

Greetings to all readers of *The CM Insider!*  
 We hope you will have a  
**Holy Advent** and a **Blessed Christmas!**

We've had a great year here at Church Militant, with a lot of ups and downs as well. Throughout it all we are confident that we are under the protective mantle of Our Lady and of St. Michael, along with your fervent prayers!

Hard to believe that 2018 is just around the corner! We have many exciting new plans and adventures in store. To name one, as promised, our very popular *Mic'd Up* will return in the early part of the year, along with other great programs ... so stay tuned!

Our major focus in the new year will be to place greater emphasis on **Knowledge of the Catholic Faith**. It is critical for each of us to know and love our faith so that we can share it with others who are in such desperate need of hope. To use a maxim we often quote, "You can't give what you don't have."

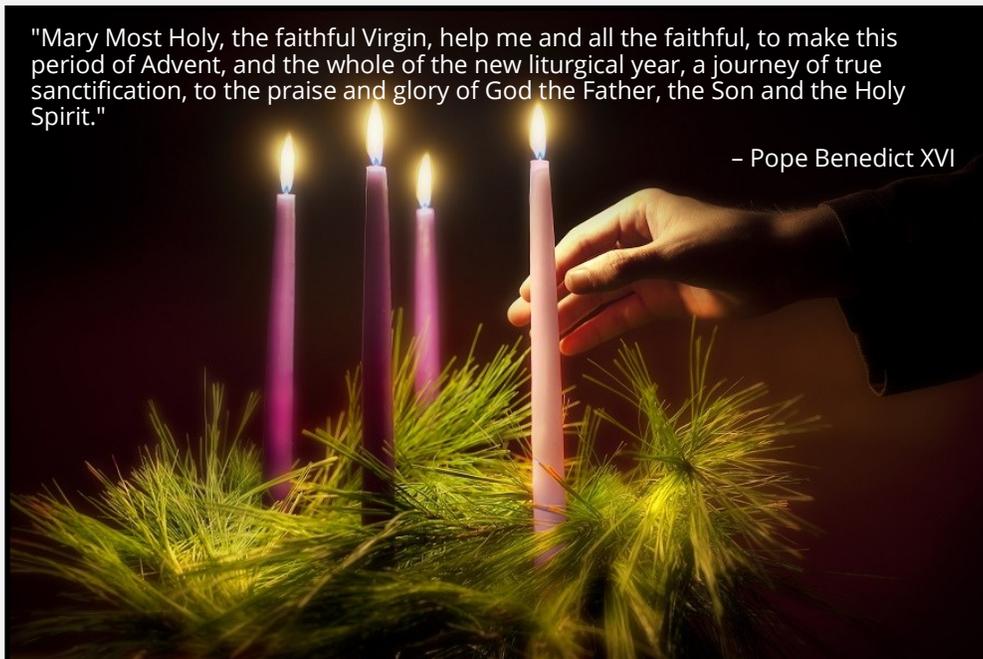
Will you consider giving a one-year subscription as a gift to those you love?

Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers.

**May God bless you and your families.**

"Mary Most Holy, the faithful Virgin, help me and all the faithful, to make this period of Advent, and the whole of the new liturgical year, a journey of true sanctification, to the praise and glory of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

– Pope Benedict XVI





## News Department



**Christine Niles** — Some may say she's the female version of Michael Voris — said with every compliment in mind! She's tough, talented, smart, driven and tells it like it is, especially pertaining to faith matters.

You see her live every day, on *Headlines* and *The Download*, where she mixes it up with her colleagues on the panel, discussing everything from feminism to satanism. She knows her stuff and has the credentials to prove it. Not only did she get her master's degree in theology at Oxford University, she followed that up with a law degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School!

She is currently the Department Head of News at Church Militant, and editor-in-chief of St. Michael's Media Publishing. I'm talking about none other than the incomparable Christine Niles, of course!

Christine has shared her life story on *The Download* and in magazine interviews, of being born in Saigon, Vietnam one year before it fell to the Communists, and as a result, how she and her family then lived in both

France and the United States—a fascinating and powerful story of a family fleeing communism and making a new life for themselves.

