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[ARE YOU KEEPING UP WITH THE GENERAL CHAPTER?](#)

REGNUM CHRISTI NEWS OF THE WEEK

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From Coast to Coast

U. S. A. | WHO WE ARE | NEWS

Students and members of the Legion of Christ and Regnum Christi “walk” and “march” for the unborn











Regnum Christi members, Legionaries of Christ and students from our schools throughout the US took to the streets this past week to mark an infamous anniversary – the 41st year since the US Supreme Court legalized abortion with the Roe versus Wade decision.

They traveled from around the country to Washington DC for the annual March for Life. High school students from Pinecrest Academy in Cumming, Georgia, and Everest Collegiate High School in Clarkston, Michigan, were among some of the thousands involved in the annual event.

Pinecrest's Paladin Press newsletter

proudly ran the following advance article about the participation of their school:

“Almost 70 Pinecrest High School students and friends from St. John Bosco Academy, along with many generous chaperons, departed very early Monday morning to travel to Washington, DC, for the national March for Life. Despite snow and very frigid temperatures, our students are enjoying this special pilgrimage, and visited Arlington National Cemetery and other historic landmarks in our nation’s capitol today. Please keep all of these students in your prayers as they courageously and outwardly show their support and love for LIFE!”



Nearly 70 students from Pinecrest Academy in Cumming, Georgia, attended the March for Life.



On the day of the March for Life, January 22, 2014, Everest ran the following photo of the Immaculate Conception Program students, who were among those participating, and a paragraph in their school blog:

“Braving arctic temperatures and snow, 24 of our intrepid Everest Collegiate students are participating in the 2014 March for Life today, January 22, the 41st anniversary of



Students in the Immaculate Conception Program, and their consecrated chaperones, at the March for Life.

the infamous Roe versus Wade decision. Thank you students for your amazing witness!"

Members of the RC family also participated in various local demonstrations, including the March for Life in Dallas, and other cities throughout the US. In San Francisco, Legionaries, RC and Conquest representatives were among those who were part



Among a group at the March for Life in Dallas are Br. Jaime Cortez LC and Br. Joaquin Sainz LC.

of the west coast Walk for Life. Br. Antonio Lemos LC contributed the following details:



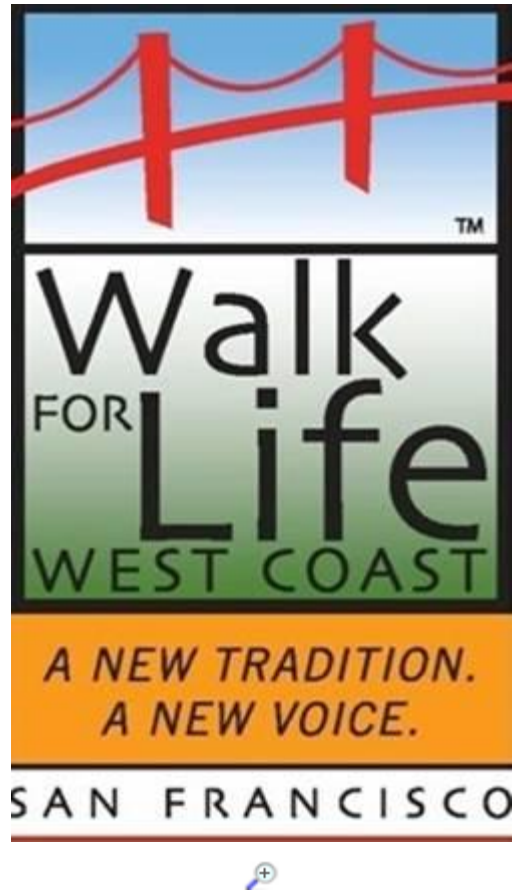
On January 25, 2014, a group of Legionaries, Regnum Christi members and families from the Conquest Club of San Jose area attended the annual Walk for Life in San Francisco. There were more than 60,000 people participating in the 2-mile long walk. The goal of the walk is to celebrate life and to create the awareness that abortion harms women, men, and children; it divides families and society.

The walk started with a Rally in the Civic Center of San Francisco, where several prominent prolife speakers talked. Before joining the Rally, the Legionaries and Conquest Club families celebrated Mass in Canyon Heights Academy, the Legionary school in San Jose, California. During the homily, Fr Joshua West LC talked about the sacredness of human life and invited everyone to live the Gospel of Life.

