

Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 5:04 PM

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REGNUM CHRISTI NEWS OF THE WEEK

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**Christ is inviting us to collaborate
decidedly in the new
evangelization**

ITALY | WHO WE ARE | NEWS

***Letter from the Chapter Fathers to Legionaries,
Regnum Christi members, and friends***



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

Thy Kingdom Come!

Rome, February 25, 2014

To the Legionaries of Christ
To the Consecrated Men and Women of Regnum Christi

To the members of Regnum Christi

Dear fathers and brothers, dear members of the Regnum Christi
Movement,

As we conclude the Extraordinary General Chapter of the Legion of Christ,
we, the chapter fathers, would like to thank you for your prayers and

support. We would also like to share a few pieces of news and some of the experiences of these days of grace with you.

The task that has occupied most of our attention has been revising the Constitutions. We would like to thank all the Legionaries of Christ for their participation in this long process and, in particular, we would like to thank the members and secretaries of the Central Commission for Revising the Constitutions. Your excellent work produced a mature text that has been a solid foundation for our reflections. The recommendations of the territorial assemblies and the suggestions of both communities and individuals contributed to the discussions in the chapter hall. This morning, we approved the new text of the Constitutions which expresses, protects and promotes the charism received from God and recognized by the Church. We will submit it to the Holy Father in order to receive his approval.

We have elected a new central government for the congregation. We thank Pope Francis for confirming the elections made by the Chapter and for naming two members of the general council.

Finally, we have reflected on some themes that are important for our life, such as our identity and charism, our placing within the Regnum Christi Movement, formation, government, administration, and fraternal life, among others. In the next days, the communiqués of the Chapter about these issues will be published.

The General Chapter has been an important step in the journey of renewal that we began with the Pontifical Delegate by mandate of Pope Benedict XVI and which we have made our own. We made an examination of conscience about our history and we decided to make a conclusive pronouncement regarding the founder. We have asked for pardon from God and from those who have suffered because of these events and we have renewed our commitment to do what is necessary to ensure that such events are not repeated in the future. This is especially contained in the communiqué published on February 6th.

Now that the Chapter is over, our journey of evangelization in service of the Kingdom of Christ continues with renewed enthusiasm. The new constitutional text and the communiqués of the Chapter offer guidelines and principles that will orient us in living our vocation. We invite all Legionaries to read them and meditate on them as a whole before God. We exhort you to seek to make them a reality in your concrete circumstances, for the good of the Church and of all men and women, realistically and with confidence in God's grace, with renewed minds and hearts.

At the end of one stage and the beginning of another, our spirit overflows with gratitude, first of all to Jesus Christ, who called us to follow him more closely in the Legion and the Regnum Christi Movement, to experience his love, and to seek to help others meet him, so that the commitment to evangelize will spring forth from this experience of Christ's love.

We thank Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis for their attention and support, in whom we have experienced the Church's maternal love. The Church has shown that it believes in the beauty of our charism and mission and has helped us to purify it and rediscover it. We also extend our thanks to the bishops, priests, religious, consecrated souls and lay people who have given us their advice and encouragement in these years. We have experienced in first person the mystery of the communion of the Church.

We would especially like to recognize Cardinal Velasio De Paolis and his personal counselors, Fr. Gianfranco Ghirlanda, SJ, Fr. Agostino Montan, CSI, Msgr. Mario Marchesi and Bishop Brian Farrell, LC, for their generous self-giving throughout these years.

We would also like to thank the Legionaries of Christ. To those who first formed and built up our congregation, thank you for your perseverance and fidelity. Thanks to the priests in ministry for your daily dedication and your desire to announce the Kingdom of Christ. Thanks to the novices and religious in formation, who deserve our witness of life and who bring us such hope. We want to particularly mention those Legionaries who are old

or sick for having spent your lives in service of the mission. We remember with affection those who have left the Legion, whom we thank for the good you did while you were among us.

We would like to thank the priests and brothers of the General Directorate who made the logistics and organization of the Chapter possible for your joy and spirit of service.

