

WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Founder's Corner

An Update on the New Sharing Christ Course

Running Discovering Christ in a Public High School An Invitation to Strengthen Gathering

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Thirty years ago, following several years of growing conviction in prayer, discernment with others, mission work in Poland and Slovakia, and studying at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family Life, I was convinced the Lord and His Church were calling me to practically respond to the mission of evangelization by helping Catholics know and make known the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In response, Leo Rudegeair and I met with Cardinal Keeler to propose establishing a Catholic ministry of evangelization. He was so encouraged that any Catholics—clergy, religious, or laity—were actually evangelizing and wanted to teach others how to share their faith in the Lord, that he established us as an Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Because Leo and I had personally encountered the joy of knowing Jesus as Lord, and knew that the Gospel was truly life-changing good news, we wanted everybody to have the opportunity to turn to the Lord whether they were in the pews, dropped out, or unbaptized. Initially we taught about evangelization at conferences in dioceses and parishes, but came to a point where we realized we needed to be more focused. Specifically, we wanted to give parishes practical training and resources to help their parishioners personally know the Lord, and to tell anyone and everyone this Good News.

And so, the ChristLife Process of Discovering Christ, Following Christ, and Sharing Christ was developed. It is a way to equip parishes to establish an ongoing process of inviting people to hear the Gospel and provide an opportunity to personally respond to it in a relational context. In addition, participants learn the basics of becoming 24/7 disciples and hopefully embrace the essential mission of all baptized Christians—to share Christ in word and witness of life.

We are amazed by God's grace at work in over a quarter of a million people who have participated in the ChristLife Process. We continue to hear testimonies of changed lives by the Lord Jesus. Join us in giving praise to the Lord! It's very humbling to know what the Lord can do when each one of us says yes to Him.

A word of encouragement for all of us:

In the Gospel of Mark 5:19-20, we read about a man who had been delivered from many demons. As Jesus is departing, the man begs to go with Him, but the Lord refuses and says:

"Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.' And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and all marveled." What a timely word for us. The Lord calls us to go to our family, friends, and those around us to tell them how much the Lord has done for us! The Lord Jesus wants you and me to be His messengers of the Good News to those right where we live.

God's love, forgiveness, peace, purpose, and power, that we have received and enjoy, are not only for us but for those we relate to. Jesus wants others to personally know Him, and guess what? By the Holy Spirit, He wants to give us timely opportunities to share with others the remarkable news that we know is true.

Now is a critical time in the nations when people desperately need to hear the love of Jesus Christ. And you and I carry His presence and word in us for their sake.

Jesus has changed our lives and He wants to use us to help others know He can change them, too! Let's be praying for opportunities to share the Lord with others. Please pray for us as we sincerely pray for you.

With love in Christ, I remain your brother,

Jove

Dave Nodar ChristLife Founder and Senior Leader



LEAVE A LEGACY FOR THE LORD

As ChristLife celebrates 30 years of ministry serving God's people, we are launching a legacy gift opportunity for those who want to help us reach others now and well into the future. As a ChristLife legacy donor, you'll be investing in an opportunity to share Christ and help meet spiritual needs for generations of Catholics! If you don't already have a will, you may want to consider doing so via MyCatholicWill.com or FreeWill.com. Both options will allow you to include leaving a gift to ChristLife.

Please contact Pete Ascosi, Assistant Director, to learn more: 443-388-8910 or pete@christlife.org

"ONE GENERATION COMMENDS YOUR WORKS TO ANOTHER; They tell of your mighty works."

PSALM 145:4

sharing Christ

a seven-week mission

AN UPDATE ON THE NEW SHARING CHRIST COURSE

A team member reflects on challenges and blessings of the Sharing Christ production

BY: ASTER EVENSON

As a ChristLife staff member, I have the privilege of being part of the new Sharing Christ project. Planning, filming the retreat, filming the testimonies, reviewing videos, and more—it's a lot of work, but my excitement continues to grow as I see this new edition coming together. Expect fresh content, more compelling stories, and an even higher quality production. *I can't wait to get this edition out to equip and empower the Church and the next generation of evangelizers.* Stay tuned for the upcoming Spring release! We anticipate releasing the new edition in May, with the videos and course materials uploaded for All Access Pass subscribers. Additionally, the updated course videos will be available to any user with a free account.

Of course none of this is possible without the support of our generous donors. We reached our funding goal for this project! We cannot thank you enough. May the Lord bless you a hundredfold for your generosity in supporting this work of building God's kingdom.

The talks were recorded in October as part of a filmed retreat. We had a great filming location, and the stage design was amazing! About fifty friends of ChristLife participated and many shared that they were blessed, refreshed, and excited to have been a part of the retreat. There was a sense of being part of something bigger. We also faced some challenges, the biggest one being Pete, one of our key speakers, having to miss his talks due to a sudden illness. To cover for this, Dave graciously stepped in at the last minute to give Pete's talks. Despite these challenges, the power of the Lord was great. He provided everything we needed and blessed everyone who was there. We were very pleased with how it all turned out. The retreat was followed by filming personal testimonies of seven individuals sharing their conversion and evangelization experiences. Although it was a much smaller production than the retreat, it was a more overwhelming experience for me since I was one of those being filmed. For once I felt like a celebrity with all the lights and cameras on me! It took hours of filming to produce the short testimony videos you will see in the new course. I can't wait to show them to you! Thanks to our highly skilled and artistic film producers!