The walk started at the Civic Center and went all the way through Market Street until Justin Herman Plaza. Among the participants were children, families, seniors, teenagers, Catholic school students, parishes, priests and nuns from all over the west coast.

At the end of the walk, Brian Williams, Regnum Christi member from Los Angeles, shared that

“more than anything else after this Walk for Life, I feel pride and excitement. It is one thing to hold strong beliefs and another to go out and demonstrate them. I feel more alive. The faith that has so much meaning for me now has a proper expression with this experience.”



The Joy of Community: in the words of Fr. Alvaro Corcuera LC

**Regnum Christi Live – January 27, 2014
By Br John Choi LC**

These are notes that I took from Fr Alvaro's homily last Sunday which marked his nine years as General Superior for the Legion of Christ. These are merely notes which I took during the Homily so I have not quoted Fr. Alvaro but just tried to get clear ideas across in the form in which he said them.



Bishop Brian Farrell LC, Cardinal de Paolis, Fr. Alvaro - Inaugural Mass of the General Chapter (Copyright Legion of Christ\John Choi)

Since last Sunday John Allen Jr., the 18 year expert *Vaticanista* for *National Catholic Reporter* (and just in a few days, *The Boston Globe*), reported that our new General Director has already been elected and that we are just awaiting the Pope's green light. The General Chapter website (*and since when did General Chapter's have Twitter feeds any way?*) hasn't said anything and it seems that with final exams this semester everyone is one edge and we'd believe just about anything. Whatever the case is...*Let's see what the Holy Spirit cooks up.*

Homily Notes:



Fr. Alvaro giving the Homily (Copyright Legion of Christ)

"Joy to be in Community"

He approached the ambo with no notes and looking into the eyes of the Fathers and Brothers present in the congregation he began an emotionally charged homily. In the past year he has gained weight and lost hair. He has

lost the youthful look *without*. His eyes, however, still retain the *Good Shepherd* gentleness *within* and I don't think that it's going to go away.

- The most important *event* of our lives is the Eucharist.
- I've had a great desire to be here at home" (Fr. Alvaro was rector the Legion's Center for Higher Studies for over two decades before being elected Superior General).
- Thank you for your fidelity and your many messages.
- I would like to apologize for the failures [in the past] that have made you suffer.
- It's a Joy to be alongside Brothers, true Heroes.

He spoke about the great desire to be in community and the nostalgia he feels about being a part of *this* community in specific. He has mentioned in other times how much it had cost him to leave it to become Superior General leaving this Center of Formation. He also mentioned that we have been able to see the "Renewal" or "witness the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives". He also mentioned that in some ways all of us were part of the General Chapter that was going on near by.

- St. John the Baptist's call for conversion is a personal call to conversion in which we are called to bring a Theological dimension into each of the happenings of life
- In the breviary St. Augustine comments that John the Baptist's calling was "to *disappear*". "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)
- Often, when our peace is robbed by pride and hatred, we rob the peace of others too.
- John the Baptist *disappeared* for the Lord to *appear*.
- In the end, what's it all for?
- To become Saints [that's what it's all for]!

- All of us have enough opportunities to become Saints.
- God detaches us from all things...even our hair"(he said this alluding to his own hair loss due to his brain cancer. *Laughter* in the congregation).
- Detachment is a gift...Detachment from our own projects and passions. He wants to strip us down so that we can be renewed clothed again and become the *New Man* [in Christ] (cf. 2 Cor 5:17).

We had been awaiting some news on the General Chapter and were on the edge of our pews to get some news.

- The General Chapter is going to go well. God will work. I'm sure that the Legion will go forward well.
- Today we want to renew our vocation. To return to the *First Love* and to the first time you heard that calling.
- The "Yes" [to the vocation] must be sustained through freedom to do God's will. Yes, Lord, I desire it. Sometimes we don't feel great about ourselves.
- The "Yes" is a marvelous gift that must be renewed. The Church, the Movement, the Legion is *His*. Our human assurances may fall apart. **What remains [in the end] is God.**
- Jesus was not a winner [on the Cross].