We feel especially close to the consecrated men and women of Regnum Christi. We honor and appreciate the journey you have travelled in these past years. We rejoice that you now have your new statutes and your own government. We reiterate our desire to continue walking together, to serve you as priests of Jesus Christ, and to continue learning from the unique richness that you contribute to the Movement.

The lay members of Regnum Christi have been true brothers and sisters who have supported us in these years. With your desire to live your baptism in its fullness and your apostolic commitment you help us to keep sight of the service that we are called to offer as priests and religious. We recognize your capacity to take on responsibilities in the Movement and in the Church. We want to ask you to please continue helping us to seek holiness and to serve you by offering you Jesus Christ. We would also like to confirm our commitment to continue the process of reflection and discernment about your vocation and mission within Regnum Christi.

We would like to ask one and all to continue accompanying us with your prayer as the journey of renewal continues. We invite our brother Legionaries to keep your eyes on Jesus Christ, who is the supreme norm of our life as religious and priests. Today, he is inviting us to collaborate decidedly in the new evangelization together with the Pope, the bishops and the other members of the Church in order to help awaken the desire for holiness in the laity and to invite them to follow the Lord more closely. He is inviting us to announce the mercy that we have received.

To Christ and Our Lady of Sorrows we entrust the future of the Legion and Regnum Christi, so that we will all feel the joy of having been called to this

family in the Church and so that our appreciation for our charism and vocation and our desire to announce the Gospel and establish the Kingdom of Christ in society will be renewed.

With our gratitude and affection in Christ,

The Chapter Fathers

**Christ is with you in the journey
that awaits you, giving you hope
for your future**

ITALY | WHO WE ARE | NEWS

***Homily of Cardinal Velasio De Paolis during the
closing Mass of the General Chapter of the Legion of
Christ***



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

Cardinal Velasio De Paolis, C.S.

Thank you, Father General Director, for your words at the beginning of this celebration.

A little less than two months have passed since we began the Extraordinary General Chapter on January 8th. We have fulfilled the two principle tasks that had been set out for us: to give the congregation a new central government and to revise the constitutions. These were the two points that stood out the most.

Revising the constitutions was our principal occupation, demanding most

of our time both during the preparation of the Chapter as well as during the Chapter itself. This should not amaze us given the importance that such a document has in the life of a religious institute. In the constitutional text, we find the charism and the spirituality, the spiritual patrimony and the identity of the congregation and the norms necessary to conserve and promote it. The constitutional text is the rule on which the Legionary is called to model his life. The last article of these constitutions quotes Canon 662 of the Code of Canon Law in order to express the fundamental obligation of any religious: “Religious are to have as the supreme rule of life the following of Christ proposed in the gospel and expressed in the constitutions of their own institute.” The constitutions, together with the Gospel, show the path to holiness for the religious. The religious find the source of their own spirituality in them.

When confronting these two principal themes, we have had to address other very important issues. In particular, since the beginning of the Chapter, after having listened to the presentations about the preparation of the General Chapter and about the current situation of the congregation, the chapter fathers quickly brought forward questions to which Legionaries throughout the world expected answers. Once these questions had been flagged, formulated and discussed, it was clear that they had to be answered.

Above all, great strides have been made in the issue regarding the founder and his personal life on the one hand, and on the other, the evaluation of the congregation that recognizes that it was founded by him. You could say that it has been the one issue to which all the rest of the questions were connected. The Chapter addressed this issue from the get-go. This reflection and the quest for a response have been present in all the Chapter’s undertakings from the beginning to the end.

An initial response is found in the document that the Chapter felt it was urgent to prepare and publish right from the beginning. It was a broad, objective and serene – almost detached – assessment of the figure of Fr. Maciel in relation with the congregation. The document recognizes his

transgressions, approves of the actions by which the Church confronted them, and thanks the Church for doing so. It also thanks the Church for helping the congregation to heal the wounds that were produced and for encouraging and sustaining the congregation so that, after a journey of self-examination, of penance and of purification, it can, in light of this renewal, once again take up its mission within Regnum Christi and the life of the Church. At the same time, the chapter fathers invoked God's mercy on the founder.

