L'ALTO CATHOLIC INSTITUTE

BUILDING A CULTURE OF DISCIPLESHIP IN THE CHURCH

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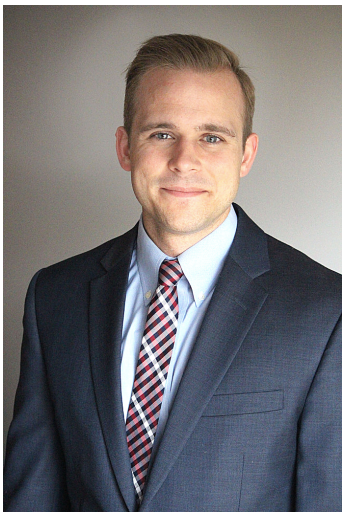
From our FOUNDER



In 1872, the famous atheist philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche triumphantly proclaimed, "God is dead, and we killed him!"

Perhaps no other philosopher and no other statement so acutely signifies our current, secularizing moment.

Bishop Barron refers to our time as an "anomalous moment" because, in fact, no other time in human history has observed such a widespread repudiation of religious belief and practice. Since the 1950s, each successive generation has seen an increase in the number of fallen away Catholics and in those culturally who identify themselves as "nones."

So many of our Catholic institutions and, perhaps, especially, our parishes, are not ready for this cultural moment. Many of our modes of acting were formed in a Christendom that saw the greater culture supporting of religious expression.

Until now, the New Evangelization, St. John Paul II's great call to meet this cultural secularizing head-on, has been largely carried out in the movements, while parish life has been widely unaffected.

However, if we are to turn the cultural tides, each of our parishes must become missionary outposts, uniquely suited to forming disciples.

Many parishes are desirous of this cultural change but few know where to begin. It was for those parishes asking the question of, "How?" that L'Alto Catholic Institute was formed. The important shift in emphasis that each parish is called to undergo is a full change in culture and is daunting for most. We exist to help.

As we continue to support L'Alto's rapid growth, we are focused on three goals.

1. to widen our impact by expanding the number of our regional programs while depending our impact by supporting the health of our current offerings and constantly honing our process

2. to uncover new methods for communicating our vision for parish renewal through discipleship and our unique perspective on the topic of parish renewal including the creation of new resources

3. to strengthen our relationships with dioceses and other Catholic organizations to continue our collaborative mentality toward the work of evangelization

IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES, we will be sharing with you some of our young organization's impact as well as some of our plans for the future. Thank you for taking the time to become acquainted with L'Alto Catholic Institute. May God bless you abundantly! To the heights!

TIM GLEMKOWSKI, PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER

L'Alto Catholic Institute

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

PARISH PARTNERSHIP

Parish Partnerships are the cornerstone of our work at L'Alto. Over the years, we have met many parishes who want to build a culture of evangelization and discipleship at their parish but are encountering many roadblocks. Our nine-month intensive process is meant to help you bust through obstacles to renewing your parish to bear fruit for generations to come.

PARISH RENEWAL EVENT

At the heart of the Christian life is a transformative, personal encounter with Jesus. Many Catholics have never had this encounter. Through dynamic preaching, powerful worship, Adoration and Confessions, our Parish Renewal Event is the spiritual shot in the arm your whole parish is looking for.

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Whether you are just starting a cultural renewal process or you have been at it for years, gathering your core leadership for a one or two day meeting led by our talented and experienced presenters is a great next step. Our Leadership Summit is an out-of-the-box way for you to get all of your leaders galvanized for driving the process of becoming a missional parish.

SCHOOL OF PRAYER

So many Catholics do not really know how to encounter Jesus daily in the transformative intimacy of a personal prayer life. Pulling from our rich Catholic heritage on the spiritual life, our School of Prayer is about teaching lifelong Catholics to pray in a new and powerful way.

L'ALTO IN 2018
BY THE NUMBERS

5

New regional programs. L'Alto moved from one region (Chicago) to planting five new initiatives led by uniquely gifted area directors.