Fr. Alvaro greeting Br. Vazquez (Copyright Legion of Christ Joao Paulo Alves)

So nothing in particular about the General Chapter came out but then he did speak about himself even unjustly deriding himself "Egocentric" (*egoista*).

- God called me to be a Saint. God's calling me to be what I should be an it's a Joy.
- Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself". What would all this mean if we didn't love? Charity overcomes all things.
- It's not about us. We have to love much. Our vocation is very much present in Our Blessed Mother.
- Think at times if what you do would please or sadden Her.
- What are we doing if we aren't renewing our calling *with the perspective of Heaven*? This perspective takes away our problems. If we Glory then we glory in the Cross (cf. Gal 6:14).

He concluded by explaining that he had been praying for the newly ordained priests of last December and that he continued offering his prayers for those who are to be ordained. He explained that he had seen a photo of the Pope looking at a panoramic group photo of Legionaries and Regnum Christi Members.

Personally, I don't know who or when we will find out a General Director has been elected (and approved). *God knows*. I just know that whoever it is my desire is the same. I pledge allegiance to the Cross of Christ from which grace and mercy are poured out. Daily, as a community we have been praying for the Chapter Fathers who have the great responsibility to bring the Legion forward. *God knows* why, what, who and how things should him. One lesson I did learn from money was, "In God we Trust" and that expresses my attitude about it all.

Whatever happens my only desire is this: that **the Legion** always be authentically and wholly ***of Christ***.



Professions Mass (Copyright Legion of Christ John Choi)

A shout out to seminary professors

Regnum Christi Live – January 28, 2014

By Fr Michael Sliney LC



"How can one be pleasing to God when one is inflated with pride and self-love under the pretense of striving for God's glory, while in fact one is seeking one's own glory?" St. Faustina

Many of my brother priests spend their lives reading, preparing for their classes, correcting papers, and imparting hours and hours of lectures, all with a smile. They are not in the limelight of the world, but God's spotlight is squarely on them, and they deserve a loud shout out for their selfless dedication and service.

Spiritual Exercises for Priests

U. S. A. | WHO WE ARE | NEWS

Seventh annual retreat held in California this month

Diocesan priests from around the country participated in the seventh annual Spiritual Exercises for Priests, hosted by the Legionaries of Christ in Cupertino, California, at Our Lady of Santa Clara Retreat Center from January 13-17, 2014. This year's preacher was Fr. Dean Stasell LC, who serves the Los Angeles area.



The retreat included daily conferences with reflections to facilitate a one-on-one personal dialogue with Christ.

“The goal is to help the priests get renewed, strengthened and revitalized in their vocation and in love for the Church,” said Fr. Timothy Lyons, LC, who works in San Jose, California.

Although the three days of retreat



Fr. Dean Stasell LC gives homily during Mass.



are in silence, there is time for friendship and relaxation before and after.

The daily schedule included a concelebrated Mass, directed meditations with time for private prayer, Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration, as well as an opportunity for spiritual guidance and the sacrament of reconciliation.

Some of those who attended chose to stay an extra day for a guided tour of San Francisco Bay with some of the Legionaries.

“This retreat is great,” said Fr. Matt Blank from the diocese of Sacramento. “The setting is beautiful, with a really good schedule. There’s a good balance of preaching and time for individual prayer of

reflection on the word preached. The meals are wonderful, including having a Legionary read to the group at meal time from very edifying material.”

Fr. Paul Waddell from the Archdiocese of New York and a Regnum Christi member, said, “The Holy Spirit was really working through Fr Dean. It was great to be with priests from all over the country. There are many insights that I will be able to take with me from these Spiritual Exercises back home to my ministry. I am grateful for the wonderful work of the Legionaries of Christ, who are instruments of God’s grace for so many of us.”

Next year’s retreat is already scheduled for January 12-16, 2015. For more information, please visit the website <http://www.ourladyofsantaclara.org/programs/> or contact by



The retreat included daily conferences with reflections to encourage a one-on-one relationship with Christ.



email info@ourladyofsantaclara.org.

What Redeems

Regnum Christi Live – January 29, 2014
By Amelia Hoover



A few weeks ago I on retreat, and although it was encouraged, I did not particularly feel like praying the Stations of the Cross. And then, I felt the Holy Spirit prompting me to pray them in a specific way.

