

The Holy Spirit has been always very active and direct in all areas of my life. This ranged from my career, my marriage, the family I was blessed with and this includes the Cor Unum program. The Spirit directed me and it is very clear that the path I should take through others. As a result, I have been richly rewarded. For example, was my introduction to the Cor Unum program. I was about to retire from my profession as a Pharmacist and I was searching for the next step in my life. I have an inquisitive mind and was looking into taking classes for personal enrichment. I have been and continue to be involved with men's small groups and bible studies. I have no real formal education in theology. At this point, the Spirit stepped in. At the Men of Christ conference, I was tackled by Prof. Mike Brummond and told I was joining the Cor Unum program. I was very apprehensive in that I had little theology training and a lack of other skills. I am a terrible writer and have limited computer skills. I took the leap of faith and how right the Spirit is.

Upon entrance into the program, I quickly realized how welcomed I was. My class started at 11 and graduated at 6. We were from various backgrounds and ages. We bonded immediately and I felt we all grew in the sharing of our faith with each other and the staff. As far as the staff and the professors, I could not be more pleased. They are experienced, very intelligent, and do everything possible to guide you to achieve success. All were very available and helpful. They truly wanted us to become the best we could be in digesting the material. I have nothing but praise for them. I will say the material was challenging especially coming from my background. All along the journey I really had the help of my instructors and appreciated the direction they provided me in my coursework. It was due to the challenge they presented that I grew in the knowledge of Jesus.

As far as the basic classes I had an active faith but felt I lacked the "why" of the equation. Systemic theology was instrumental in explaining the reason behind the faith. It provided the foundation for my faith and fortified a greater belief in Christ.

I found the powerful question program extremely rewarding in my life. Exploring the reason behind who I was and why I do the things I do was very meaningful. This gave me insight into the flow of grace that the Holy Spirit provided and the direction of what my life was and will be.

One of the goals of the program and I strongly support the Cor Unum mission was to do something with the tools you have been given to build the kingdom of God. My call, what I was going to do, and the fracture, need to be addressed came in the last semester of the program. Initially, I was going to do something concerning Ignatian spirituality which is a part of the program. I still intend to do this. As a Pharmacist, I was a part of the inoculation of CoVid vaccines to the elderly in nursing homes. It took 3 shots to realize the fracture and my calling. These children of God are isolated, lonely, and many cases are forgotten due to CoVid for a variety of reasons. They are suffering greatly. Again, the Holy Spirit directed me to do something within my power to do all I can. Due to CoVid restrictions progress has been slow.

The programs I will continue to be involved with are the men's small groups and the outreach to the homebound. My hope is to soon be more involved in the nursing home population. The Cor Unum program gave us both the tools and the inspiration to use the time I have left to work in this vineyard. With great humility, I have complete faith in the Holy Spirit to direct me to serve Jesus. Any meaning, value, and goodness, (Lonerger) is thru Christ where all things are possible.

-Dan Sass, 2021 Cor Unum Graduate