Prior to joining the staff of Church Militant, Christine was a stay-at-home mom of four kids, doing freelance work from home. She had decided to put her law career on hold in order to be home for her children.

When asked what drew her to Church Militant, Christine explained that in her last year at ND Law School, she had a powerful reversion experience to the Catholic faith. She then describes her disappointment and what she experienced in parish life. "I often encountered lukewarm homilies, neglect or abuse of the Eucharist, and lack of love of the Faith." She continues, "I came across a talk by Michael Voris in 2011, which convicted me and lit a fire in me again for the Faith, and the rest is history."

Typical of CM staff, Christine wears many hats, and every day is a full one, where she often hits the ground running! "Mornings are taken up getting my children ready for school and driving them there, followed by the morning news meeting, where we discuss and assign stories, immediately followed by prepping for the live *Headlines* and *Download* shoots," she says breathlessly. The remainder of the day is filled with copy editing, emailing, writing and promoting all things Church Militant. "Not to mention picking my kids up from school, helping with homework, making dinner, etc.," she adds.

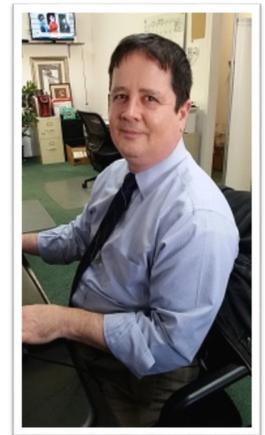
When asked how she handles juggling the demands of CM as a single mom of four, her response is very Catholic indeed. "I love being a mother and I love what I do at the apostolate. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't thank God for the great blessings and graces He's given me. I always live with the firm belief (one backed by the saints) that my most important work is getting my children to Heaven, and if I fail in that, then I have failed as a mother. That is at the forefront of my mind, and provides the right focus for me when it comes to my workload (which can be heavy!)."

Blessed indeed to work at a place that respects the family and lives the Faith! As Christine so rightly puts it when talking about working at Church Militant and for Michael Voris, "I'm blessed to have an understanding and generous boss who, as a Catholic, values family and is flexible with allowing me to work from home when necessary in order to be with my kids."

When pushed to comment more on what it's like to work with Michael Voris, again, Christine speaks for those of us fortunate enough to spend our workdays here and with this boss. "He is magnanimous, funny, intelligent, hardworking, virtuous and a man of integrity. It's a privilege working for him."

Amen!

**Bradley Eli** – You see him *live* every day as one of the four panelists on the daily Church Militant program, *The Download*. He is also a writer and producer for the CM News Department, husband to Mary and father to four-month-old Daniel.



While Bradley's present is wonderful and interesting, the really stunning parts of his life are in the distant and not-so-distant past. One could separate his life into three stages: Engineer, Religious and Married CM Staff Writer.

Bradley was born and raised in Great Falls, Montana, living the farm life, and hunting and fishing around the beautiful and great Missouri River. He studied Petroleum Engineering at Montana Tech. After graduation, he moved to Alaska, where he was employed as an oil field worker on "The Slope," drilling for oil in the farthest region of northern Alaska. At the same time, Bradley was taking night classes in Anchorage, working toward earning his M.B.A. for Engineers. He was just three credits shy of earning that M.B.A. at the University of Alaska when he decided instead to join the Franciscans!

While working and studying in Alaska, Brad volunteered at Covenant House, prayed two Rosaries a day, attended daily Mass and read one chapter of the Bible each morning. This led to his desire for the religious life and understanding of how necessary the priesthood is; he began looking into becoming a religious priest and prayed about it for nine months, putting it in the hands of Our Lady and Our Lord.

Then he met a guy who told him about the Franciscans, and they checked all of Brad's boxes: They wear habits, pray the daily Rosary, kneel for Holy Communion, are loyal to the Holy Father and wear the brown scapular. No other religious order could answer yes to all of that! So, at age 26, Brad traveled 5,000 miles in one week from Anchorage, Alaska to Hartford, Connecticut and joined the Franciscans. For many and various reasons, Brad would never be ordained, but he and the order tried for 25 years to make that happen.

