

Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 1:10 PM

Subject: REGNUM CHRISTI NEWS OF THE WEEK -- FEBRUARY 21

REGNUM CHRISTI NEWS OF THE WEEK

Click on tag line to go to article

[**Giving continuity to our renewal -- Fr Eduardo Robles-Gil LC**](#)

[**Angel for a Day in Houston – Texas Catholic Herald**](#)

[**Camp Texas – a turning point
Beauty and Bubbles – store support for great programs**](#)

The past week in Regnum Christi Live!

[**“My Vocation Is Love” – by Fr Matthew P Schneider LC**](#)

[**Choices affect who you are...— by Fr Michael Sliney LC**](#)

[**God’s Mercy, Good Friends, and Chocolate Chip-less Cookies – by Ashley Osmera**](#)

[**Gadgets – by Fr Simon Devereux LC**](#)

[**Hearing Confessions – by Fr Matthew P Schneider LC**](#)

Giving continuity to our renewal

ITALY | WHO WE ARE | NEWS

A letter from Fr. Eduardo Robles-Gil, LC



(Translated from the [Original Spanish](#))

Thy Kingdom Come!

Rome, February 15, 2014

To the Legionaries of Christ

To the members and friends of the Regnum Christi Movement

Dear friends in Christ,

With a prayerful spirit, I am sending this letter to you to thank you for your generous dedication to God, a dedication that unites us in serving Him and the people that He puts in our path. The Legion and the Movement is each one of us, who have made a commitment to Christ in response to his invitation to give our lives for our brothers and sisters just like He did.

I have been responding to your messages, but there are quite a few and

the Chapter is moving at a demanding pace. So, while I catch up, I would like to send this greeting to one and all in order to express my gratitude for your kind words and your prayers. Those of us in the central government need your prayers in order to be able to exercise authority in a spirit of service, like the Good Shepherd who gives his life for his sheep.

In these days, the reports of the territorial directors in the chapter hall have clearly pointed to your dedication and tireless effort which have kept us united and with which you have worked for the salvation of souls. It is apparent that the management has been less than ideal. Even so, I would like to thank those who have formed part of the central and territorial governments in these past nine years for their selfless service. It is impossible to name everyone, but I feel I must mention my deep gratitude to Fr. Álvaro, Fr. Sylvester, Fr. Luis and Fr. Evaristo.

Being here in Rome, I have been able to see and appreciate the generous and selfless dedication of Cardinal Velasio De Paolis and his councilors to the mission that Pope Benedict XVI entrusted to them. I am deeply grateful to them.

I see this task as a service to the unity of the whole Movement and as giving continuity to our renewal. I hope that, in the midst of difficulties, we will all be able to say, like St. Peter, "How good it is to be here!"

I ask you for your prayers in this final stage of the General Chapter. Let us entrust ourselves to the Blessed Virgin, so that she will accompany us on this journey. I thank you for your self-giving and the example your lives offer. Count on my prayers. I also ask you to please keep me in yours.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Eduardo Robles Gil, LC

Angel for a Day in Houston

Angels turn 10 frames into 200 smiles

This article was reprinted with permission from the Texas Catholic Herald, a publication of the Archdiocese of Galveston/Houston in Texas.

by Sean O'Driscoll
Texas Catholic Herald

More than 200 children ages five to 10 from the Hispanic community at Prince of Peace Catholic Church were treated to a morning of bowling and a pizza lunch by more than 175 teen and young adult volunteers. They gathered to share their faith as part of the Angel for a Day Bowling Mission on Saturday, Jan. 25, at the AMF Willow Lanes Bowling Alley in Northwest Houston.

The event was sponsored by the Legionaries of Christ and the Regnum Christi Movement.

"After returning from the World Youth Day celebration in Brazil last year, the young adults were inspired by the words of Pope Francis," said Father Eamonn Shelly, LC. "His whole idea of mission - of getting out to the streets with the people - really resonated with the young adults and they came home asking what more they could do for their community."

A core group of 12 young adults worked with Father Shelly to bring the Angel for a Day program to Houston. They knew that it would take a lot of volunteers to make it happen.

