

From the Founder



This fall, Church Militant is hosting our first-ever pilgrimage. It will be to the Eternal City, headquarters, so to speak, of the Universal Church. My first trip to Rome was in the summer of 1988 with my parents when I was a seminarian studying for the archdiocese of New York (funny the twists and turns life takes, huh?)

Not too much earlier I had watched the made-for-TV film *The Scarlet and the Black*, starring Gregory Peck and Christopher Plummer. The movie recounted the story of Msgr. Hugh O'Flaherty and Col. Herbert Kappler, Gestapo Commandant of Rome during the occupation.

As a child and teenager, I had a great interest in World War II and its surrounding history (probably owing to my mother's experience as a small girl in England during the German Luftwaffe bombing runs right over her house on their way to bomb Coventry).

I had known about the Nazi occupation of Rome in 1943 and 1944, but not to the detail the film brought out. So a few months after watching the flick, my mother and father and I were standing in Rome — St. Peter's Square specifically, where the opening scene of the movie is.

It was nothing less than jaw-dropping, an experience no Catholic can or should ever pass up. The curiosity in me aroused by the movie of the days of Nazi occupation soon gave way to my much deeper interest and love of history of the Church. (I do have to admit that I asked a native, elderly Roman where Gestapo headquarters had been during the occupation, and he gave me a look to end all looks.)

I walked everywhere in Rome that summer of 1988. I had a map of the main part of the city on which I drew division lines and then went to each section of the city for a day and explored every nook and cranny. Talk about a mind blow.

I couldn't believe how *very Catholic* everything was: statues, paintings, fountains, street names, churches, everything, everywhere. The Faith was alive in these dead stones. Since I have a bit of a fanciful imagination, I could hear the sound of chariot wheels down the back streets. Over by the Forum and the Coliseum I pictured those first Catholics being burned alive on stakes planted along the Via Sancta to light the way into the Coliseum for the Roman crowds streaming into the giant stadium for the night spectacles.

One day at the Coliseum, I heard an English-speaking tour guide giving completely wrong information to his group. He said that no Christians (Catholics) were ever martyred there and that it was just folklore. Needless to say, neither he, nor anyone in his group, left with that incorrect information after I set him straight.

Rome is home, no doubt about it. It is majestic, moving and Catholic, if only in appearance quite often. The number of churches you can just walk into and see the most beautiful works of art in the world, all giving glory to Our Blessed Lord, is beyond words.

Even in these later years since Church Militant / St. Michael's Media began in 2006, the many trips I've taken to Rome still have that same mystical, magical feel about them. Despite all the corruption and evil and neglect of so many leaders in the Church, they are only temporary. Rome is eternal.



Spotlight on Marketing



Kaitlin Lochner's current position with Church Militant is Head of Marketing, which is a good fit for her, given it's what she studied in college, along with journalism. She likes that marketing provides a way to get creative and to figure out "how to best appeal to people," as she says. Besides being able to come to work and actually enjoy what she does every day, working at Church Militant also provides the Catholic environment Kaitlin desires. This helps with her family life as well. Kaitlin has been married for four years to her husband Tim, with whom she has two children, Ella, 3, and Archie, 17 months. As she explains, "My main focus is my family. But I know I can be around the Catholic mindset here at Church Militant, and I can attend to my kids with no worry, because Mike is very understanding of family life."



But being the Head of Marketing is not the first position Kaitlin's held here. At the age of 17, Kaitlin worked for us to get service hours for school. She became aware of St. Michael's Media / Church Militant through her mother, a very strong Catholic. In striking contrast, and by her own admittance, during most of her high school years, and while at the start of her work with the apostolate, Kaitlin's faith life was nearly non-existent. She did attend Catholic high school and went to Mass with her parents, but that was about it. All that changed, however, once she began working as part of the regular staff for Michael Voris, and not just putting in her time for service hours. Her first duty was writing *Saint of the Days* scripts, which was a perfect fit because writing was always something Kaitlin hoped to do. "I always wanted to be a journalist," she says. "Growing up, I was glued to the news and learning about people and their stories."

At that time, Kaitlin considered herself "lost" to the Faith, but as the days passed within the walls of the apostolate, she found herself thinking more and more about the Faith — *her* faith, the *Catholic faith*. It was here that those seeds of the Faith that had been planted by her parents were watered and nourished, soon reaching full bloom. And so began her decade-long journey of rediscovering herself and Catholicism.

