



CHRISTLIFE™

CATHOLIC MINISTRY FOR EVANGELIZATION



SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

New Mission Headquarters

Jack's Testimony

New Sharing Christ

Saving Souls in Mexico

As ChristLife celebrates our 30th anniversary as a ministry, I (Dave Nodar) want to personally honor Fr. Erik Arnold, who you know from the ChristLife videos.

Many years ago, the Archbishop of Baltimore, Cardinal Keeler, asked Fr. Arnold to be the liaison to the Billy Graham Association, which was coming to Baltimore. He wanted the Archdiocese to be able to follow-up with any Catholics who made commitment to Jesus as Lord. Fr. Arnold accepted the Cardinal's request and asked if I could work with him, knowing ChristLife's mission was to equip Catholics to evangelize.

This was the beginning of a wonderful friendship and relationship of service to the Church and for the salvation of souls. Fr. Arnold celebrated 25 years of priesthood last year. We are indebted to him for his service to Christ, his Church, and for the honor of his friendship and service with us.

Fr. Erik Arnold recently sat down with Pete Ascosi, our Assistant Director, to share some thoughts on his priesthood.

Q: What has been most rewarding being a priest for over 25 years?

A: From early on in my discernment process, I discerned that the Lord was calling me to be a parish priest. The Lord made it really clear that he was



calling me to be a shepherd for his flock from birth until death.

I think one of the most rewarding things has been being able to be with people for the past 26 years, over these big stretches of their life. As I get older, some of the babies I baptized are now getting married!

Being able to be with the Lord's people and parishioners over the big stretch of years together through all of the different things life events, both struggles and the joys—birth, the sacraments, marriage, children, death—all of it, is a blessing.

Q: You are one of the primary speakers for ChristLife. How has being a part of ChristLife impacted you personally and your priesthood?

A: It's kept my heart focused on what's most important. Just like in family life, there are many things that come up that are heavy and distract us from our vocation, but it's important that we keep what's most important at the center.

ChristLife has kept me focused on proclaiming the Gospel and inviting

others to give their lives to Jesus.

Q: You've been a part of bringing ChristLife to life and sustaining it at three parishes. What are the fruits you've seen from it?

A: There are two major fruits: On the one hand, people who never knew Christ have come to have a real, genuine encounter with the Lord and are baptized. It's everything we hope will happen. Many others had grown up with faith but lost it, and going through ChristLife has profoundly impacted their lives. Many other parishioners come to ChristLife in the roughest parts of their lives. They thought they were experiencing the fullness of being a Catholic, but they came to Discovering Christ and learned that there was so much more, and they begin to grow in relationship with the Lord in a whole new way. Many parishioners get connected with one another and the parish, and are inspired to be leaders in the parish community.

Q: Who is one of your favorite Saints and why?

A: St. Philip Neri—his experience with the Holy Spirit in the catacombs when the ball of fire entered into his mouth and his heart expands; that was my prayer.

It's been my prayer over these last few years at Pentecost, for the Lord to expand my heart in love for his people like St. Philip Neri.



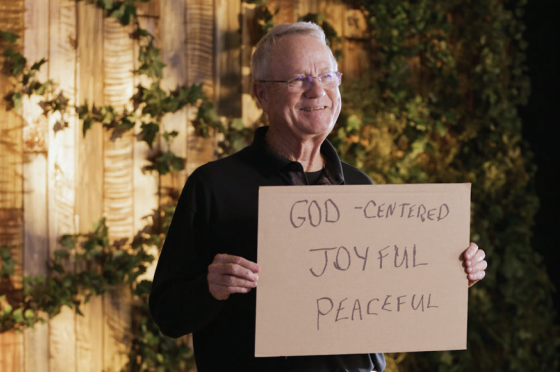
FR. ERIK ARNOLD WITH CARDINAL KEELER AND BROTHER PRIESTS AT HIS ORDINATION

CHRISTLIFE HAS A NEW MISSION HEADQUARTERS!

The Lord has provided generously and ChristLife is officially moved into our new mission headquarters! We give thanks to God for His goodness, and we thank you for all of your prayers as we sought new office space. They have been answered abundantly. The first official event in the new office—even before we moved any of our things—was to celebrate the Holy Mass with our Board of Directors and staff. **Thank you, Lord!**

New Address: 7310 Esquire Court, #5B, Elkridge, MD 21075





“I HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THE GOD WHO CREATED ME.”