"We were hoping to get 100 high school volunteers to work directly with the children as Angels," said Diana Argaez, the coordinator of high school volunteers for the event. "We ended up with over 130 teens showing up to help out."

Angel for a Day gives the volunteers the chance to grow in community awareness and develop universal human values, such leadership, communication, initiative and respect for the others, as well as benefiting the children.

"It's all about helping the children," said Marissa Christiansen, a student at Pope John XXIII High School in Katy. "You watch them get a spare, and you give them a high five, and you just see their faces light up."

Teen volunteers came from all over the Archdiocese from both parishes and Catholic high schools. "They are really nice and fun, and they are very easy to talk to," said one 8-year-old participant. "I've never been bowling

before, but they just smile and help us and cheer for us even if we don't do very good."

The program has also been effective in getting young adults back into their faith.

"It's about contributing to the community," said Manny Quintero, a young adult who described himself as Catholic but not practicing. "There is a balance in life between taking care of yourself and taking care of others. This is how we show we can connect the Church to the community."

Argaez said many of the adult volunteers were not active in their faith, but have started going back to Mass and prayer groups because of their involvement in planning this event.

"They all attended the VIRTUS [Safe Environment Training] program so they could help with this day. Hopefully this will be an annual event and we can continue to grow the program," Argavez said.

Angel for Day is a charitable program that has successfully spread throughout several countries, including Brazil, Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela. The program was founded in 1998 by a group of students from Anahauc University in Mexico who wanted to reach out to their local community and give a gift to those who had nothing. In the United States, events have been held in Atlanta, Dallas and Washington, D.C.

All photos taken by Sean O'Driscoll of the Texas Catholic Herald

Choices affect who you are...

Regnum Christi Live – February 18
By Fr Michael Sliney LC

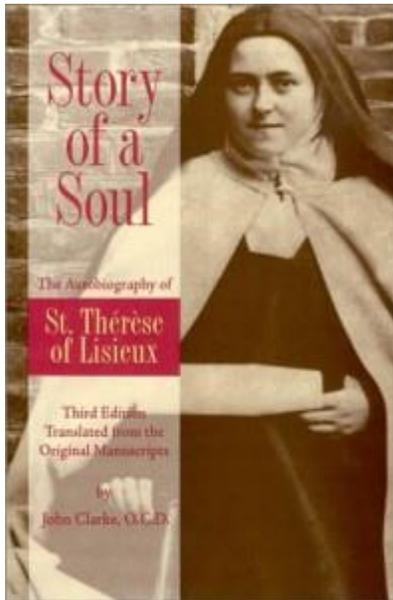


"Every time you make a choice, you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before...all your life long you are turning this central thing either into a heavenly creature or into a hellish creature." -- CS Lewis

Many years ago, I brought our high school team to a homeless shelter for a visit. The person who ran the shelter brought out a scruffy 25 year old who really wanted to meet our kids. This young man gave a powerful testimony, "Hey guys, like most of you, I grew up in Bethesda, Maryland and played hockey for one of the high schools in town. Eight years ago, I was accepted to Yale and was given a spot on their hockey team...so life could not have been better. Late senior year, however, I decided to try cocaine at a party and within a short amount of time, I had a terrible addiction and shortly after graduation, I ran away from home. After many "lost" years, I came back to this shelter and am trying to get back on my feet...so, I just wanted to tell you guys, be careful about what friends you chose and don't do drugs. My life was almost taken from me and it all began with that first bad decision!"

“My Vocation Is Love”

Regnum Christi Live – February 17, 2014
By Fr Matthew P Schneider LC



In the *Story of a Soul*, St Therese ponders her vocation and finishes by declaring it is love. So often we can miss this central aspect of the vocation. We think of priests and nuns as those who do things – celebrate mass, teach, etc. Yet that is only the objective side, every vocation also has a subjective side.