Michael Voris became a mentor to Kaitlin, as he had done for other young people who worked on the staff in those early days finding themselves in this Catholic media world via their parents. Kaitlin says Michael basically told her to "get it together," and he wielded much influence over her in the early years of her spiritual growth. And always in the background, but never out of focus, was the spiritual powerhouse and loving "gramps" to all the staff, Michael's father, Russ Voris. Both his and Michael's influence placed Kaitlin back on the right track, and she began attending Mass regularly again, but this time, *because she wanted to*.



Again with Michael's help, Kaitlin buckled down and was able to attend John Paul the Great University in California. It would be her first time away from home, but it turned out to be just what she needed. It was there that she met her future husband, Tim Lochner, and there that she says she "really began to live and believe the Faith." The small Catholic college offered daily Mass, adoration and praying the Rosary in chapel, all of which Kaitlin took full advantage. She explains, "I started leaning on God, trying to live out His Will for my life." Kaitlin and Tim would help each other with the Faith at John Paul the Great, and to her surprise, Kaitlin found herself influencing Tim!

Tim and Kaitlin would go on to marry a couple of years after college graduation, and are now raising their two beautiful children in the Traditional Latine Rite of the Church — at least, that's the goal Kaitlin is working towards!

It's hard to put into words Michael Voris' sincere desire for the salvation of souls, and doing whatever it takes to grab people by the hand and lead them towards Heaven. Kaitlin is living proof of that. She puts it this way: "Mike is that person who always knew what was best for me, even when I didn't. He lives out the Faith by giving himself to all of us, and puts his life on hold to help others. He always gives his best to others."

We couldn't agree more.



We remember seeing the PAUSE program application for Joseph Pelletier in the winter of 2015, and how impressive it was. He appeared to be a solid, young Catholic man, and we knew he would be the perfect candidate for this new program — no question about it. Six months later, Joe was here in the flesh, as one of four young men participating in the inaugural year of the Church Militant PAUSE Program, a year in which these men take a “pause” in their lives to discern God’s will for them while working at the apostolate and meeting with Michael Voris regularly, who assigns them many classic Catholic books to read and discuss. It’s kind of a Catholic work-study program all within the walls here at Church Militant, and one in which daily prayer is included as well.

During his year with the PAUSE Program from July 2015–June 2016, Joe says despite its being a very “rigorous” program, he “learned a lot and it paid off in the end,” beginning with a full-time job on our News Team immediately following the end of his one-year commitment in PAUSE. The theological and philosophical discussions with Michael throughout that year aided Joe in his production and news projects, as it all comes from a traditional Catholic perspective.

Our news staff spend hours researching, writing and producing news reports and articles, and Joe was writing two articles per day while also producing a Premium show. He found the fast pace of the newsroom challenging and is a self-professed “news junkie.” He appreciated working for News Department Head Christine Niles, who was “very focused” on the day-to-day work that needed to be accomplished by her team, which she does successfully every day.

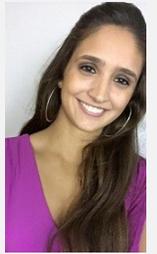
But working in News was just the first step on Joe’s Church Militant career path. After News came Marketing, in October of 2016. Joe is currently the Head Graphics Designer in our Marketing Department, where he produces the graphics for all of *The Vortex* episodes — and does so brilliantly! Joe explains how he creates those fantastic Vortex graphics *every day*. “I was always an artsy kid, drawing and editing. I practiced with Photoshop while still in News, too. So for *The Vortex* graphics, I play off the title Voris gives it. My approach is to visualize in pictures what the title says. It gets pretty creative and could take a while to get there!” But “get there” he does — again, every day, and just in the mornings, as his afternoons are spent completing other projects he is assigned to do. Joe says he loves the “creative freedom” this job affords him.

(cont’d. on p. 4)



Spotlight on Marketing

Summer is here, and — besides being a time of those few precious moments of warmth and sunshine for us Michiganders — for the team at Church Militant, it also means *the interns are coming, the interns are coming!* A time when we add their smiling, bright, young faces to our *somewhat* youthful team of regular staffers! This year, that honor goes to Nadia Hazimeh, the Marketing intern at Church Militant for the summer of 2017. She recently finished her freshman year at Cardinal Stritch University, a Catholic college in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she is studying Public Relations and Graphic Design.



Nadia is also a college athlete and pitches for the women’s softball team, the Stritch Wolves. Ever the athlete, Nadia has played basketball and soccer as well in earlier years. But she began playing softball at 8 and started pitching at age 11. Nadia explains her motivation to pitch: “As an 11-year-old, I knew I had to be the pitcher, because I knew I’d be the only one to get the job done.”