Jack's Testimony

I was raised Catholic and attended Catholic schools, but I never had a relationship with God. I knew I wanted to go to Heaven someday, but once I left home I never went to Mass. After I got married and had kids, we attended church most Sundays, a time when I'd check out who was there, and a time for planning my week. Even that stopped once the kids went to college. I just wasn't into it.

Once I turned 60, I started thinking about eternity more deeply.

I started reading books about the afterlife and near-death experiences. I started going to Mass again, but I was still just checking a box. I did learn from my spiritual reading that it wasn't about just me and God—I needed community. So I started teaching Religious Education at my parish. One day I got a call from my Faith Formation Director asking me to join and play a leadership role in a new program the church was going to run called Christlife. God must have told me to say “Yes,” because it wasn't me.

I went to a 3-day training on how to lead ChristLife. While I was at the training, I felt the presence of God and felt excited and called to lead Christlife.

At the time, I didn't realize how much it would change my life.

Once we began Discovering Christ, I sat at a table with other guests. I immediately felt a connection with them and understood the value of community. We shared our thoughts, our doubts, our fears, and our questions about our faith.

Discovering Christ talked about a God who loves us unconditionally, a God who wants to have a personal relationship with each one of us, a God of mercy and empathy, a God who is with us every moment of our lives, a God who really hears our prayers, and a God who can and does change lives. It was so different from what I remembered from school—that religion was a “don't do this, don't do that” religion, all about the rules.

I had never heard of the concept of having a personal relationship with the Lord.

I never realized religion is all about Love—God's love for us, and our response to that Love. A simple concept, but one I had never really gotten.

At the Discovering Christ retreat, I encountered, for the first time, the love of God, and I knew without a doubt that Jesus was with me and in me. I go to Sunday Mass now because I want to go, not because it's a rule. I go to daily Mass, pray every day, and read spiritual

books for the same reason. Most days, I stop by church on the way home, sometimes for 10 minutes sometimes longer. Daily rosaries and monthly confession are now a habit. I hadn't been to confession in over 30 years.

At the very end of the Christlife Process, there are Cardboard Testimonies where in just a few words you write where you were before and after ChristLife. My 'before' was: self-centered, pleasure seeking and fear of death. My after is: God-centered, joyful and peaceful.

Simply put, I have fallen in love with the God who created me.

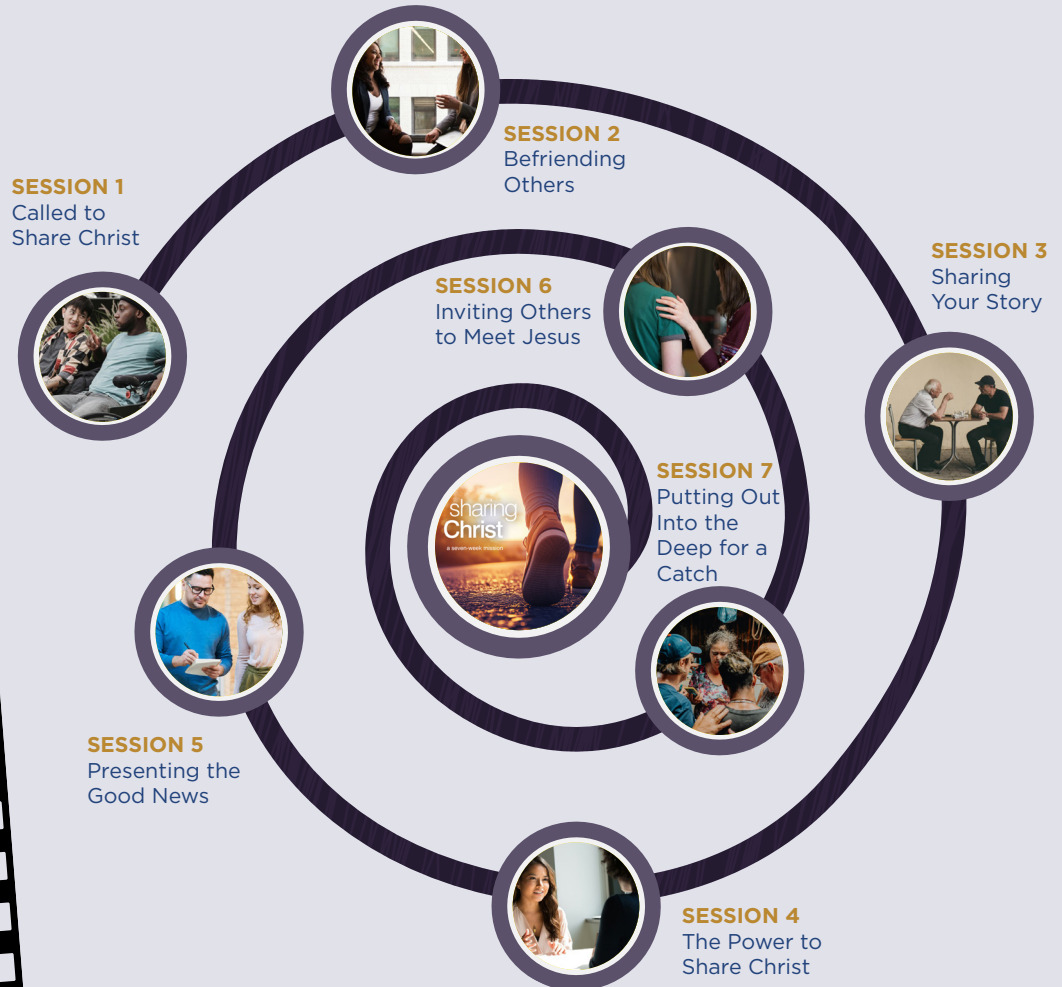
My life now has purpose and meaning. I have joy and peace I never knew was possible. I wake up now ready and eager to face each day. Sometimes, I feel so happy I want to jump up and down and start laughing.

