



Russell C. Voris

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I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. ~2 Timothy 4:7-8



News Department

Although a cradle Catholic, it wasn't until much later in life that **Stephen Wynne**, Church Militant staff writer for our News Team, had a deepening of his faith. Out of a desert period of about two years, from 2015–2017, Stephen emerged a new man, filled with a sense of renewed vigor for the Faith, and experiencing a turning point in his relationship with his earthly, biological father and our Heavenly Father.

From a period of turmoil with his father from childhood into early adulthood, Stephen soon found himself in a personal crisis, or as he puts it, he could "go nuts or give God control." He knew he could change the course of his life with God at the helm.

But before that could happen, Stephen had to go through a series of life events. He graduated from Pepperdine University with a B.A. in Creative Writing and returned to his hometown of Kansas City, MO and took on what would become an eight-year writing project with his brother. Their book, *Repairing the Breach*, is available by [clicking here](#).

Throughout that time, Stephen had "bought into" a professional life and one of material wealth. His previous careers in Kansas City were as writer/editor of independent projects, as Art Museum Manager for 12 years, and after leaving the museum, he dove into the entrepreneurial world of start-ups, which were not as successful as he had hoped, and propelled him into a period of joblessness. No matter what he did, he simply could not get a J.O.B.! Stephen did not realize at the time that God was positioning him for his spiritual awakening.

College years not void of hard partying, coupled with years of desiring wealth and all the world had to offer, led him to the spiritual desert. He finally gave up searching for work and turned instead to another one of his brothers, who hired him to work the land of his estate. This humbling and hard work forced Stephen to take a good look at his life thus far and, more importantly, at his difficult relationship with his father over the years.

Those two years of working for his brother

found him in adoration, with God moving Stephen to forgiveness of his father. He says, "I surrendered to God and deepened my walk with Him ... to pray for the grace of forgiveness towards my dad."



Thanks to his missionary uncle in Brazil, Stephen became aware of Michael Voris and *The Vortex*. His uncle would say, "Voris is WOW! You have to start watching him." And once Stephen joined a local FSSP church, he began to learn more about Church Militant.

Providentially, while watching a show on EWTN, the host was talking about St. Joseph, asking the viewers to ask Our Lady to introduce St. Joseph to them, patron saint of workers. Stephen felt a "weird tug to look into this." Two days later, Stephen was driving to Michigan with his brother to visit his niece, a Dominican nun in Ann Arbor, when his brother mentioned they wouldn't be far from Church Militant HQ, which just happened to be hiring.

On his return to Kansas City, Stephen's mother had a stroke and was in the hospital, so he felt the need to stay and care for his mother. She, however, wouldn't hear of it! She told him to do it, so he applied on the Feast Day of St. Joseph the Worker! Stephen was hired by the News Team not long after. Although it was hard to leave his mother behind, he knew the words of Jesus, Who said that whoever leaves family for His sake will be rewarded a hundredfold, and she insisted he pursue this work.

While working at CM, Stephen's father died, but not before he had been able to care for him and smooth over their relationship during those desert years. His father noticed and was grateful for the change in them both.

Of his work at CM, Stephen says, "Most challenging positions are hard but are the most rewarding. ... What I am doing here matters. It is consequential."



News Department *Cont.*

Something fun this month. We're presenting a Q&A with **Anita Carey**, Staff Writer.

What is your back story? (Brief synopsis of your education, career, faith life, family life, etc.)

I'm one of five children and have a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Michigan Technological University. Most of my career was in research and development and marketing for automotive acoustic products. I converted to Catholicism in 2001 when I was preparing for marriage to my husband, Brian. His father was a devout Catholic Irishman, and the Church was very important to him, so not converting wasn't an option. We've had five children ranging in age from 14 to 6: two girls and three boys.

I embraced the Faith, but truly found the One True Faith when we started going to the Tridentine Mass in 2007. The priests that serve the TLM community in Detroit are very solid.

What drew you to Church Militant?

Being a convert to the Faith, once I was brought in, I felt such gratitude that I wanted to give back in some way. The desire to work in some capacity for the Church was always there, though I wasn't able to do a whole lot while I was raising my five children. I helped out as much as I could with bake sales, social hours and cleaning the church, but the desire to actually work for the Church was always there. Watching *The Vortex* one day I saw the "We're Hiring" ad, and my kids convinced me to apply. My boys really like Church Militant.

Describe a "Day in the Life" of Anita Carey.

We start the day with our news meeting discussing the latest news and deciding which stories we are covering that day. We also work on other stories, uncovering news no one else has reported on. After research, we contact sources and conduct interviews. I then write up the story and pick graphics.

How do you handle the challenge of working part-time at CM and raising a large family?

When I was in college, a young man came up to me in the laundry room and sheepishly asked if I could show him how to use it. I was in disbelief, and vowed I wouldn't let my kids be that helpless. I'm using this opportunity to teach my children the necessary life skills. Who ever said moms are supposed to do everything? We're supposed to prepare our kids to be functioning adults. They need to learn how to cook, do laundry and load

the dishwasher. We owe them that training. Needless to say, my house is a wreck.

What's it like working with the CM staff, your News Team colleagues, your dept. head Christine Niles, and the big boss, Michael Voris?

Christine has the patience of Job. Being a stay-at-home mom for almost two decades, it took my "mom brain" quite a while to start fully functioning, which I am sure was super frustrating. I still have those moments, but she is a great teacher and super smart so I'm having fewer "mom brain" moments. I think I still might be a little socially awkward from going that long without adult conversation, though.

Michael is "chill," as my son would say. He's got a sense of humor that keeps you on your toes, and I love the way he razzes my kids and nudges them in their faith. He's a real inspiration for the boys. The whole staff is great. Everyone is working on their own personal virtue, so it is a nice environment that helps you to become personally better. I don't think I've ever seen anyone lose it or even utter a negative word. You couldn't ask for a nicer work environment, other than to slow down the pace.

Has working at CM added to your faith life, your spiritual growth as a Catholic? If so, how?

Definitely! Sitting by Brad Eli and Rodney Pelletier is like working with a living Catechism, but in plain English. Also, the prayers we say are extremely helpful. My confessor said praise of God needs to be a part of my prayer life, and the Lauds and Vespers we say daily have really helped me to grow in the love of God.

Aside from that, getting to interview so many other great people in the service of God is truly inspiring. At my son's Catechism class, the priest explained how the supernatural virtue of charity flows from God. When people work in the service of God, with the right intentions, you can feel God's love emanating from them, especially when they are truly holy. I get to meet these people; how could I not be affected by that?