When asked about the benefits of playing sports as it relates to her life and future career, Nadia knows first-hand that “being a student athlete demands good grades, discipline, time management skills, leadership, the drive to do well and good health” — excellent traits for herself, not to mention what future bosses will look for.

Learning more about her Catholic faith and real-world job skills for PR & Marketing are what Nadia hopes to accomplish this summer working at Church Militant. “Experience in a real job,” as she says, along with “constructive criticism to gear my ideas toward the marketplace.” She also hopes to learn basic graphic design skills as typically used in the workplace day to day.

As far as the Faith goes and working at a Catholic apostolate this summer, Nadia says there are many good aspects. She likes that daily prayer is integral to what we do here at Church Militant. We begin our work day in our chapel, where we gather together for Morning Prayer; we pray the Divine Mercy chaplet at 3 p.m.; and we conclude the day with Evening Prayer. We also pray specific prayers in Latin, which is new to Nadia. But she says she likes the challenge of it and knows that as a Catholic, there are certain basic prayers, like the “Our Father” and “Hail Mary,” that you should know how to pray in Latin. Another first for her is praying the noon Angelus with the entire staff before lunch.

Like those before her and those to come, interns here at Church Militant usually come back during those summers of their college years. They benefit greatly by working here because it’s a real job in their field of interest, with a Catholic environment. We hope this interview has piqued the interest of other young folks out there, too.



Remember these upcoming events!!



Featured Store Items



JOIN THOUSANDS WHO HAVE READ THESE BOOKS

SUMMER SPECIAL

\$35

Three book covers are shown: "The Vortex" by Michael Voris, "Militant" by Michael Voris, and "The Weapon" by Michael Voris.

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(cont'd from p. 3) Working at a Catholic apostolate is a balancing act, making time for work and prayer. This atmosphere fosters a "Catholic mindset" among the staff, as Joe says, and is something he doesn't take for granted. Joe enjoys "being at Church Militant and having a fixed prayer schedule," which has taught him to really live and learn his Catholic faith. "I've definitely grown spiritually while being here," he adds. "I have access to solid Catholic churches and Masses as well, so I get inside and outside reinforcement of the Faith."

When asked about meeting Michael Voris for the first time, Joe said, "The first month was intimidating. From TV (internet) to real life, it takes a while to break down that barrier." He said working with Michael is great because he's fair and balanced. "Michael is stern when he needs to be and laid back when need be. Most bosses have one of the two in extreme. He has a good balance of both, and that's refreshing."

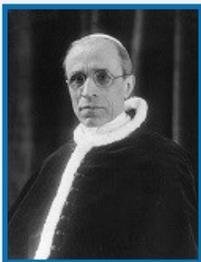
Perhaps the most important event for Joe was meeting former co-worker Christine Cantalin. She had worked in Marketing, but left last year to pursue other interests — but not before a friendship had established between the two, however, which has since blossomed into courtship, resulting in an engagement. They will be married this October! We wish them all the best, many happy years together and many blessings.

Another good Catholic family coming up!

WHAT OUR SUPPORTERS SAY...

I just wanted to drop a line and let you all know you have gotten this one soul back on track and I am sincerely thankful for it! I'm 44 years old, married 12 years, have five kids (yes, we practice NFP!) and own two businesses in NYC. I've attended Catholic elementary and high school (as do my kids) but really, and I mean really, missed the boat on so much of what the Catholic Church is about. Per Michael's Resistance program I am two thirds through the Catechism (slow read for me, really trying to digest it) and watch your shows "religiously" during the day. I've never had a real-life hero before (well, maybe my dad), but I really look to Michael as such. I can't get enough of all the great content Church Militant provides, and it's all trickling down to my wife and kids. Keep up the great work and may God bless all of you!

-Scott Harford, Port Washington, NY



What the Popes Say

"As you well know, venerable brethren, it is true that venial sins may be expiated in many ways that are to be highly commended. But to ensure more rapid progress day by day in the path of virtue, we will that the pious practice of frequent confession, which was introduced into the Church by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, should be earnestly advocated. By it genuine self-knowledge is increased, Christian humility grows, bad habits are corrected, spiritual neglect and tepidity are resisted, the conscience is purified, the will strengthened, a salutary self-control is attained, and grace is increased in virtue of the sacrament itself."

Ven. Pope Pius XII, *Mystici Corporis*, 1943