22

Number of parishes or diocesan offices with whom we worked intentionally on an evangelization and discipleship initiative,

99

Trainings, presentation, and discipleship formation sessions delivered to thousands of clergy, lay leaders, and devout Catholics

1,184

Parishes, each called to serve as an outpost of thew New Evangelization, located within the boundaries of our new regional programs

PORTRAIT OF A PARTNERSHIP

ST. JOHN NEUMANN

St. Charles, IL

Tim and the rest at L'Alto Catholic Institute brought to our parish an understanding of the hearts of those on the edges of the Church. They helped us chart a path for the unengaged to transform their lives by forming and deepening their relationship with Jesus and the Church He founded. They used strategic planning informed by learning about the uniqueness of St. John Neumann. They combined that with prayer and their love for the Church to set our parish on a path to discipleship. L'Alto's guidance and support proved invaluable to initiating a cultural change in our parish.

Fr. David Peck
Pastor
St. John Neumann

A FIVE STAGE MODEL FOR **BUILDING A CULTURE OF DISCIPLESHIP**

How do we build toward a culture change that will last?

Cast VISION	Build a CLEAR PATH	Form LEADERS	Send DISCIPLES	Align MINISTRIES

Five key steps toward culture change at

ST. JOHN NEUMANN

How did implementing some simple principles for parish renewal through forming disciples help to mobilize a large, 3000 family parish?

(1) CAST A CLEAR VISION FOR CHANGE

Every parish needs a clear sense for where it is going and how it is going to get there.

- New mission and vision statement
- August 2017 leadership summit rallied staff and clergy around a new vision
- "Rollout Sunday" had L'Alto deliver an address at all Masses, key bulletin inserts
- New signage around parish branded initiative "Ignite" with new mission statement
- Follow-up Town Hall to Rollout Sunday which addressed questions and gave further details attended by 80
- Produced homily series for clergy to preach on themes related to renewal
- Weekly bulletin messages reinforce aspects of renewal campaign
- Personally communicated plan and vision to key groups like Pastoral Council, Faith Formation leaders, etc.
- New promotional materials for parish (lawn signage, magnets, etc.)

(2) BUILD A CLEAR PATH TO DISCIPLESHIP

Every parish should understand and speak clearly about exactly how it forms disciples.

- Met with pastor and director of evangelization to craft a clear path
- Launched Alpha as evangelization "pump"
- Multi-year strategic plan for helping parishioners build personal prayer life
- Launched new discipleship groups with leaders ready to accompany individuals through growth in holiness and community
- Used "ReLit" evangelization training program as formation tool for leaders to pass on a vision for evangelization
- Launched annual charism discernment process to help leaders
- Re-imagined social outreach of parish to include more chances to encounter the poor face-to-face
- Strategized around "shallow ends" of the parish as engagement opportunities for the unengaged in the community

(3) FORM IMPACTFUL LEADERSHIP

Culture change is a multi-year enterprise which requires well-formed, dedicated leadership.

- Encouraged expansion of role of current DRE to be the parish's first Director of Evangelization and point person for renewal effort
- Personally recruited members of new Evangelization Leadership Team and participated monthly in meetings of group responsible for strategic and tactical oversight of disciple-making at the parish
- Accompanied pastor in his role as chief vision carrier and communicator of renewal
- Brought clarity to parish's leadership structure

(4) SEND A FIRST GENERATION OF MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Jesus sent the three, the twelve, and the seventy-two.

- Conducted a School of Prayer, four part series on the interior life
- Brought a three-night parish mission with dynamic talks, worship, adoration, and confessions
- Worked intensively with a small group of leaders to begin person-to-person accompanying, discipling relationships in the context of small groups

(5) ALIGN KEY MINISTRIES WITH NEW VISION

Everything in the parish life should be re-oriented to a new vision for a missionary parish.

- Baptism prep adapted to introduce some apologetic elements, more relationship building, understanding the spiritual situation of parents attending
- Introduced Alpha as a key part of marriage prep
- Began steps toward movement of family faith formation model to include outreach to parents
- Recommended key steps for RCIA to become a more intentionally evangelizing process
- Consulted on communications and web outreach strategy

2018 GROWTH

In 2018, L'Alto Catholic Institute undertook an important development. We executed on planting our mission nationally through the development of regional programs.

