



One Weekend . . . ***Reflection on CRHP***

By Joe LaCombe

I had a really great life, so I thought. I had the right priorities – a successful career, an amazing wife, and a wonderful son. We had a great home, pretty much everything we wanted, went anywhere we wanted to go, but something was missing. I had worked so hard pursuing my career goals, and trying to build the perfect life, that it became the one thing that defined me. Everything was in perspective until I realized I was looking at life from the wrong perspective.

That one thing that I felt defined me I nearly lost, and I realized that something was missing from my life, that it lacked meaning. Did I want my career and the things I own to define me? Or did I want more? Where were my priorities? I was neither the husband nor the father I needed to be, and while I did go to Mass, I was not really involved with much at the church. I didn't know what was missing, but I knew something was missing. I knew I needed to do something, and for a few years I had avoided CRHP. My wife wanted to go through it at the same time, and I always found an excuse or said I wasn't ready, but this time I just felt I needed to go. So we went to CRHP, both of us – and it changed my life!

I learned so much that weekend. For thirty hours I listened to amazing people tell their stories, I ate a lot of food, and I realized that I was not alone in this world, that I was not the only one facing the challenges that I faced. I realized that men can talk freely with one another about things in life, real things – our joys, our fears, and everything in between and still be men. I thought a lot about my faith, talked a lot with God, and learned a ton about myself. I made relationships that are some of the strongest bonds I have ever made, and I was inspired to want to serve this parish, the community, and my family and put others before myself. I realized that weekend who I needed to be as a Catholic man, a husband, and a father. I found that one thing that was missing – a spiritual relationship with Christ.

CRHP changed my life, and it saved our family. With my wife going through her retreat at the same time, it allowed us to grow together and be on the same page spiritually, and better understand each other and our role in making each other better people. And this has been infused into how we raise our son. There is still a lot of growing to be done, but I feel CRHP has put me on the right path. The path to be the father, husband and man I need to be, so I can build my family, my parish, and my community into the people we need them to be. I truly hope that you choose to invest time in a CRHP experience. It is only one weekend - one weekend for your growth, and just one weekend for the benefit of all those around you.

I promise that it will be one of the best decisions you ever make.