Brad obtained an M. Div. and M.A. in Dogmatic Theology. Through many pitfalls, the death knell of this particular Franciscan community came when they rejected a priest who would later end up in a psych ward, but not before he wrote a scathing letter that hit the diocese, which ultimately broke up the community. This is when Brad and a few other of his brothers were offered property near Flint, Michigan, where they spent nearly a decade before Brad was the only one left, save another; both asked eventually to leave the property.

Exit stage left to Church Militant. Through God's orchestration, this series of events brought Brad to CM—not as priest, but as layman. Brad had been watching CM for a few years and believed Michael Voris had "a charism in explaining the Faith" and said Michael "always got it right."

Brad had an opportunity to make some money working at Church Militant. In time, his plan was to travel to India, where he would be welcomed into a new religious community by an old friend and bishop, Mar Thomas. But, as usual, God had other plans. Brad was assigned to write *Sleight of Hand—Reception Deception* for CM's Premium programming. It was then that he knew this is what he was here for, not to work to save money to go live in India. No order would allow him to do the work he could do with CM. "It's important work that needs to be done," Brad thought. This marked a new chapter in his life, and he was prepared for it. Bye, bye India ... he no longer felt called to the religious life.

Bradley had known his wife, Mary, for years prior to their marriage. They had been close friends for a long time, and both now knew that since the priesthood was no longer a factor, nor the religious life for her, they could give serious consideration to the married life. Mary and Bradley were wed on October 15, 2016; and she gave birth to Daniel on July 21, 2017!

Church Militant was "an extension of God's providence," says Brad. "Those two other stages of my life, the engineer and the religious, were preparation for my being here. Yesterday preparing you for today. That's what providence is all about—for me now to be husband, father and worker."

Bradley's life experience is proof that God closes doors in one's life, to open others. You must go through the process and trust in God while doing so. As Brad discovered, "All those closed doors (several unsuccessful attempts at ordination) were prep for my future here at Church Militant and my marriage to Mary." He has discovered that being married is "therapeutic, healing, sustaining and freeing."

Bradley sums it up perfectly: "That's providence ... it's formative, helping you to become who God has called you to be."

# Featured Store Item



Missed a past issue of

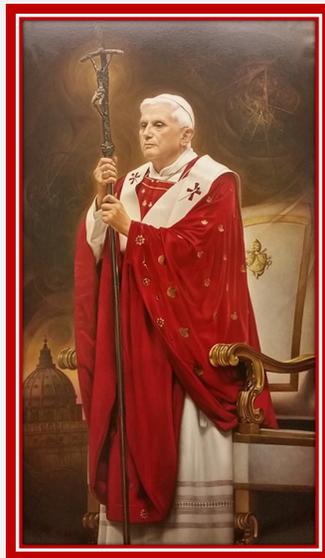
  
The CM INSIDER ?

Featured (Free) Program



# What the Popes Say About Socialism

"The State which would provide everything, absorbing everything into itself, would ultimately become a mere bureaucracy incapable of guaranteeing the very thing which the suffering person – every person – needs: namely, loving personal concern. **We do not need a State which regulates and controls everything**, but a State which, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, generously acknowledges and supports initiatives arising from the different social forces and combines spontaneity with closeness to those in need. ... In the end, the claim that just social structures would make works of charity superfluous masks a materialist conception of man: the mistaken notion that man can live 'by bread alone' (Mt 4:4; cf. Dt 8:3) – a conviction that demeans man and ultimately disregards all that is specifically human." (Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, December 25, 2005, n. 28)



## WHAT OUR SUPPORTERS SAY...

I have a 2-year old granddaughter who would rather watch Christine and her Headlines than cartoons! – Glenn L.

God bless you and keep you safe and healthy to keep up the fight! You are like John the Baptist confronting evil head on and not backing down when attacked. This Download brought me to tears and thanks to God for Church Militant! – Joanie

Thank you so much Michael. Honestly, without you, I never would have known what Alpha was and many, many other things as well... If it weren't for you and your team, the faithful would be giving money to these wolves. Please keep making videos. We need you to shine the light on these issues. We are tired of being lied to. Yours is a voice of truth. Thank you! May God abundantly bless you for your work! – Meagan M.