



CHRISTLIFE™
CATHOLIC MINISTRY FOR EVANGELIZATION

SPRING/SUMMER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Founder's Corner

Young Adults: Celebrating the Past
and Looking to the Future

The First Byzantine Church to Embrace
ChristLife

LETTER FROM FOUNDER AND SENIOR LEADER

Dear brothers and sisters,

May grace, peace, and the love of
God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ be with each of you!

I want to share some good news with
you in a season of transition.

First, Leo Rudegeair, our dear brother
and co-founder of ChristLife, turns
90 in July! Please thank God with me
for his faithfulness, and continuing
witness to the Lord in his marriage,
family, service in his parish and
ChristLife.

More good news! Pete Ascosi has
been given the responsibility as
Servant Leader - Executive Director
of ChristLife.

Pete, our dear brother, has served in
ChristLife for the past 21 years. Over
these years we have been sincerely
blessed to witness his growth in so
many ways as a husband, father,
brother, servant leader, and true
missionary in Christ.

He faithfully manages our office
team and various committees, helps
with content development, and is a
gifted teacher.

Our dear brother carries the charism
that the Lord has entrusted to
ChristLife to serve the Church for
the salvation of souls. That charism
is seen, heard, and experienced by
many who have participated in the
ChristLife relational process.

I will continue to serve as founder
and senior leader of ChristLife.

We thank God for the mission He has
entrusted us: to help others discover,
follow, and share the Lord Jesus and
to equip them to become missionary
disciples. We thank Him especially for
you, our partners in this great work.

Your brother in our Lord Jesus,

Dave Nodar

Founder and Senior Leader



PETE ASCOSI, DAVE NODAR, LEO RUDEGEAIR



LETTER FROM NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I'm so very grateful to God for calling me to be a part of ChristLife 21 years ago. I have especially benefited from the faith and life witness of Dave Nodar and Leo Rudegeair, as well as many incredible staff and volunteers over the years. Their evident love for God continually spurs me on "to love and good works" (Hebrews 10:24). ChristLife's impact on my marriage with Ally and on our family has been transformative, thanks be to God. It has fueled our passion for the Lord and our commitment to evangelization.

As I step into this leadership role, I look forward to sharing the charism of ChristLife with a new generation. Please pray for me, that "I may accomplish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).

Fraternally, your brother in Christ,

Pete Ascosi

CELEBRATING THE PAST AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

AN UPDATE ON OUR MINISTRY TO YOUNG ADULTS

Seventeen years ago, in June of 2009, a group of young adults were preparing for a Discovering Christ course for Young Adults. Though none of us knew at the time, that course would be the start of a thriving young adult community, ChristLife Young Adults (CLYA).

CLYA impacted the lives of hundreds of young adults locally for 15 years through ChristLife courses, weekly meetings, men's and women's groups, retreats, and more. We're honored to be part of so many young adult's stories.



SUMMER 2009



SUMMER 2026

In 2024, after a series of leadership transitions, we felt the Lord calling us to let that chapter of young adult ministry come to a close. We are grateful to the many young adults who made the community life and mission possible through the years.

While ChristLife Young Adults as we knew it came to a close in 2024, ChristLife's commitment to serving the next generation has not ended. In fact, this summer, we are offering a Discovering Christ course for Young Adults at St. Marks in Catonsville, Maryland. Please keep this Discovering Christ course for young adults in your prayers.



THE FIRST BYZANTINE CHURCH TO EMBRACE CHRISTLIFE

BY: DIANNE DAVIS

I am happy to share some exciting news from Our Lady of Wisdom Byzantine Catholic Church in Las Vegas, Nevada. This past January, our parish made history by becoming the first Byzantine Catholic church to begin the ChristLife evangelization process.

The pastor, Fr. Nathan Adams, enthusiastically supported this initiative and his wife, Ali, has been indispensable in implementing ChristLife.

In *Redemptoris Missio*, Pope St. John Paul II speaks to the importance of the initial proclamation of the Gospel shared in Discovering Christ:

“In the complex reality of mission, initial proclamation has a central and irreplaceable role, since it introduces man into the mystery of the love of God, who invites him to enter into a personal relationship with himself in Christ and opens the way to conversion.”

Fr. Nathan said it perfectly: “Without understanding the foundation of the kerygma one cannot appreciate the ornamentation of the Byzantine Church.”

Nearly 60 participants and team members journeyed through Discovering Christ at Our Lady of Wisdom over seven weeks plus a retreat day. Each week they gathered for a delicious dinner, prayer, a dynamic video teaching, and small-group discussion. Participants ranged in age from 20 to 80 and included longtime parishioners as well as Muslims, agnostics, lapsed Catholics, and several who were not yet baptized.

The Lord worked in wonderful ways. Here are a few of the inspiring testimonies we received:

Vincent shared:

“My relationship with Jesus was present before Discovering Christ, but now it’s alive. I have never had this much joy to enter the Lenten season.”

Megan, a young adult who had stopped attending church, said:

“Discovering Christ has made me closer to Jesus, prayer and the Church. I went back to confession for the first time in 10 years after session 4 of Discovering Christ.”

Deacon Stephen Melancon, who facilitated a table discussion with

his wife Betsy, wrote:

“What I had sometimes seen take years in evangelization happened in just five weeks. Truly amazing!”

Ali, who also facilitated one of the small groups, shared:

“People at the table I facilitated expressed to me that throughout the course they felt part of something bigger. A few told me their understanding of the Gospel now had clarity and they felt God’s love for them more than they ever had.”

One of the most powerful stories came from Bree, a young woman who was invited to Discovering Christ. She was not baptized and had no knowledge of the Catholic faith. She wrote:

“I didn’t have a relationship with Jesus before, but now He is the center of my life.”

Bree has now joined OCIA at our parish!

We look forward to continuing with Following Christ this August and Sharing Christ at a later date. Please join me in praying for open doors for ChristLife and the Catholic Eastern Rite churches.

EASTER MISSION APPEAL GOAL EXCEEDED THANKS TO GENEROUS DONORS!



Thanks to the generosity of 106 donors who believe in our mission, we exceeded our Easter Mission Appeal goal raising \$52,275!

This successful campaign will directly support our evangelizing mission through funding initiatives to introduce new parishes to ChristLife, both in the United States and internationally, as well as supporting training and equipping with in-person events and producing updated versions of our training videos.

May this work continue to bear lasting fruit in lives transformed by God's grace!

Goal: \$50,000

RAISED
\$52,275 →

105%



ChristLife equips Catholics for the essential work of evangelization through our proven three-step process: Discovering Christ, Following Christ, and Sharing Christ.

STAFF

Dave Nodar
Founder and Senior Leader

Peter Ascosi
Executive Director

Leo Rudegear
Assistant Director

Dianne Davis
Mission Expansion Director

JoAnn Geoghan
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Peter Hanke
Evangelization Resources Manager

Jennifer King
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Elsa Merino
Mexico Coordinator

Fernando Nascimento
Brazil Coordinator

Lisa White
Project Manager

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Mary Doughney
Aster Evenson
Mary Giesey

PRAY FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

Equip Training Conference

August 6-8, 2026
Severna Park, Maryland
www.christlife.org/equip

Discovering Christ Parish Training

August 29, 2026
Enumclaw, WA

Discovering Christ Parish Training

September 26, 2026
Rochester, MN



Pray for all of the ChristLife courses happening around the world, and our upcoming events. Your prayers sustain our mission!



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.
ChristLife.org/give

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