

WHERE OUR FAITH TAKES US ALUM EVANGELIZES TO YOUNG ADULTS

by George P. Matysek Jr.



When **Pete Ascosi, C'04**, was a student at Mount St. Mary's University in the early 2000s, he could be found at Mass every Sunday. It was more out of a sense of duty than a passion for his faith, he said.

"I just saw it as something I had to do," the 29-year-

old Catonsville native remembered. "It didn't impact the rest of my life. I guess you'd call me an inactive practicing Catholic."

Ascosi's faith came to life, however, as he was exposed to the Mount's theology and philosophy classes and as he interacted with on-campus priests. He was inspired by Catholic friends at the Mount who embraced the faith with enthusiasm.

"It was at the Mount that God began to tug at my heart," said Ascosi, a history major who graduated in 2004. "I really began to rekindle the faith that my parents had taught me."

Today, Ascosi serves as the young adult coordinator for ChristLife, a lay apostolate of the Archdiocese of Baltimore focused on evangelization. Using podcasts, video, blogs, articles and other forms of communication, he reaches out to young people to help them become better disciples of Christ.

Ellicott City-based ChristLife also provides programs for local parishes and other organizations, like the Mount seminarians.

Ascosi knows where young people are coming from. They are looking for authenticity, truth and genuine love, he said.

"It's a lot easier to help people when you've been there and you're not just preaching at them," said Ascosi, who is completing a master's degree in non-profit management at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, Baltimore.

"I had the same questions, the same restlessness and the same lack of peace," he said. "God can help answer those questions."

Visit www.christlife.org for more information.