

Navigating the Storm: *Stella Maris*

An Evening with **Charlie Johnston**

Thurs., July 14th, 6:00pm -9:30pm

American Legion

651 El Camino Real, Redwood City, CA

5:30pm: Doors Open

6:00pm: Talk by Charlie Johnston

7:30pm: Break **

8:00pm: Q&A

Contact Lisa Marie at tnrs.sfbayarea@gmail.com

Acknowledge God, Take the Next Right Step, Be A Sign of Hope to Others



Charlie Johnston, a former newspaper editor, radio talk show host, and political consultant, is a Roman Catholic layman currently living in the Archdiocese of Denver, Colorado. Born and raised a Christian Fundamentalist, he experienced a powerful conversion into the Catholic Church in 1991.

Charlie suffered a severe neurological event on Good Friday, 2003, which still affects him physically to this day. Although suffering from this painful nerve damage, he walked 3,200 miles across the country for 18 months starting on Feb. 11, 2011, sleeping in the woods, meeting people and praying as he went.

Charlie's message is simple: Acknowledge God, Take the Next Right Step, and Be a Sign of Hope to Those Around You.

“I am sent to be a sort of sherpa, a guide through treacherous times, to help encourage and rally people to endure – to trust that rescue will come.”

Be Not Afraid: God Calls All Men to Salvation

How can you be not afraid when the greatest period of violence and terror in history is engulfing you? You will be swept away if you trust to yourself and your mighty strength. The ONLY way is to hold fast to God. It is a call to a radical reliance on God. Many of your greatest certainties are going to be crushed and you are going to feel completely lost and alone. Then you will understand the fullness of this message: it is not that God calls you to go out and convince more people to be like you; it is an assurance when your vanity and petulance, your shortfalls are fully revealed to you that God has not abandoned you, but intends your reclamation and salvation

My First Duty: Defend the Faith

This seems straightforward enough, but it entails more than defending the faith from the assaults from without. The unconscious assaults from within, borne by disordered vanity are, in many ways, more dangerous in these times.

My Second Duty: Hearten the Faithful

I do not write to give you prophecy, theology, or reports of visitations, though all are incorporated into the purpose. It is to give people heart – to see that God is there, that He is close at hand to YOU, and that He asks only the simple things from you that you can do – and will reveal Himself to you as you live that with fidelity. As times go on, though, things will get trickier. God's anger is not just kindled against those who overtly oppose Him. His anger has been kindled against almost all, for like Job's friends, most of us have absorbed ourselves in our expectations of what God should be rather than engaging with the Living God.

My Third Duty: Defend the Faithful

This is fairly obvious, too. But it does NOT just refer to “spiritual warfare.” We in the west have lived in a cocoon of safety for several hundred years now. It has reduced our thinking on temporal battle and strife to mere formulaic platitudes. – and formulaic platitudes are not a defense.

Our Sure Path

Theology, while useful, will not lead us certainly to God. Prophecy, while useful, can endanger us if we are filled with pride over our ‘understanding’ of it. Mystical experiences can come from the devil as well as from God – and will come from satan if that is what we glory in. The only safe, sure path I know to God is, in submission to the authority He established over us, to acknowledge Him, take the next right step, and be a sign of hope to those around us.

Trust. Do. Love. That is the sure path. To keep that reality vivid before a world in turmoil, a world falling in on itself, is what I am sent for

Articles by Charlie for Further Reading

<https://asignofhope379.com/2020/06/25/my-purpose>

<https://asignofhope379.com/2020/07/02/what-the-next-right-step-really-means-2/>

<https://asignofhope379.com/2020/07/10/cherishing-the-light-of-rescue/>