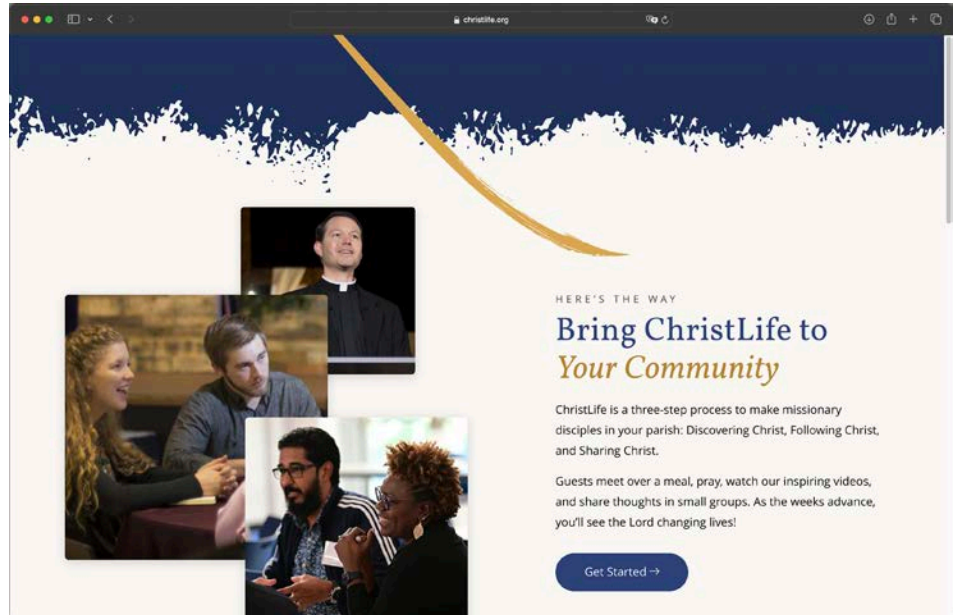
BY: JENNIFER KING

ChristLife's new website is here! This website has already helped us better communicate what are our ministry offers to the Church in support of evangelization and will help us continue to improve the way we equip and resource leaders passionate about sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Our website has areas for people who want to learn about our ministry (About ChristLife), leaders who want help running the courses (Run ChristLife), and alum who want to continue growing as disciples (Live ChristLife).

A key feature is the new way of delivering our ChristLife content, including an All Access Pass for parishes/ministries and free course video access for any individual simply by signing up for an account!

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



KEY FEATURES OF THE ALL ACCESS PASS

Easy to Watch Videos

All course videos are available for streaming online. In addition, parishes can download videos, which will eliminate many technical problems frequently experienced in running the courses.

Includes Spanish

Course videos and guides are available in both English and Spanish.

Core Team Access

The parish won't need to rely on one person to access everything. Up to 7 team members can be given access to the All Access Pass account.

Budget-Friendly

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are able to offer the All Access Pass at an affordable rate for parish teams!



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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