For each station, I not only contemplated what happened to the person of Jesus Christ two thousand years ago but contemplated the sufferings in the Mystical Body of Christ as I have seen them in the past few years. He has been the victim of unjust condemnation, he has been rejected, he has been given a heavy burden, he has fallen, he has been humiliated, his heart has been pierced in the people I love – my family, friends, community of consecrated women, those I serve, the Church, society...

I felt in a way I have never felt, a power in the words of the traditional response to each station: “We adore O Christ and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.”

I think some of my most frustrating experiences have been when I have seen people I love suffer and felt like there was nothing I could do to take that suffering away. During these last 6 years, I have to admit I have often been frustrated. In the repetition of the response, “by your holy cross you have redeemed the world,” Our Lord was inviting me to a new way of filtering and seeing things – within the context and projection of what redeems.

Three Hearts

U. S. A. | WHO WE ARE | NEWS

New retreat guide from RCSpirituality.com on the sacrament of marriage

What better way to celebrate the upcoming Valentine's Day holiday than to be deeply immersed in God's vision for marriage? This will be the subject of latest Retreat Guide available beginning February 1, 2014.



The RC Spirituality Center and RCSpirituality.com present *Three Hearts: A Retreat Guide on the Sacrament of Marriage.*

Fr. John Bartunek, LC, who leads the Retreat Guides, said, “My hope for Three Hearts is simply to remind you of God’s amazing vision for this sacrament, and to point out some practical tools that can help you spread, and – as the case may be – live out that vision a little bit better.”

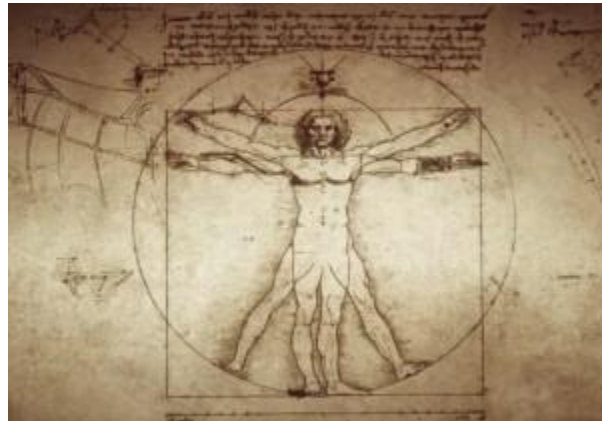
The retreat guide delves into the mystery of how God, by creating the human family in His image, also created everyone with a vocation to love.

“If you are yet to be married, this retreat guide is for you too,” said Lucy Honner, Director of the RC Spirituality Center. “It will help you keep an eye on the future, to prepare yourself to be the kind of spouse you really want to be. And for those of us following a celibate vocation in some form of consecrated life, we too can benefit from this Retreat Guide in relation to our consecrated community and the Church institution that we minister to.”

Click [here](#) to view the “Three Hearts” introduction video. And [click](#) here if you would like to support the ongoing mission of the RC Spirituality Center. Fr. Bartunek assures his “ongoing prayers for the growing network of beneficiaries of and contributors.”

What Man is Made Of

Regnum Christi Live – January 30, 2014
By Ashley Osmera



What am I made of? Of flesh and bones, skin and marrow? Of rhythmic heartbeats and shallow breaths, and a trillion tiny cells? Yes, but this is only the beginning.

What am I made of? The union of a man and woman? Of the dust of the town where I was born? Of the childhood home so deeply impressed on my mind? Yes, but surely there is more.

What makes me who I am? A million and one little drops of color scattered across a canvas: people, experiences, victories, failings, songs, sicknesses, emotions, joys, and discoveries. They are as a thousand snowflakes which cover the landscape of my soul, a blanket which has the power to excite and to silence, to warm and to take one's breath away.

Individually each experience seems so isolated and sometimes meaningless, yet put together they create something extraordinary: my life, my story, who I am. Some would call this coming together of events coincidence. But to one who believes that he was loved into existence and is held in existence by this same love, this landscape, this melody, this masterpiece, is nothing less than the unique work of the Divine Artist, Playwright, and Father. It is he who carefully arranges each event and person on my path.