The communiqué affirms that the personal behavior of the founder cannot be seen as personal faults of the other Legionaries, as if these they should be held responsible for his actions. Rather, the Legion itself can be seen as a victim of the founder's unwarranted actions. It also recognizes the errors of the superiors, above all for the slowness with which they proceeded. The Chapter, as it asks the victims of Fr. Maciel for pardon, recognizes that the Legionaries are called to take on the consequences of his faults, like our Lord Jesus Christ who took the sin of the world upon himself, in order to atone for them insofar as possible. Thus, the communiqué shows that there is a penitential journey of purification and renewal to be undertaken and agrees to undertake it.

Thus, the Legionaries have been reconciled with themselves, with their history, with the world and the Church. They have looked inside themselves with a new and purified glance, examining their current situation in order to single out potential traces of pollution left by the founder of the Legion in their identity and action, in their legislation and way of working.

The task was to project the future of the congregation in light of its past and its current situation. In order to achieve this, the chapter fathers sought to lay out the future of the congregation reflecting on the priesthood and religious life as they find expression in the charism, apostolate, spirituality and other aspects of life, such as formation, governance, administration, poverty, obedience and chastity, and liturgical and personal prayer. Thus, the other documents of the chapter were drafted to show the

central government the way to follow in the next six years. It has been an ample examination of conscience that has deeply considered the life of the Legion, propelling it towards a future full of hope.

All of this has necessitated a salutary spiritual journey on the part of all the chapter fathers. The chapter fathers have imbued the documents with their personal, spiritual experience and have sought to communicate it to their Legionary brothers spread throughout the world. They have generously and courageously placed themselves before the mystery of Christ in their lives in a new way. If they have experienced moments of darkness, suffering and loss because of the deeds of Fr. Maciel, if anxiety and darkness entered their hearts before such grave events, they have been filled with light and strength and rediscovered from within the meaning of their lives during these years and particularly during this general chapter. They have once again experienced the joy of their missionary and apostolic calling. They have renewed their “Yes” to their Legionary vocation. They have once again experienced the joy of belonging to Christ and of announcing him to the world with their whole lives. In Christ Jesus they have rediscovered themselves and the joy of working for Regnum Christi.

In renewing their vocations, their self-giving to Christ and to one another, they have been freed of the burden that weighed on their backs. They have gone out of themselves and have found their place within the whole Regnum Christi Movement, participating in a vocation that they share with lay people that live their baptism and bear living witness to the faith they profess in their families and in culture, and with lay men and women who reinforce their witness in the world with the added profession of the evangelical counsels. The journey they have walked has also been travelled by their brothers and sisters in Regnum Christi.

The Legionaries thus find themselves in the heart of the world and the Church in order to sum up all things in Christ, in order to work together with their lay brethren and their consecrated brothers and sisters in Regnum Christi.

Looking back over this spiritual journey in all of its breadth one should be filled with wonder. The question comes up: Who has done all of this? The answer is already on your lips because you have meditated on it in your hearts. This is the moment to thank the Lord with the sentiments that filled Mary's heart. You can sing your Magnificat. Raise up a hymn of thanksgiving to the mercy of God who has tended your wounds, who has healed you and who has once again affectionately reaffirmed the love he first had for you. Never grow tired of doing good for the Kingdom of Christ. With Saint Augustine I tell you: walk and sing, sing and walk. The journey can tire you out. Singing brings new strength. Walk and sing. Christ is with you in the journey that awaits you, giving you hope for your future.

Velasio Card. De Paolis, c.s.

Pray for peace

Regnum Christi Live – February 23

By Jim Fair



Fr Luis Garza LC, territorial director for the North American Territory, has asked all of us to keep those people affected by the violence in Venezuela in our prayers.

If you have been watching the news of late, you have seen so many unfortunate reminders of how violent our world can be. Venezuela has special concern for us because of the presence of Legionaries, consecrated members and Regnum Christi lay members.

