

Good News

Bringing the Light of Christ to Missouri | Nov/Dec 2019



Months after the 2019 Annual Assembly, we're still reflecting on David Bereit's keynote address. His message to us to "find your Calcutta" is potent and inspiring, and his examples of the people who have started their own mission-driven organizations give hope to those who have not yet found their Calcutta. For the last issue of *Good News* in the year 2019, we're highlighting the five organizations Mr. Bereit called to light in his address. We hope this issue leaves you feeling inspired, hopeful, and enriched with the power of the Catholic faith as we enter the season of Christmas.

If you haven't yet listened to Mr. Bereit's address, you can find it on the home page of the MCC website at mccatholic.org.



Four people, one of whom was David Bereit, began the 40 Days for Life campaign in Texas in 2004. They felt called to further the pro-life movement in a very specific way: by launching a 40 day campaign of prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a constant, peaceful vigil to end abortion. By 2007, the campaign went national, and today, dozens of countries around the world have carried out successful vigils. Since its inception, the campaign has catalyzed the conversion of 172 Planned Parenthood employees who walked out of abortion clinics and joined the pro-life movement. The Bryan/College Station Planned Parenthood, where the movement began, shuttered in 2013 and is now the 40 Days for Life National Headquarters—a symbol of resilience, and of life.

www.40daysforlife.com





The Fellowship of Catholic University Students

David Bereit is a current partner of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), which prepares young Catholics to serve as missionaries on U.S. college campuses. In his address, Mr. Bereit spoke about the founder of FOCUS, Curtis Martin, and his mission to further Catholic teaching on college campuses. The FOCUS experience begins on campus, but does not end there. FOCUS missionaries travel around the world to give aid to the material poor and the spiritually impoverished.

FOCUS hosts an annual gathering called the SEEK conference; this is an opportunity for Catholic students from FOCUS campuses across the nation to come together to worship and learn. "SEEK encourages all students to come explore what they truly seek: to learn about the faith, to share in friendship, to be encouraged in their unique vocation — and to experience the love, hope and very real presence of Jesus Christ through His Church." — focus.org. Upon graduation, FOCUS students are equipped with the spiritual knowledge and strength to go out into the world to become missionary disciples in their families, parishes, workplaces and communities.

If you or someone you know is headed to a college campus next year, visit focus.org to see if there's an opportunity to become a part of this group of Catholic missionaries.

www.focus.org



Cristina Barba, president and founder of The Culture Project International, found modern culture void of certain values. Along with a group of friends, she decided to put action behind her beliefs. Together, they answered the call to create a community, a movement, to foster the dignity of the human person and the richness of living sexual integrity.

Culture Project missionaries are recent college graduates who are formed in Catholic Social Teaching and committed to a vibrant lived faith. These missionaries give impactful presentations and are available to speak to middle-school and high school students along with young adult groups. Their presentations focus on the virtue of chastity, the importance of marriage and family, and the dignity of every human life.

www.thecultureproject.org



COMMUNIO

Catholicism is rooted in tradition; the values of the church are steadfast and true. But the way we communicate with our parishioners and the public is always evolving. Communio is a faith-based nonprofit organization that consults with churches to equip them with 21st century tools of predictive analytics, digital outreach, and relationship ministry best practices. Communio was founded by J.P. De Gance, who spent two decades working in philanthropy, where he developed the concept for Communio. The goal? To empower churches to become community change agents that can strengthen marriages and families at scale, and maintain those steadfast and strong Catholic Christian traditions. Communio has a strong focus on marriage ministry, which they see as the toughest issue facing the church in the modern day.

www.communio.org



witness to love

Mary-Rose and Ryan Verret, founders of the Witness to Love ministry, help bring newly married couples and those who have been successfully married together for mentoring. In this model, couples are invited to choose their own mentor couple. The mentor couple must meet some basic requirements and is coached to accompany the engaged or civilly-married couple. The Verrets say that this model is especially effective because, unlike other mentor models, there is no need to build trust in order for the marriage formation process to work – the trust already exists. Deep conversions, encounter with Christ, and renewal happen consistently for both the mentors and the engaged or civilly married couple.

www.witnesslove.org



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Blessings for the Christmas Season

The MCC wishes you and your family a blessed Christmas and New Year! We are so grateful for your participation as a MOCAN member in 2019, and are looking forward to working together through the 2020 session, and gathering at the Capitol for a day of worship and education at the 2020 Annual Assembly.

As we begin decorating our homes for the holiday, the USCCB guides us to ask the leader of the household to bless the nativity scene. Gather your family to say this blessing together.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord. R/. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8) or Isaiah 7:10 (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The leader prays with hands joined:

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Savior was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin
Mary.

To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.

Lord,
bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of
Jesus,
and raise our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.
R/. Amen.