It is this intricate web of nature, nurturing, and will, which stretches as far as the eye can see, that makes me who I am.

What makes me who I am? The love of One who organizes the cosmic interactions of the whole universe, yet delights in listening me speak of my daily joys and battles. In his eyes, my heartbeats are just as important as the arrangement of the stars. His love is my beginning and my end, my path and my map, my energy and my rest.

What makes me who I was, who I am, and who I am meant to become? He who loves me and him whom my heart loves.

Fertile soil

Regnum Christi Live – January 31
By Jim Fair



On another occasion, Jesus began to teach by the sea. A very large crowd gathered around him so that he got into a boat on the sea and sat down. And the whole crowd was beside the sea on land. And he taught them at length in parables, and in the course of his instruction he said to them, “Hear this! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep. And when the sun rose, it was scorched and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it and it produced no grain. And some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit. It came up and grew and yielded thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.” He added, “Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear.” – Mark 4: 1-9

Every member of the Legion of Christ is a part of the Extraordinary General Chapter going on in Rome these days.

I'm in Rome to help with some chapter work this week (don't worry, they don't let me actually participate) and while I have only see around 60 participants actually going in and out of the chapter room, I feel that hundreds more are here.

Fr Jason Brooks LC was the insightful soul who pointed out the presence of the hundreds. He opened my eyes during his homily on Tuesday, when the gospel was the parable of the sower. The Mass was a small celebration, the sort of thing that happens often in a place like our General Directorate, which dozens of priests call home.

Fr Jason stopped me after lunch and asked if I had been to Mass yet that day. When I replied that I had not, he said he was celebrating his daily Mass in a couple hours; one of the Legionary Brothers was coming and I was welcome.

That's a good deal. So...a couple hours later, Br John Choi LC and I were the beneficiaries of a small and consoling ceremony. And after admitting that he had not prepared a homily (not expecting company beyond Christ for his Mass), he proceeded to apply the message of Mark 4 to the General Chapter.

He explained that the Fathers in the General Chapter were working through many challenging tasks...selecting a new General Director, finishing the writing of the constitutions and pondering the right balance between our past and future, what stays and what is revised. And when they are finished, the seeds of their work will be distributed to the rest of the Legionaries – and in many ways to the rest of us, consecrated and unconsecrated lay folk.

Because of the reflection, discussion, participation and contributions of Legionaries all over the world for the past three years, those seeds will fall on ground that has been well prepared. Odds are good that the crop will grow tall and strong and the harvest will be plentiful – not just because of the wisdom of the Fathers in the Chapter, but because of the wisdom all the Legionaries put into the preparation before the Chapter started.

I've had a chance to talk with many of the Fathers who are in the General Chapter. And while they can't tell me about the confidential discussions that are going on, they can't help but convey both the seriousness of their task – and the heartfelt peace the effort is bringing to them. They are men who are doing their best, but like anyone given a task requiring great faith, they rely on the Holy Spirit to compensate for their human weaknesses.

Meanwhile, let's all continue to prepare the soil and pray for the Fathers who work for the Church – and each of us.

Reverse Mentoring

U. S. A. | WHO WE ARE | NEWS

Br. Lucio Boccacci discusses approach for working better with teens

Br. Lucio Boccacci LC writes for the blog www.youth2change.com. The following is excerpted from his latest blog.

Keeping in touch with the world of teenagers takes a little creativity. This is where the concept of reverse mentoring comes in, according to Br. Lucio Boccacci, LC, who says this tool can help parents, mentors and anyone else who works with young people.

According to Br. Lucio, reverse mentoring does not hamper teens' originality. He believes this method can bring in a new era of youth ministry. He said this idea has become the "cornerstone" of his youth ministry activities.

"It simply makes things more fun!" he said. "This is how I've learned simple things, like what kinds of food and drinks they really like, their



favorite sports and best dynamic group activities. I've also learned to speak to them better, using stories, videos, music, laughter and comedy, and questions that pierce their heart. I've learned to create activities that are fun, attractive, dynamic, unexpected, well-prepared, yet also educational and with a powerful message. I've learned to respond to their questions, instead of offering them answers that fall on deaf ears. I've also discovered techniques to help them 'wake up' to God."