Weeks after the retreat, once Pete had recovered from his illness, we held another filming session to record his talks. This filming was also another opportunity for ChristLife friends, including a number of young people (the youngest was nine!), to participate as part of the audience and share their testimonies. It was a wonderful experience and a lot of fun for everyone involved.

This major undertaking continues with the postproduction phase. *We have received the videos for review, and they are stunning!* I cannot imagine the long hours our producers spent putting them together. Our team is heads-down finishing the video reviews. We are also putting in a lot of work into updating the guides and all other materials to match the updated talks.

We are grateful to the many friends of ChristLife for journeying with us on this exciting project. Please continue to pray with us for the Holy Spirit to guide us in every step of this process. To God be the glory!

Aster Evenson has been a full time worker of ChristLife for two years and serves as the Director of Evangelization Resources and Technology.

RUNNING DISCOVERING CHRIST IN A PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

BY: COLIN REITMEYER

The American public school system has been overrun by ideologies opposed to Christ and His Gospel: transgenderism, abortion, secularism, and other deceptions are taught regularly. After my conversion to Catholicism in my freshman year, I went through the ChristLife Process at my parish, which further inspired me to share the Lord with my peers. The next year my parish ran Discovering Christ again, and I invited dozens of fellow teenagers to come hear the Gospel. Due to multiple stumbling blocks, particularly busyness or lack of transportation, very few of them were able to attend.

It was then that this idea struck me: What if, instead of bringing high schoolers to ChristLife, we brought ChristLife to the high schoolers?

This year, my senior year, I endeavored to run Discovering Christ weekly, after school, in a classroom. First I needed to get the club approved by the administration, and by the grace of God, it was approved. Next I needed to find a teacher willing to sponsor a new club. Unfortunately every teacher I'd had either couldn't commit or wasn't willing to, so I prayed, and the Lord prompted me to send out an email to every teacher at the school. The Lord was faithful, and I found a teacher to sponsor my club! I couldn't run the courses alone, so I recruited fellow Christians of all denominations to

help serve as facilitators and inviters. In this small context, Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant Christians were able to unify together to spread the Gospel in a public high school!

I needed to make adaptations to the usual formula, like cutting worship, cutting the videos in half, shortening the meal, and creating new discussion questions that better apply to teens. We were able to condense the sessions into 65 minutes. Me and my team invited all our friends, and at lunch we invited dozens of students to join us. In our first session. 35 students came and heard how Jesus Christ is the meaning of our lives! Over time, we experienced some attrition, and at this point we have a strong group of 10 students. We certainly had some challenges early on in the course, like rowdy participants talking during the teaching, and students trying to take food and then leave early. As we lost the non-serious participants, the discussions got better over time, and now around the end of the course. we are all comfortable sharing our faith with one another.

I'm so grateful to the Lord for making this possible, and to all the donors who generously gave to support the costs of the course, like food and supplies. The fruits of the course have been bountiful. *In total, over 65 teenagers from all different faith*



COLIN AND HIS TEAM OF FACILITATORS

backgrounds heard at least part of the Gospel proclaimed! The seeds of the Gospel were spread to lukewarm Christians, atheists, agnostics, Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses,



DISCOVERING CHRIST INVITE CARD POSTED THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL

and many others! One student, who had only recently discovered that Christianity is true, had been praying at the start of the year for community with fellow Christians, and just a week after that, the club started! He is now seriously considering converting to the Catholic faith! Another student who was a lapsed Catholic was hesitant to join the club because he was trapped in serious sin, but early on in the course, his brother and I shared with him about the redemption of Jesus, and he ended up repenting, going to Confession, and now he comes to Discovering Christ every week! Multiple participants have told me and the team how through Discovering Christ their faith has become an essential part of their life.

Colin Reitmeyer is an 18-year-old high school student, and current intern at ChristLife. Colin has a passion for evangelization, and is continuing the club the rest of the school year.

"LET'S GO OFF BY OURSELVES TO A QUIET PLACE AND REST AWHILE."

MARK 6:31

ChristLife's Strengthen Gathering

September 12-14, 2025 | Sandy Cove Retreat Center

A WEEKEND OF RENEWAL AND ENCOURAGEMENT WITH FRIENDS OF CHRISTLIFE

Do you want to go deeper in your personal relationship with Jesus? Are you uplifted by Christian community? Do you need your fire for the Lord Jesus and His mission re-ignited? **If so, the Strengthen Gathering is for you.**

Part conference and part retreat, this Gathering will include powerful teachings from God's Word, time alone with the Lord, encounters with the Lord through the Sacraments, Spirit-filled praise and worship, and time for fellowship and family.

Is Strengthen for me? This event is for anyone who feel a connection to ChristLife's mission and charism. This includes: supporters, intercessors, young families, as well as parish teams and course participants.

The Gathering will take place on the picturesque grounds of Sandy Cove Retreat Center in Maryland. Situated on the waterfront of the Chesapeake Bay, the retreat center includes hotel-style rooms, delicious meals, and many outdoor activities.

Limited spots are available! Only 100 rooms available on-site, so register soon!

To register or learn more: visit ChristLife.org/Strengthen or call 443-388-8910



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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