

Casting Our Nets!

The eagerly-awaited *Sharing Christ* experience is occurring at St. Francis of Assisi parish in Fairfield Glade through October. For their opening session, Sr. Maria Juan Anderson, new Director of Christian Formation for the Diocese of Knoxville, joined the group.

This evangelization process, developed by ChristLife in Baltimore, MD, is changing lives and transforming parishes. So far, St. Francis has had nearly 100 people go through Discovering, Following, or Sharing Christ.

Sharing Christ focuses on personal or friendship evangelization, sharing relationship with Jesus in daily encounters with others. Kathy Maynard, the layperson leading this endeavor, says “The course encourages openness to sharing one’s relationship with Jesus and the Good News we have experienced in our daily encounters with others.”

Fr. Michael Wood, Pastor states, “The connection between greatly increased Mass attendance and participation in new and old ministries has a lot to do with *Discovering Christ /Following Christ/ Sharing Christ* experience. We are a retired community but we are not done. We are coming alive in Jesus Christ. Our faith is being challenged to become active in reaching out. Folks are taking time to share their individual faith stories with others and Christ’s great commission “Go out and make disciples” (Mt. 28:18). We are learning how to become missionary disciples by helping others to discover, follow and share Jesus Christ!”

It’s hard work...but this comment from a past participant, makes the work worth the time and effort: “*It dawned on me, for the first time in my life probably, that my relationship with Jesus is my choice; that He has already made His choice.*”

The connection between greatly increased mass attendance and participation in new and old ministries has a lot to do with Discovering Christ /Following Christ/ Sharing Christ experience. We are a retired community but we are not done. We are coming alive in Jesus Christ, not fading away. Our faith is being challenged to become active in reaching out, even in our senior years. Folks are taking time to share their individual faith stories with others and Christ’s great commission “Go out and make disciples” (Mt. 28:18). We are learning how to become missionary disciples by helping others to discover, follow and share Jesus Christ. What a blessing!



ChristLife Sharing Christ organizers Pat Bryant, Carol Lamb, Michelle Adcock, Kathy Maynard



Sharing Christ participants at St. Francis of Assisi parish have already completed two other ChristLife 7-week sessions, *Discovering Christ* and *Following Christ* which are prerequisites for attending *Sharing Christ*.