Fr Josef Hare LC, territorial secretary in Venezuela, reports that the Legion and consecrated communities are in quiet areas and are safe, although some activities have been cancelled. He says there is much uncertainty and we must all pray for a peaceful solution to the crisis.

I'll be adding the people of Venezuela to my prayers, along with those in Ukraine and other places suffering from fear and violence.

Consolidating Their Vocation

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

Consecrated women attend Internship Course in Michigan

Now that the discernment process for the Regnum Christi consecrated women is 8 years long, the first 3 years of full-time apostolate are crucial for the discernment process. During these three years, now referred to as “internship,” the consecrated woman encounters many experiences and aspects of RC consecrated life that she could not have foreseen during her years of study and candidacy, which help each to get to know herself better and confirm whether she is called to this life or not.



To help “consolidate” their vocation process during this phase, 17 of the 20 consecrated women in North America currently in their first three years of full-time apostolic work, took part in the first ever “Internship Course” in Oxford, Michigan, from February 9-17, 2014.

The course included conferences, prayer time and practical workshops. Topics included the spiritual life, the vows in Regnum Christi consecrated life, relationships within community life and apostolic work among others. Fernanda Paez led the course and was one of the speakers. Other speakers included Miriam Orejas, Nancy Nohrden, Michelle Reiff, Dr. Lisa Klewicki and Fr. Edward Hopkins, LC.

The course furthers the “Territorial Imperative No. 3” from the 2011 Territorial Action Plan. The imperative involves the giving of “consistent, excellent spiritual support/formation that helps to restore trust and enthusiasm in our communities and teams and RC members.”

While many of the current interns have completed their discernment process, participants found the course information on subjects such as vows, spiritual life and relationships helpful to “complete the picture” of the

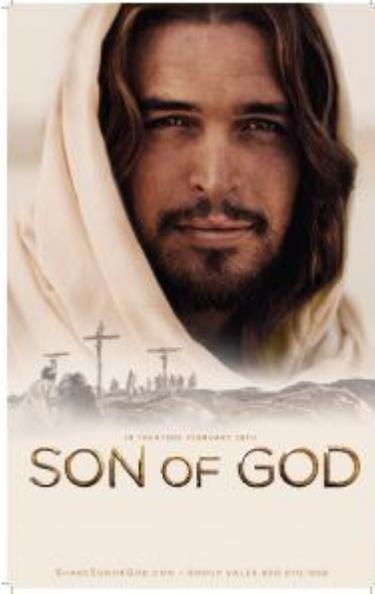
consecrated vocation. All of the participants expressed their gratitude to Territorial Director Nancy Nohrden and her council, and to Fernanda for investing the time and effort to make this course a possibility.

“I didn’t realize how much I needed this,” said one participant. “I can honestly say it was life-changing



Son of God

Regnum Christi Live – February 24, 2014
By Jim Fair



“Son of God” the movie opens Friday in theaters everywhere.

Frankly, given the pagan state of our culture, that statement might seem like a fantasy. It is true.

This is the first big “Bible movie” since “Passion of the Christ,” and the first that tells the entire life of Jesus since “Greatest Story Ever Told,” which was about 50 years ago.

This movie is a big deal – about a big deal (God coming to live with sinful humans). Unless you are a determined grump, a visit to the movie’s [official website](#) will likely get you off the couch and into the theater. You also can download lots of really neat, free stuff.

“Son of God” is a gift to the church and society from the husband-wife team of Roma Downey (“Touched by an Angel”) and Mark Burnett (all sorts of reality television shows). They produced the recent “The Bible” television mini-series that garnered 100 million viewers.

The movie has the endorsement of a long list of Catholic bishops, evangelical mega-church pastors and protestant leaders. But don’t see it because you “ought to support wholesome, Christian movies.” See it because it is great cinema. And it won’t be hard to find; it is distributed by Twentieth Century Fox and will open in more than 3,000 theaters nationwide.