Many look back fondly at “the good ol’ days” when vocations seemed plentiful. They ask: “Why not that many today?” I think this is a false analysis. How did all those priests and nuns see themselves? How were they seen? Was the vision just objective – what they did – without being subjective – who they were. Was there vocation just so we could have cheap nurses and teachers or so many mass intentions could be offered? That would be a pretty sad life to live. By analogy, they would be like spouses who were together as business partners raising kids.

I think the fact vocations were lived out that way adds to people’s wonder today at how priests and nuns could live without human companions.

When people ask me why I became a Legionary, they seem to expect something about our apostolates or our spirit. At first I would try to please them. More and more, I admit the truth: I fell in love.

I can still remember several steps of the process of falling in love like yesterday. I remember the first moment I walked into our seminary in Cheshire and knew this was the place. For me it was almost love at first sight – I knew some Regnum Christi members but had never met a Legionary who I knew was a Legionary. It wasn't that the brothers who drove me there told me anything particularly amazing. When we try to explain love, we end up explaining it away.

If priesthood and religious life are vocations, we need to be able to fall in love with them.

Each of us is called to love in our vocation. When we promote vocations, it can't be just telling people about apostolates or mission statements – that's like telling a girl the height and IQ of a guy you want her to meet. Instead, help them fall in love

God's Mercy, Good Friends, and Chocolate Chip-less Cookies

Regnum Christi Live – February 19

By Ashley Osmera



It started as a normal Monday evening. I had been thinking that day about how God desires mercy over sacrifice. I imagined that this applied to big things, like life decisions, or at least things like deciding whether to criticize someone or hold your tongue. But one Monday night's rather memorable dinner experience gave me a new

perspective on what Jesus means in the Gospel when he says “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.”

Dinner proceeded normally, and then dessert rolled around. Well, actually it was passed around, on a plate (we do TRY to be civilized). Seeing that the plate contained chocolate chip cookies, I quietly refrained because at the time I wasn't supposed to eat anything with chocolate. I didn't want to leave the dining room to go get another dessert, so I decided just to pass on dessert all together. In my mind it was just a miniscule sacrifice that I was happy to offer up. “No big deal,” I thought. However, God and my classmates had another idea.

One of my good friends who happened to be sitting across from me noticed that I hadn't taken anything, and then, with a subtle, rather mischievous smile, unexpectedly found a piece of her own cookie that didn't have any chocolate chips on it, broke it off, and set it on my plate. The others at the table either liked the idea or simply found it amusing, so one by one everyone at the table handed me pieces of cookie until there was a small pile of chocolate chip-less cookies on my plate. It took me a couple minutes to eat them because I was laughing so hard that I was almost crying. Maybe it wasn't a big deal for them, but for me it was a providential example of God dipping his gentle hand of joy and mercy into the ocean of my heart and making a few waves just to mix things up a bit and make me smile.

“I desire mercy, not sacrifice...” I saw that night that God's will isn't always the hardest path. He has a sense of humor just like us. Christ desires that we make sacrifices, of course...But other times, he just wants us to laugh at ourselves, and with others, and enjoy the little things in life, those priceless gifts that we so often miss or take for granted. We can't forget to thank him for those moments of simple joy. So as I headed to bed that night, I fell asleep thanking God for showing me his mercy through wonderful sisters and delicious chocolate chip-less cookies.

Camp Texas

"It was the turning point in his life"

In the midst of a long winter, many are likely anticipating the coming of spring and even summer, so it's a good time to present the powerful benefits of attending a summer [Conquest](#) camp.



Following is a story written by parishioners and adoptive parents in a town in Texas about the effect of such a camp on three young brothers. Camp Texas is run by Texas Conquest, including priests and brothers from the Legion of Christ. (The names of the family and these adopted children have been changed because of the sensitive nature of the situation in which the boys lived prior to their adoption.)

Ronnie was the oldest of his brothers, ages 5, 3 and 1. To understand the profound influence Camp Texas had in their lives, it is important to include a little of the boys' background.

They lived in a trailer with their grandparents, parents and a few other family members. Ronnie remembers how he and his brothers slept on the fold-down kitchen table, while the adults sat around them smoking, drinking, fighting and receiving visits from local police.