Some numbers on our regional mission fields...

CHICAGO
Parishes: 344
Total # of Catholics: 2.199 M
Total Population: 5.94 M

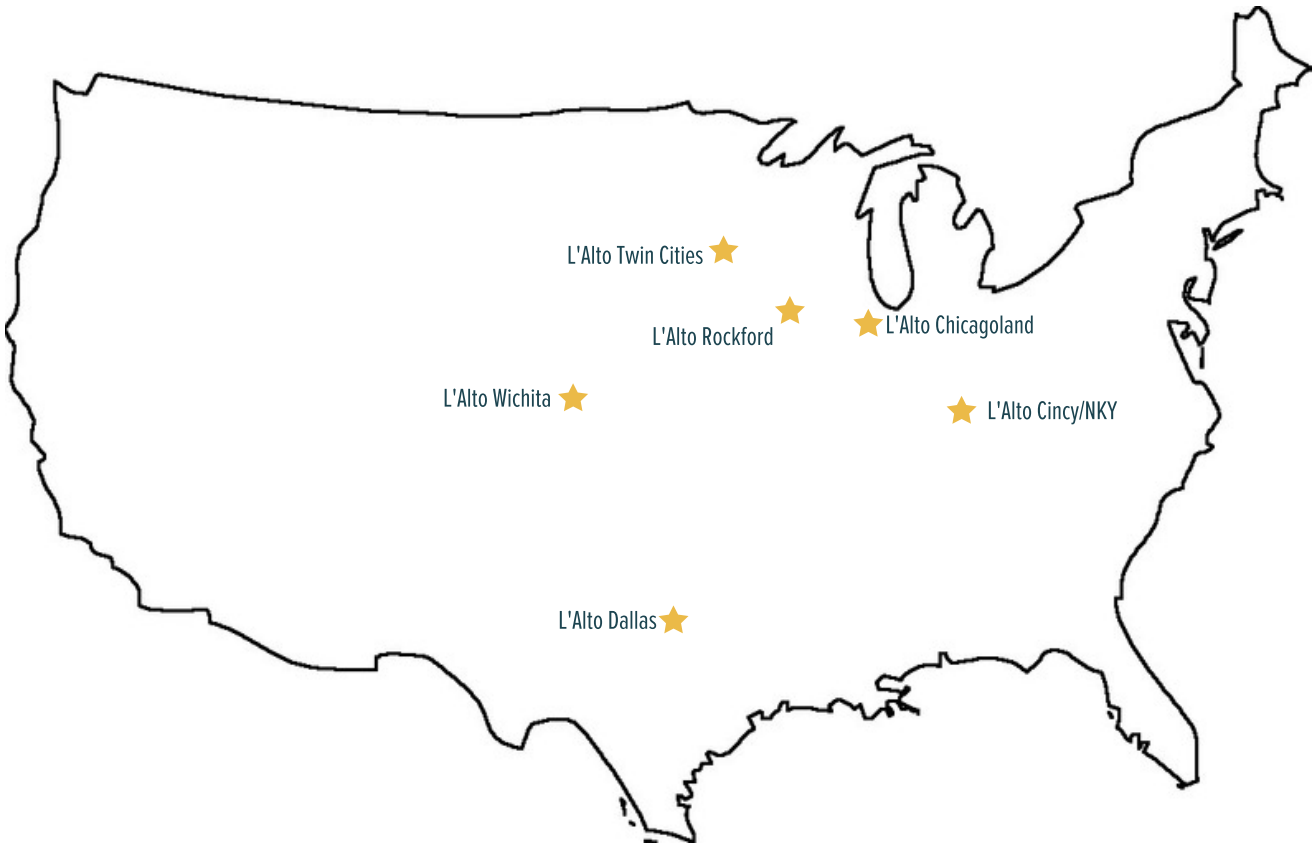
ROCKFORD / JOLIET
Parishes: 227
Total # of Catholics: 1.11 M
Total Population (souls to reach): 3.56 M

