



# CHRISTLIFE™

CATHOLIC MINISTRY FOR EVANGELIZATION

ADVENT 2010

Dear Friend,

We are in challenging times. Here in the US, some of us have lost jobs, some have lost their homes, or retirement funds; there is anxiety about the future of our country and increasing hostility towards the Christian faith – to name a few current realities. In addition, many of us have the ongoing concerns related to our families – health issues, addictions, anxiety about our spouses and children's relationship to the Lord and the Church. In other parts of the world, many are facing unimaginable ordeals. Over a million people in Haiti are still without homes since the earthquake in January. Recently 58 men, women and children were murdered by Muslim terrorists in Baghdad, Iraq during Sunday Mass at the Syrian Catholic Cathedral. *Lord Jesus have mercy.*

Personal and national times of trial open us up to think about realities that otherwise we may never consider. The times we are living in can be a season of harvest for eternal life for many people we know. But that requires those of us who personally know Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life to take action. As Christ's disciples he has commanded us to enter the fields that are ripe for harvest. People you and I know are hungry for answers and some are desperate. Let's ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to the divine appointments that are scheduled for us, and reach out to those in need, in the power of the Spirit. Explicitly sharing the good news with some, praying for those who are sick, helping others who need financial support, encouraging with a word of love and, interceding for many.

Look at the way the Lord Jesus related to the woman at the well in John 4. He entered into conversation to address the thirst of her heart that could only be fulfilled in him (which she had been trying to fulfill with men). The Lord who entered the harvest for our salvation requires that we join him in this season where many are being prepared for coming to repentance and faith in Him and life in his Church.

ChristLife is experiencing increasing opportunities to announce the life changing love of God in Jesus Christ. **Take a look inside to see the breadth of what is occurring now.**

As things have been bursting open before us, we have simplified **our ChristLife mission statement:**

1. *To help others to discover, follow, and share Jesus Christ as members of the Catholic Church.*
2. *To equip dioceses, parishes, small faith communities, and young adults to evangelize.*

In the first part of the mission statement we are saying, this is what we are passionately committed to in our daily lives, anytime and anywhere (24/7). In the second part of the statement, we together as brothers and sisters are committed to helping equip others to evangelize with an emphasis on our ChristLife process of evangelization.

We thank God for each of you as we remember you in our daily prayer times. Please help us further the mission of evangelization through your regular prayer and financial support. Together let us enter the harvest!

*Gratefully yours in our Lord Jesus,*

  
Dave Nodar, Director



***Jesus said, "Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."***

John 4:35 NIV

# Evangelizing Young Adults

By Pete Ascosi

An important part of ChristLife's mission is to evangelize young adults. How do we do this? Understanding the Latin word, *communitas*, will actually give us a clue. *Communitas* is "community on mission." It is the truest identity of the Church. It is the fierce "community" guys experience in a foxhole when united by the mission of overcoming the enemy they are facing.

Following the Discovering Christ series in summer 2009, a group of 20 young adults decided to continue to meet together and grow as Catholic disciples of Jesus. For many of the young adults, they had never experienced Christian *community*. They were on the sidelines or lone rangers in their Christian life. After a year of spiritual formation, group prayer, and building relationships – a vibrant young community is forming.

Community is also forming as we engage in a common *mission* to bring Jesus Christ to our generation. From Christmas caroling on the streets, to hosting Discovering Christ in a bar, to running a bible study – the young adults have really gelled together *on mission*.

Last Advent we walked the streets of Catonsville, MD singing praise for the birth of the Lord Jesus (some people call this Christmas caroling). As we stopped at one house, an elderly lady invited all 15 of us inside. We packed the living room and found out that it was a gathering of nuns who were enjoying a faith-sharing group. So, we all sang together a couple Christmas carols and left excited to share the cheer with others.

In the Spring, we went through *Sharing Christ* together and learned, as Catholics, how to personally evangelize others. We held one another accountable in prayer, and heard many stories of people's lives

being touched by our words and invitation to discover Jesus.

Over the Summer, we hosted *Discover* in a bar in Ellicott City, MD. It was an amazing and challenging experience for all of us.

A highlight for me was a young woman who came to me at the end with such a great enthusiasm and

genuineness, and said, "this has been incredible for me... I thought I was coming to drink some good beer... I've never felt more alive in my faith."

This Fall, the young adults hosted a bible study called *Discover the Gospel* for young adults from *Discover* and other young Catholics looking to grow in their faith. It was a great experience of growth as we read the entire Gospel of Mark together. We didn't just read and reflect on biblical exegesis and theology. But we read and listened to our God who is speaking



Pete presenting the *Discover* series at a bar



into the here and now of our lives. And now the young adults are participating in, serving, and helping lead the *Following Christ* series at St. Louis.

This is the real life story of how God is weaving together an amazing story of community and mission – inspiring and equipping young adults to give their all for Jesus!

*If you are interested in learning more about ChristLife's work with young adults, contact Pete at 410.531.7701 or [pete@christlife.org](mailto:pete@christlife.org)*

## Discovering Christ is Spreading

**One year ago ChristLife released Discovering Christ. Since then...**

*How many groups have completed DC courses?*

26 overall (19 parishes + 4 small faith communities + 3 in Slovakia)

*What venues has DC been run in / is running?*

Parish halls, on campus, in a bar, Franciscan friary, in a home

*Where has DC been run / is running?*

9 states: California (begins January), Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Washington DC  
1 foreign country: Slovakia

*How many people have been evangelized by DC?*

1500-2000, including 500+ young adults

***If you are interested in purchasing or learning more about Discovering Christ, please visit [www.christlife.org/discover](http://www.christlife.org/discover) or contact us at 888-498-8474***



## Mission to Slovakia

From September 3-8, Dave and Pete were over in Slovakia giving a Discovering Christ conference in the capital city of Bratislava. The conference was one of several training events preparing Catholic leaders for a weeklong citywide mission in October in Bratislava. Over 80 Catholics from religious and lay communities, parishes, and dioceses around the nation gathered at the seminary in Bratislava for 2 days of training in how to use Discovering Christ as a tool for evangelization.

