

**Acknowledge God, take the right next step and be a sign of hope to those around you.**

*Meet Charlie Johnston, a Catholic layman currently living in the Archdiocese of Denver, Colorado. Born and raised a Christian fundamentalist, he experienced a powerful conversion to Catholicism in 1991, by way of intense study and most personally, St. Augustine's *Confessions*. He was received into the Church at the age of 30, and it's been full throttle ever since.*



*In his professional life, Charlie has been a radio show host, a newspaper editor and a political consultant. He continues to write the popular blog, *A Sign Of Hope*.*

*On Good Friday, 2003, Charlie suffered a severe neurological event, which still affects him physically. Despite the resulting nerve damage, he began the 3,200-mile trek across the United States in 2011. For eighteen months, he slept in the rough, connecting with people and praying as he made his way across the country. The profound experience of God's providence and the goodness of ordinary people on the journey continues to affect him.*

*From an early age, Charlie has been "training" for the time of a great storm. Charlie understands his role to be that of a sherpa, guiding the faithful, encouraging them to endure and to trust that rescue will come. His mission, as he sees it, is to give heart to the faithful as we navigate, under God, the greatest crisis in the history of the world to this point.*

*In early 2020, Charlie noticed that we were all a little too dependent, waiting for a secular savior to solve the problems of our society. Charlie sees this period we're living through as the "Hour of the Ordinary Man." That was the impetus to found CORAC (Corps of Renewal and Charity), to prepare ordinary people to undergo the trials of the storm. He divided the country into geographical regions, each led by a coordinator, and national teams working in the areas of health and wellness, communications, sustainable living, education and prayer. As of the beginning of 2022, people from other nations are also joining CORAC.*

*One of the gifts Charlie brings to this work is his sense of humor. A good laugh is never out of place, especially when the trials of the world are hard. Another gift is his embrace of a cooperative model of doing business, rather than the top-down bureaucratic model. In CORAC, many ways of working toward the same goal are welcomed, not slotted into a template. Finally, Charlie brings tenacity, a no-quit attitude. The mascot of CORAC is a squirrel, embodying the same "I-will-never-stop-trying" resolve that squirrels exhibit when they encounter a "squirrel-proof" birdfeeder.*

*CORAC is building a nationwide network of "squirrels" who work together to help each other, with HAM radios, backyard gardens, natural remedies, and other innovative solutions. While the government may shut down the means of production, people are learning to build more self-sufficient communities, and connect with others doing the same across the country. The nationwide infrastructure of CORAC has already proved invaluable to families with members scattered around the country.*

*Charlie believes that CORAC is a preview of what the world can be, and indeed, will be, in the future: safe and charitable communities of ordinary people living their faith. "Mayberry Now" is one of the CORAC slogans, calling to mind that kind and forgiving world that we once saw on television.*

*Charlie's abiding interest in history often finds its way into his blog. He enjoys writers who make history accessible, like William Manchester and David McCullough, as well as historical fiction such as Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. That historical perspective is one that the current media is noticeably lacking.*

*Charlie's mantra is, "Acknowledge God, take the right next step and be a sign of hope to those around you."*

## **Words from Charlie's blog, *A Sign of Hope***

### **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. But the violence you read about with horror is coming to your door soon enough – and formulaic platitudes are not a defense."*

For more information see:

CORAC: the Corps of Renewal and Charity  
Membership open to all  
<https://CORAC.co>



Charlie's blog, *A Sign of Hope*  
<https://asignofhope379.com>