Because he was the oldest, Ronnie was burdened with the responsibility of taking care of his younger brothers. Their staple food was Ramen noodles, which Ronnie prepared in the microwave for the three of them. They shared one bowl and ate with their hands. The malnourished boys were left unattended many times and even locked in the camper shell of the family's pickup truck.

When the boys' birth parents were finally arrested, he and his brothers were removed from the situation, taken to Child Protective Services and

placed in foster care.

When Ronnie started kindergarten, he did not know his ABC's, colors, or how to count. After 6 weeks, he was on the verge of being kicked out for discipline problems. The foster home in which they were placed claimed they were "too much for them" to handle.

After a family meeting with the boy's relatives, CPS had no choice but to separate the boys and place them in individual foster homes. At this point, my sister found out about the boys and called us to pray that a home would be found for all three. Since our two older children were now living on their own, and we had two empty bedrooms, my husband and I said we would take them in until future arrangements could be made.

On November 13, 2005, CPS dropped the boys off at our home. After almost a year, their parents were unable to meet CPS requirements and the boys were eligible for adoption. Needless to say, we were honored and blessed to be able to adopt them (thanks to a little Divine intervention.) They have been a blessing in our lives, but not without many struggles and life lessons.

Having been the caretaker and protector of his younger siblings, Ronnie faced the challenge of learning how to be a child. He also faced many hurdles with learning, until we discovered he was unable to hear well and needed hearing aids.

He was also dealing with memories of his past, the challenges that go along with preteen years, and he was facing many struggles with his spiritual life. He had many anger and control issues. He had to find out who he was and where he fit into this world.

Then Camp Texas came to our area! It was the turning point in his life.

It didn't happen on the first, second or even third retreat. But the Legionaries, brothers and college counselors had their influence. Each

time he came home from a retreat, a little something had changed about him. Sometimes that caused greater struggles because of the good and not-so-good choices he had been making in his life. Then, during one of the camps based on the theme from the movie *Man of Steel*, his spirit and his life changed forever. From the time we dropped him off to the time we picked him up again, a total transformation of this child took place.

The Holy Spirit, using the priests, counselors and dads at the camp, and all the other Camp Texas retreats leading up to this point, changed Ronnie's life. We can truly, without a doubt, testify that if it had not been for Camp Texas, Ronnie would not be the person he is today. Parents can do what they can at home. We pray together, worship together and work hard to be a family together. But only God can change the Soul. Without Camp Texas, Ronnie would not have been so exposed to the Eucharist and the Holy Spirit in the way necessary to change his life and mold his soul as it needed to be.

And Ronnie was not the only one helped by Camp Texas. His brother, Mark, experienced all of what Ronnie experienced, but Mark was also physically abused. He was the one on whom his birth father used to take out his anger. Mark has a small scar on his upper lip where his father once punched him in the face. He also carries emotional scars, and is a very quiet and sensitive.

Camp Texas has helped him to deal with the struggles of everyday life, and know that God is with him and will never abandon him during his times of distress or fear. Mark also learned that other people have challenges to overcome, just like he has, and that through prayer and Eucharistic adoration, he can gain strength to overcome his burdens.

Mark has expressed the desire to become a priest, and we believe the Holy Spirit is working in his life to help him discern this question.

It's not surprising that the third brother, Aaron, who has not yet had the opportunity to attend Camp Texas, absolutely cannot wait until it's his

turn to go!

Without a doubt, we can see the handiwork of God in the lives of these boys, and Camp Texas has been a major part of their spiritual growth and healing. We thank God for this blessing and what it has done for our family. We will continue to support Camp Texas, and all involved, through any means we can. If Camp Texas can change the life of another child as it has for our boys, that would be wonderful, because the awesome power of the Holy Spirit can change souls!

Gadgets

Regnum Christi Live –February 20, 2014
By Fr Simon Devereux LC



"The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place" - George Bernard Shaw

There's a famous pizza place in New Haven called Sally's. Their coal-fired pizzas are a big hit with the students from nearby Yale University (Hillary and Bill Clintons used to date there).