In a sense, telling the story of Christ in a couple hours is a fool's errand. But that makes us all fools because we usually have much less time than that to touch others with His message.

“Son of God” will give folks a strong taste of Jesus. I pray that many will come back for the whole meal.

REVs vs. SEMs

Legionaries in California join diocesan basketball challenge

Once a year in the Diocese of San Jose, California, priests and seminarians challenge each other to a friendly game of basketball. The event is organized by the San Jose Vocations Office to promote vocations and raise money for the seminary.

This year, on February 21, 2014, they played to a crowd of about 4,000 people gathered in the Leavey Center on the campus of Santa Clara University. Five Legionaries of Christ participated in this 8th annual event, affectionately dubbed the “REVs vs. SEMs” Challenge.



The Legionary members of the REVs and SEMs, with their supporters in the background.



Among the REVs were parish priests from the San Jose and San Francisco area joined by Legionaries Fr. Brian Shininger LC, Fr. Timothy Lyons LC and Fr. Joshua West LC. Playing for the SEMs were seminarians from the dioceses of Reno, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose and Monterey, as well as two Legionary brothers, Br. Emilio Mitre and Br. Patrick O’Loughlin. Both are currently doing their internships in Cupertino.

People from different parishes were cheering on their pastors, while the Legionaries had support from Regnum Christi members and the families from Canyon Heights Academy.

“It was a fantastic opportunity to get to know and play with other young men highly focused on their future priesthood in the

diocese, who are facing the same challenges we confront every day to discern and remain faithful to Christ’s call,” said Br. Patrick. “And showing the priests we live and work with that we definitely have what it takes, at least on the court.”



The REVs plan their strategy.

Both teams took the challenge very seriously. Preparation for the game started a month ago with weekly practices. Teams had coaches and personalized jerseys.

Four referees officiated. Before the game, each player was introduced, and the bishop of San Jose led an opening prayer, followed by the national anthem sung by a local Catholic school student.

The more experienced REVs led for almost the entire game. But, with five minutes left in the fourth quarter, the SEMs came back and secured a 57-50 victory, bringing the trophy to the seminary.

Br. Emilio said participating in the game was “priceless, from practice, to the side line, to the court, spending time and getting to know these young men. You see at once the diversity and the communion, the many colors that form that one beautiful path to the priesthood of Christ.”

Since the challenge started eight years ago, the REVs and SEMs



The SEMs are victorious.



have split four wins each. After the game, the seminarians and priests closed the event with a pizza party.

The light and strength of the Holy Spirit

A message from the General Chapter Delegates of the North American Territory

February 25, 2014

To the Legionaries of the North American Territory

Dear brother priests, religious in formation and novices,

The light and strength of the Holy Spirit has accompanied us during these past



two months spent here in Rome participating in the Extraordinary General Chapter. Your daily prayers have accompanied us as we engaged in the fundamental tasks of the Chapter: the review and approval of the revised text of the Constitutions of the Legion of Christ and the election of the new general government for the coming six years. We want to sincerely thank you and so many others for your prayerful support.

Each of you has been very much in our minds and hearts, grateful for your witness and your willingness to follow Christ during what have been very challenging times since the last General Chapter. We approached our painful past, the review of the Constitutions and the ensuing discussions thinking of all of you, our brothers in the Lord and in the Legion. You have been a living part of the Chapter. As King David spent time gathering and storing the best raw materials so that his son Solomon could build the House of the Lord, our hope has been to provide in the revised Constitutions and Chapter documents those materials that can help us authentically live out the gift of our charism in our religious consecration and priestly ministry. This was the very desire that drove the review of the Constitutions on a community level over the past years and imbued the spirit of our Territorial Assembly last summer. We, the delegates to the Chapter, hope to have responded with diligence to the trust that you placed in us.

The Chapter began as an invitation to look deeply into our own souls recognizing our personal and institutional failings. We sought forgiveness and reconciliation. This purification allowed us to enter the mystery of our history, experience the merciful love of the Sacred Heart of Christ, and rediscover the beauty and transforming power of our foundational charism alive in each Legionary and approved by the Church.