CINCY / NKY
Parishes: 261
Total # of Catholics: 563,913
Total Population: 3.6 M

TWIN CITIES
Parishes: 188
Total # of Catholics: 825,000
Total Population: 3.18 M

DALLAS
Parishes: 74
Total # of Catholics: 1.32 M
Total Population: 4.05 M

WICHITA
Parishes: 90
Total # of Catholics: 120,527
Total Population: 979,000



TEN YEAR PLAN

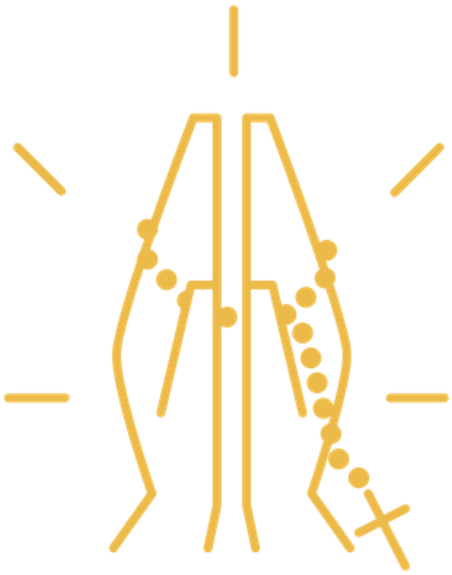
What is the big idea behind L'Alto Catholic Institute?

While resources are great tools, most parish leadership need additional support. Many want to form disciples but do not know how.

We hear about false starts, frustration, confusion and, ultimately, discouragement.

Parishes need someone on the ground, as a guide. Local renewal led by local leaders.

By 2028, we want to put a highly trained area director capable of accompanying parishes through a transformational process in EVERY DIOCESE ACROSS THE U.S.



197

dioceses in the United States

17,651

parishes to be made into mission centers for the New Evangelization

WHO ARE OUR AREA DIRECTORS?

CHARLES MARKS
L'ALTO CINCY/NKY

Already a popular presenter for youth and adults, Charles Marks is bringing his years of experience in ministry in parish settings to his role as area director for our Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky regional program.

As the pastoral associate operating as the "right-hand man" for a priest bent on renewing his parish in the Fort Thomas, KY area, Charles has first hand experience of what it means to take a parish from maintenance to mission. He is sharp, creative, dynamic and has the right blend of personality and gifts to lead a parish through the treacherous landscape of renewing a parish.

Originally from San Diego, Charles met his wife while getting his degree at Franciscan University of Steubenville who hails from the northern Kentucky area. They live there now with their three daughters and one on the way.

WHY LOCAL LEADERS?

When confronted with the choice of consulting with parishes from afar or raising up local leadership to walk with parishes, we chose the latter for the following reasons. With other great organizations providing those services, what additional value did we feel our area directors could bring?

1) Trust :

Pastors will work with who they trust. Our local presence, through shared connections or just by virtue of being close to home, builds trust in parish leadership. Our leaders also understand local church culture in a way that makes them effective consultants to parishes.

2) Awareness

Many pastors and parish leaders just are not aware of other national organizations out there who can offer them assistance. Building local presence opens doors in parishes that might otherwise not undertake a renewal initiative at all.

3) Effectiveness

An inherent difficulty of consulting from a distance is the time factor. Our belief is that in order to really impact a parish and to teach them how to form disciples, a lot of hands-on time is needed.

4) Scalability and Sustainability

When we want to begin work in a new area, it does not require a tremendous amount of overhead. We can be agile in our growth and grow through individuals stably committed to their region.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

If we want to reach our goal of reaching every diocese in the U.S. by 2028, we will need to find committed individuals who want to help us get there. Would you please consider becoming a supporter of our work to make every parish a mission-driven one?

Training and Personnel Development: $1,000,000

Program Support: $1,000,000

Operations/Admin: $400,000

Outreach: $400,000

Research and Resource Development: $200,000

Total: $3,000,000