My goal in life now for whatever time I have left here on this Earth is to bring the Love that God has given me to as many people I can. With help from a Monsignor in the Archdiocese of Washington, an old high school friend, I've introduced the program to six churches in the DC area. Two are running the program now, with the other four starting in the Fall.

Thank you Jesus, for showing me how to live my life!

NEW SHARING CHRIST IS HERE!

The new edition of Sharing Christ released via the ChristLife website to both free and All Access Pass accounts in June. Parishes have already started using the new videos and guides—St. Louis in Clarksville, Maryland was the first to officially offer the new Sharing Christ course. ***We pray this new edition will equip the saints to go out into the world and evangelize!***



ChristLife's Strengthen Gathering

September 12-14, 2025 | Sandy Cove Retreat Center

A WEEKEND OF RENEWAL AND ENCOURAGEMENT
WITH FRIENDS OF CHRISTLIFE

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.

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



SAVING SOULS IN MEXICO

ChristLife Launches at a Rehab in Rancho Viejo

BY: PETE ASCOSI

"We wait every week for you to come and teach us about God," a young man named Jose* tells Elsa Merino, our ChristLife Mexico coordinator. Along with 25 other men, Jose attends ChristLife at a rehab for drug addicts and alcoholics in Rancho Viejo, Mexico.

While most of the men were baptized as infants, very few of them know anything about God or the Church. Hearing that Jesus wants a relationship with them and wants to forgive their sins, one man named Carlos* says in disbelief, "Really?" Many of these young men, some as young as 16, have

criminal backgrounds and have been involved in cartels. Several have even consecrated themselves to Satan, prompting Elsa to bring in an exorcist to pray for these men and the entire rehab.

While some of the men are disinterested in the message of ChristLife, others are opening their hearts and minds to the Lord Jesus. The group is currently in Following Christ. Thanks to the success of our Easter campaign, plans are being made to run the Sharing Christ course in Spanish later this year. Please join us in praying for the souls of these young men, and for Elsa and her team.

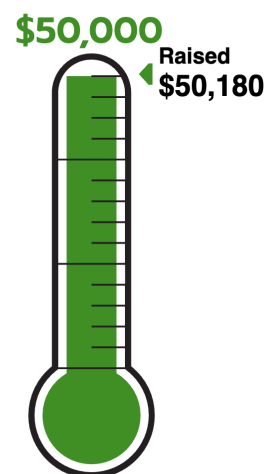
**Name changed to protect the identity of these men.*

EASTER CAMPAIGN FUELS MISSION IN MEXICO, BRAZIL, AND THE UNITED STATES

We are pleased to announce the success of our Easter Mission Campaign. 108 donors contributed a total of \$50,180 in support of our mission in Mexico, Brazil, and to bilingual communities here in the United States.

The campaign directly supports: 1) our staff missionaries in Mexico, Elsa Merino, and in Brazil, Fernando Nascimento; and 2) the translation of the new Sharing Christ course into Spanish and Portuguese.

Thank you to all who sacrificially gave!



CHRISTLIFE™
CATHOLIC MINISTRY FOR EVANGELIZATION

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/give

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