

Deacon Testimony - Anthony Colarusso

I grew up as a pastor's kid and came to faith in Christ at a young age. The church, the Bible, and the gospel were always a part of my life. I genuinely believed in Jesus and intellectually knew God was real. When I went away to college, I began to pursue what the world had to offer. I joined a fraternity, sought out parties, heavy drinking and lived a lifestyle that looked very different from the faith I had grown up with.

During my junior year, I met Michael, a leader with CRU (then Campus Crusade for Christ). I casually told him, "I think I might do that CRU thing this year." He looked right at me and simply said, "No, you won't." That bothered me enough that I decided I was going to prove him wrong!



As I got involved with CRU and Michael began to mentor me, the Lord began drawing me back to Himself. As my faith became real and central in my life again, my first instinct was to separate myself from everything associated with my old lifestyle including quitting the fraternity and all the friends I developed over my first years of college.

But, Michael challenged me again. It turns out CRU had tried for years to influence the Greek Life Community (Fraternities and Sororities). Could I be a Godly example within my fraternity? Could I maintain my place on campus and still live for Jesus? I began to understand what it meant to live "on mission" where God had already placed me.

My walk with Christ since then has certainly not been a straight line. One of the most significant areas of sin in my life has been pornography. I was exposed to it at a very young age, and what began early became a struggle that followed me into adulthood and even into my marriage. I compounded that sin by hiding it from both Lauren and other men to hold me accountable.

God has used confession, counseling, my wife's grace, Christian brothers, and genuine accountability to bring that part of my life out of darkness and into the light. I have learned that freedom does not come through managing appearances or trying harder in secret. It comes through repentance, dependence on Christ, and allowing other believers to truly know you. I can confidently say "that's never happening again" and God has freed me from my sins and made me a new creation.

I am grateful that God has been faithful through every part of my story. My desire in serving as a deacon is not to present myself as someone who has everything figured out, but as someone who has experienced the patience and grace of God and wants to use whatever gifts He has given me to serve His church, love people well, and help others faithfully follow Christ wherever God has placed them.

God has designed me as a builder. Efficiency is probably the best word to describe how I work. Although my service at the church is currently focused on administration, in most areas of my life I serve as a visionary. I love seeing what could be and then working to turn those visions into reality.