The last time I got invited there, I noticed a group of four university students. They were sitting in a booth; it was a Thursday night. I was shocked to see them all with their heads down. Instead of talking with each other, they were absorbed in their iPhones!

This is a big challenge especially for parents as their children grow up in a highly electronic world. Clear boundaries are necessary so that they can grow into normal adults capable of holding a mature conversation.

P.S. And if you're ever in New Haven, I highly recommend Sally's tomato pizza or "pie" as they call it. Delish!!

Beauty and Bubbles

Neiman Marcus helps support the charitable work of Choices Detroit and Good Girl Comeback

What does the luxury department store, Neiman Marcus, and the women's organizations [Choices Detroit](#) and [Good Girl Comeback](#) (GGCB) have in common? They are uniting their charitable efforts at an upcoming spring event called "Beauty and Bubbles."



According to their press release, the May 1, 2014, event will "showcase what a difference 'good girls' can make."

This is not the first time Choices Detroit and GGCB have partnered with an outside organization to hold an event celebrating women. In the summer of 2013 they joined with [Verily](#) magazine for an event called "Women Building an Authentic Life." (Click [here](#) for the article on that event from this website.)

Since it began in October 2011, Choices Detroit – "Women Discovering What Matters" -- has joined with various organizations as [partners](#) in its charitable work, including long time partner GGCB. That organization

and its founder, Chelsea Gheesling, have been getting national acclaim for their work encouraging virtue and a “good-girl lifestyle” for teenage girls. (Click [here](#) to see some of that national news coverage.)

Choices Detroit is also working closely

with the [Sisters of Christian Love](#), helping the ministry to care for the homeless in Detroit. The upcoming May 1st event with Neiman Marcus will support this community outreach, as well as the charitable work of GGCB in its mission work with the Missionaries of Charity sisters in Haiti. (Click [here](#) to read more about the first of those mission trips.)



Some of the women who make up Choices Detroit

Neiman Marcus says in the press release that event proceeds will go toward delivery of “thousands of lunches, hundreds of blankets, coats and winter gear to the men and women of Detroit and countless supplies and volunteer work for the people of Haiti.”

“Neiman Marcus is grateful for the opportunity to showcase the significant impact each nonprofit organization has on the lives they touch,” said Lindsey Machacek, Public Relations Manager for Neiman Marcus. “This event promises to be uplifting, relaxing, enlightening, and unifying.”

More details about the event will be available soon at the Choices Detroit website at

<http://www.choicesdetroit.com/beauty-and-bubbles/>.

(Click [here](#) for an article on this website about the history of Choices Detroit, and [here](#) for Good Girl Comeback.)



Hearing Confessions

Regnum Christi Live – February 21, 2014
By Fr Matthew P Schneider LC



Nobody wants to take on all the junk in other people's lives. Some people want to hear all the gossip; I was never even big on that. Plus, a priest needs to take on the sins of the penitents and suffer with them not just hear them like celebrity gossip. I don't enjoy hearing your junk.

For that reason I was not looking forward to hearing confessions as a priest. I figured I would do it to help out others – as a service or act of charity. Kind of like a guy who accepts a job below his dream job to pay the bills and support his family. Or maybe like disciplining children or changing their diapers as a necessary sacrifice involved in parenting.

I looked forward to celebrating mass and preaching but not to this. I decided I would do it to help the souls that come even if it were a small sacrifice.

My experience the first months has been the exact opposite. Confession has become a highlight of being a priest. Instead of seeing junk, I always see God's mercy. I actually want to hear confessions and look forward to the opportunity.

About a month into being a priest, I was at a conference and someone asked me for confession so I sprung up to go offer them this grace. A mutual friend sitting beside was impressed. I was a little taken back since I figured at the very least it was my duty – even if I didn't enjoy it that much.

Beyond just the joy of confessions, this experience led me to one other reflection. God always sustains us if we follow his path. It can be tough but somehow his grace sustains us when we think we're going to be completely helpless – especially where we feel helpless.

If anyone sees me in person, don't be afraid to ask for the sacrament of reconciliation. Unfortunately, it can't be done online.

Jim Fair
Communications Director
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