The Redemptorist religious community and lay communities of Calvary and River of Life made the entire translation and conference possible. After the training conference, we've gotten word that at least 3 groups have already begun Discovering Christ (Objav Krista), including a series for 75 youth preparing for Confirmation in Eastern Slovakia. Praise God for our dedicated brothers and



Conference attendees

sisters in Christ who are taking Discovering Christ and the Gospel to the people of Slovakia.

For more information and pictures from Dave and Pete's trip, go to [www.christlife.org/conference/SlovakiaPics](http://www.christlife.org/conference/SlovakiaPics)



Some of the team the day before the conference, on a beautiful cobblestone road in Bratislava.

## Following Christ

ChristLife is currently in the midst of a major video production of *Following Christ*. Over the last 4 years, ChristLife has presented this series in a variety of venues.

**"[Following Christ] helped me to develop a deeper relationship with God. I can't wait for my daily prayer time."**

— Participant, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, MD

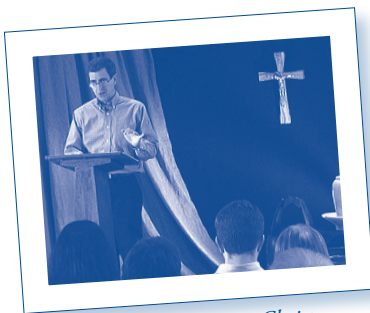
Each time we have tweaked the course and learned new insights from the Holy Spirit and fellow leaders.

Following Christ is a 7-week series inviting people who have encountered Jesus in Discovering Christ to grow as Catholic

disciples. Each session includes prayer and worship, a DVD-teaching, and small group discussion. There are seven weekly sessions and a retreat following the fifth session:

- Daily Personal Prayer
- Hearing God in Scripture
- The Power of the Sacraments
- Forgiving One Another
- The Spirit-Empowered Life
- The World, the Flesh, & the Devil (retreat)
- Advancing the Mission of the Church
- Celebration Night

*Following Christ* will be released at the ChristLife conference (see article in newsletter) in Spring 2011. We are very excited to share *Following Christ* with you. Please stay tuned as we finish the production of the series and put the final touches on this life-changing program.



1st session of Following Christ videoshoot

## A Few Words from New Staff

Hi everybody! It's **Theresa Fernandes** here; general volunteer turned official webmaster and communications assistant at ChristLife.

I am amazed at how the Lord has worked in my life through Discovering Christ! If you told me this is where I would be two years ago, I would have said you're as crazy as I look! But praise the Lord; I am exactly where HE wants me to be doing what he wants me to do and I LOVE IT! I hope to share with you my growing love of the Lord and faith in Him who gives me strength to do everything! I can be reached at [theresa@christlife.org](mailto:theresa@christlife.org)

Hi! I am **James Lohrmann**. This past May I graduated from Christiana Homeschool Academy. I am excited to take this school year off do an internship at ChristLife. I have loved working here so far and am excited about what God has been doing in my life! I am very excited for the rest of the year, especially the Following Christ video production. Next year I hope to attend Franciscan University of Steubenville. I can be reached at [james@christlife.org](mailto:james@christlife.org)



# ChristLife Conference

**March 30 – April 1, 2011, St. Louis Parish, Clarksville, MD**

Join fellow Catholics from around the nation to be inspired, equipped, and sent for the new evangelization. For the very first time, leaders will be trained to use the entire ChristLife evangelization process: Discovering Christ, Following Christ, and Sharing Christ.

The 3-day conference will include times of prayer, worship, and mass together; practical teachings based on real experience in parish/ministry evangelization; testimonies of people whose lives have been changed; opportunities for sharing best practices; and fellowship together.

The conference schedule, speaker bios, registration, and a video invitation will be posted at [www.christlife.org/conference](http://www.christlife.org/conference) in the coming weeks.

## 15th Anniversary Mass and Celebration

SAVE  
THE DATE!

**January 30, 2011, 4:00pm**  
**St. Louis Parish, Clarksville, MD**

Fifteen years ago the ministry of ChristLife was birthed out of a passionate desire to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and to respond to Pope John Paul II's prophetic call to new evangelization. Join us in January for a mass to give thanks to God for His faithfulness to ChristLife, followed by a reception. Details will be forthcoming at <http://christlife.org/events/anniversary.html>

## EVENTS CALENDAR

*Please intercede for these events*

**Following Christ** (*video production*)

Mondays, 7:30-9:30pm

November 1 – December 13, 2010

St. Louis Parish, Clarksville, MD

**15th Anniversary Mass**

Sunday, 4:00pm, January 30, 2011

St. Louis Parish, Clarksville, MD

**ChristLife Conference**

Wed-Fri, March 30 – April 1, 2011

St. Louis Parish, Clarksville, MD

**Discovering Christ Conference for  
Archdiocese of NY**

July 15-16, 2011

Holy Trinity Parish, Poughkeepsie, NY

**For more info:**

[www.christlife.org/events.html](http://www.christlife.org/events.html)

**CHRISTLIFE** is a tax exempt ministry dedicated to equipping Catholics for the work of evangelization. To continue in this work, we depend entirely on the donations of fellow Christians like you. Please send donations to: **CHRISTLIFE:** 12280 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042 USA, *We appreciate your support!* For more information on our mission and activities visit our web site: [www.christlife.org](http://www.christlife.org)

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