Fraternal charity and sincere brotherhood, along with a frank, sincere and respectful dialogue, helped us to understand that even in the diversity of experiences and opinions there is a strong bond that unites us, stemming from our vocation and our love for the Legion and our mission. We recognize the need and common desire to continue to learn from each other and support each other through mutual understanding.

The closing of the Chapter is also a new beginning. We now have in our hands the Constitutions that have been presented to the Holy See for approval, as well as the Chapter documents, which analyze our past, reflect on our present and map out a path for the future. We encourage all to prayerfully study these documents, discuss them in community, and make them a guiding light in our ongoing renewal. As Chapter delegates we plan to visit within the coming weeks each community to share with you Chapter experiences and be available for any questions you may have.

We look forward to our territorial gathering after Easter, where in a simple family spirit we hope to deepen our encounter with the Risen Lord who has called us to be with him, to experience his love, and to send us out sharing his mission of forming apostles.

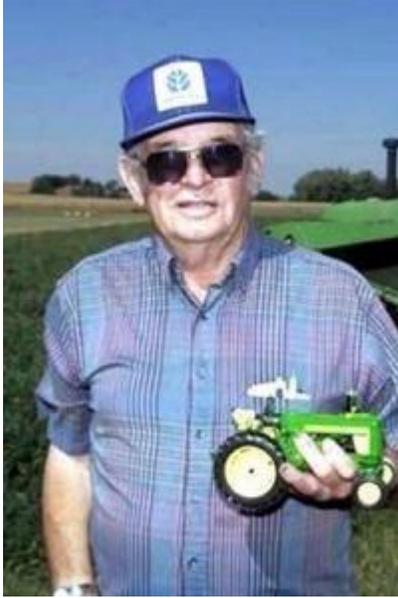
Sincerely yours in Christ and the Legion,

Extraordinary General Chapter Delegates

North American Territory

Town stunned after farmer's funeral

Regnum Christi Live – February 27, 2014
By Fr Simon Devereux LC



"Judge not lest thee be judged." - Jesus

How many elderly people have I seen and passed by without a thought or, worse, with a harsh judgement? This story made me think about how my heart needs to change.

In life, Bud Skalla had a reputation. In death, he earned a new one ...

KCCI reports that much of Western Iowa has been buzzing ever since Edwin 'Bud' Skalla was laid to rest.

The frugal farmer never married, and most people who knew him admitted that he wasn't exactly a 'people person.' The 92-year-old was quite a lone wolf, and Skalla's executor says Skalla wouldn't even sit with him to have a cup of coffee. He's been described as a 'quirky' guy who never dressed lavishly and was basically a total mystery.

After his death, his priest (who also didn't know him so well) got a call. 'You're going to be on the receiving end of a very large bequest,' Father John Dorton said. 'How big is big?' he wondered. A few days later, he got his answer: \$3 million worth of farmland left to his parish. 'I've been a priest 43 years and I've never seen one like this,' Dorton said.

Then, surprises started to pop up everywhere. Break out a calculator and you're talking about a bequest that's in the neighborhood of about \$10 million. He left that money to churches in 13 different towns, and each parish could be looking at a bequeath of \$500,000.

In life, Bud Skalla had a reputation. In death, he earned a new one ... while teaching a lesson. Sometimes, you can't judge a book by its cover.

Choose Your Experience

| WHO WE ARE | NEWS

Teens Design their own Lenten Retreat

Ash Wednesday is just around the corner (March 5, 2014). Based on his latest [blog](#), Br. Lucio Boccacci LC discusses how to plan a Lenten retreat for teens with a bit of an unique approach.

I remember brainstorming last year for ideas for an overnight middle school Lenten retreat, one that would help the teens understand what Christ did for them through His suffering, dying and resurrection.



