

As we are handed our diplomas on graduation day, we are also laid a straight path towards temptation and challenge, a path telling us to leave our parent's side, to enter a new territory, and to face countless oppositions to our faith. The road seems unsettling, but we must all face this road one day, and it is up to us to decide how we confront the trials that await us. College and professional life present us with today's greatest societal issues whether it be abortion, cloning, or same sex marriage. The issues that face us are far too numerous and common in today's broken world. As Catholics we must be prepared to face the challenges that meet us through a solid understanding of our faith and continual reflection of the Scriptures. CALL fulfills the need for a greater understanding of our faith by teaching us how to live, love, and defend our faith.

CALL has given me the tools to be prepared to face the secular world. The seminars provide an insightful look into today's issues regarding the misuse of science, health, and the human condition. Before CALL, I was blind to the ill use of the human soul and body around me. I didn't realize how today's culture was promoting promiscuity so widely and in so many ways. One example is how CALL has taught me about the broken relationships in today's world. I have learned how pre-marital relationships ruin our body's temple, and how this leads to unwanted children that are aborted since they are not viewed as humans with rights. I have also learned about same-sex relationships and how these go against God's plan because they are selfish and misguided relationships. CALL has educated me about why today's world is the way it is. The speakers helped me to understand that as humans with free choices, we are easily lured to act sinfully. God has given us the power to choose things for ourselves, but because of this power, many abuse it and the broken world is created. CALL has opened my eyes to the secular world around me so that I can be prepared to understand and deny the temptations that I am faced with every day, but it has also taught me how to defend my stance as a Catholic.

Often, I found it difficult to oppose my peers' misguided understanding of topics like abortion and same sex marriage as I did not have the proper knowledge or means to refute them. However, CALL has given me the resources and knowledge to debate with my peers on such topics using both faith and science to disprove the common misconceptions that our culture has developed. CALL teaches us that although we know through the Scriptures why abortion is wrong, we must use scientific facts to argue with our friends that are not religious. In this way, I can appeal to everyone's beliefs and help them to see why cloning and abortion is immoral. One of the ways that CALL has helped me to use this tactic is through the simulated debates that we do in each seminar. The simulated debates have given me step-by-step guidance on how to talk with friends about controversial topics and how to politely and firmly state my beliefs and how to back them up with science and history. I can now argue to my peers why abortion, cloning, same-sex marriage, and pre-marital relationships are wrong using their own knowledge against them. In college and professional life, I will be using these skills daily, because undoubtedly, I will be faced with the challenges of a secular world every day.

As I head to college and then to my career, I feel safe that I can meet the trials ahead of me with shrewdness and awareness. CALL is only three years long, but the information that my peers and I are gaining will be used for the rest of our lives. The material covered by CALL is invaluable as we are faced with the temptations of the secular world. We will soon be meeting new people from all backgrounds, like our professors, bosses, fellow students, and fellow colleagues, and not all of them will be religious or moral. Fortunately for me and my peers, we have the knowledge from CALL to protect ourselves from the misconceptions of the secular world, and religiously discern our vocations. CALL has given us the instruments to live, love, and defend our faith in our everyday lives.