It's All in the Direction

The difference between mentoring and reverse mentoring is the direction, he explained.

"Adults involved in youth ministry can actually learn from the younger generations. The adult accompanies young people so as to learn from them! They gain their honest feedback."

Br. Lucio cites Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium*:

"... whenever we attempt to read the signs of the times it is helpful to listen to young people [who] represent a source of hope for every people... Young people call us to renewed and expansive hope, for they represent new directions for humanity and open us up to the future, lest we cling to a nostalgia for structures and customs which are no longer life-giving in today's world." (EG 108)

Br. Lucio asks, "Why would God design us such that adolescence would be a period of uncertainty, vulnerability, change, and searching for one's identity, place, and purpose in life? From the point of view of human development, it's critical that young people learn to adapt to the world they discover outside the safety of their homes."

He said teens unintentionally create exactly what Pope Francis speaks of as "new directions for humanity."

“Because we live in a constantly and rapidly changing world, the knowledge of adult mentors is basically out-of-date every ten years or so, it is critical that we discover these new directions hidden in the young generations. We need to creatively transform these young people into vehicles of grace through reverse mentoring.”

Tools for Consultation and Feedback

First, youth ministers need to decipher new ideas in a way that is understandable so they can be replicated in practice. Br. Lucio suggests creating groups of teens, called Youth Councils, to meet regularly (once a month, or every semester) in order to obtain feedback.

“These teens are hand-picked and show interest and a capacity to reflect

on the youth events you organize. Schools often have some version of a youth council, and at times the students are elected by their peers. The main idea is the creation of a formal team of young people to offer ideas for events and activities.”



Another way to get feedback in a large group setting is at the end of a retreat gathering.

“If you wait until later, teens will forget the details, which are priceless to you,” he said.

Have all questions ready beforehand. “Gather everyone together. Get pen, paper, clipboard, and ask away. They will provide feedback so as to make the next retreat or camp even better!”

To help teens reflect, survey questionnaires using multiple choice,

true/false, and open questions, can be designed in advance, to be completed in 10 to 20 minutes.

“Names are optional,” he added

Br. Lucio said as questions are asked, be sure to let the young people know all ideas and criticisms are acceptable.

“Make sure to encourage spontaneity,” he said. “Near the end of the retreat or camp, sit with them at a meal and ask them questions and create a dialogue about how to improve the event for next time. Ask some teens individually, casually, informally, spontaneously...and see what they say.”

“Don’t be defensive. Instead, brace yourself for whatever they might say, and simply seek to find out the reason for their pro’s and con’s. In fact, towards the end of the event, feedback can make for great conversation.”

“Some of your questions should also be positive: ‘When did you feel closest to God? What will you remember the most from this retreat/camp?’ Others should invite opportunity: ‘What would you like to do next time? What themes or questions should we present and talk about?’”

Other suggestions include:

- Have time for the teens to give testimonies at the end of a retreat. Listen attentively to catch patterns and good “to do’s” for future events.
- Combine activities by having the kids do the personal survey first, then using them for small group feedback or for testimonies.
- Organizing teens into teams or small groups, with help from other adult leaders.

Br. Lucio said that extra-large groups, with more than 50 persons,

should always be organized into small groups to get teens more involved in the process. “It also makes teens more comfortable offering feedback,” he said.

“Group leaders, chaperones and staff can offer you information on aspects that you may easily miss,” said Br. Lucio. “Ask them about the group’s enthusiasm, discipline, recurring problems, and also about positive aspects like acts of service or fervor/devotion they saw displayed. Ask for the feedback they may have on improving the quality of the retreat/camp.”

“With reverse mentoring, youth ministry becomes an adventure!” said Br. Lucio. “Young people feel listened to and in the long run more interested in your events. You end up learning a lot, always challenging yourself to be a better instrument in God’s hands. And frankly, if you do it right, you’ll see youth ministry becomes easier, because we realize that teens are not so complicated after all!”

More information is available at the following links:

<http://youth2change.com/2013/10/28/the-3-minute-teen-testimony/>
<http://youth2change.com/2013/07/23/an-new-effective-tool-for-mentoring-teens/>

Click [here](#) for a review of the ECyD Book and where to get it. (This is one of Br. Lucio’s major resources.)

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