The concept for the retreat was for the teens to “accompany” Jesus through His agony in the garden and throughout the night, witness His suffering in the morning, His crucifixion in the afternoon, and ending with an “early version” of His resurrection. (Click [here](#) for the simple flyer to promote this retreat.)

My breakthrough came when I asked an audience of teens what they would consider to be an awesome retreat. They gave me several ideas, but one suggested that they themselves decide what to do during the retreat -- the schedule and activities, right down to deciding when to go to bed! At first, I rejected the idea.

But I wanted to enhance the teens’ creativity, increase their ownership

of the retreat, generate more excitement, and hopefully better reach them with the message of Lent and Christ's death and resurrection. Then it hit me. What if they did design the schedule? What a novel concept! I had no idea what would happen, but I set to it.

I hoped this approach would shift the emphasis of the retreat from what I wanted them to get out of it to what these teens wanted to get out of it. I also hoped the "accompany Christ" motif would encourage them to opt for the more spiritual activities over the fun games.

The first and last sections (the retreat started with a "Passover Meal" and an introduction and the retreat ended with Mass followed by dinner and awards) were set in stone, and it was mandatory that they had to get at least 6 hours of sleep. Then I prepared 20 different activities for them to choose from. The [list](#) included videos, talks or discussions, skits, different types of prayers like the rosary, Stations of the Cross, Gospel reflections, etc. I also included the necessary aspects like meals, games and sleep.

I had to prepare more options than they could possibly choose from. The teen would have to design the schedule with a logical progression within the given time constraints. I also printed a large poster with an [hour-by-hour timeline](#) of Jesus' death from the last supper on Thursday evening to his death on Friday afternoon.

Once everyone arrived, I gathered the teens together, welcomed them, explained the standard retreat rules to them, and formed teams of about five participants each. I then began to explain how the retreat would work, motivating them with the meaning of Lent and Christ's Passion. I helped them understand the purpose of liturgy is to experience the life of Christ. I told them in this retreat, they would not only be accompanied by Jesus, but they would accompany Him! I went through the list of activities, explaining what they would do in each one. Then I told them they could choose what to do.

At first they were surprised, and they tested the limits, asking, "Can we

go to bed whenever we want?” and “Can we eat three snacks in one day?” I offered them tips, saying things like, “It depends how much sleep you want,” reminding them with statements like, “At that time of the day Jesus is being scourged on a pillar, so you can eat your second snack if you don’t mind...”

These kinds of remarks made them think. Once the idea settled in, they were ready. From the beginning to the end, they began to fill in the retreat schedule. We used a white board and dry erase markers for quick editing. I would ask what they wanted to do next and point out the corresponding moment of Jesus’ Passion. Some would raise their hand and propose an idea. Depending on the amount of consensus, I either took a quick vote or gave them 3 minutes to discuss the options in teams. Then they would vote, with one vote per team and the most votes won. We continued this until we finished the schedule, which took about 20 minutes.

I was honestly surprised by the schedule they created, and by their choices and their reasoning. They had good reasons, making sure to put in all the spiritual activities during Jesus’ “toughest” moments, with a good blend of fun activities scattered throughout. They preferred to do simple visits to the chapel throughout the night and leave the half-hour of Eucharistic Adoration for the time when Jesus hung on the cross Friday afternoon. At 1:00 am, they would

do the Stations of the Cross.

At the end of the retreat I asked them what they liked the most. The very first response was “choosing what to do.” I then asked them why. One teen said it helped them to better accompany Jesus.



Whoa! They remembered the whole point of the retreat! It was very



gratifying to witness these 10- to 13-year-olds understanding the message of the retreat and living out each experience the best they possibly could.

Trouble with Trust

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

New Retreat Guide for Lent available March 1 from RCSpirtuality.com

The 40 days of preparation for the holiest season in the Church year begins next week with Ash Wednesday. To help us prepare, the RC Spirituality Center is offering two Lenten Retreat Guides, including their latest, “Trouble with Trust,” available starting March 1, 2014.



“Lent is a season to strengthen our trust in the Lord, and we do this by meditating on Christ’s Passion,” said Lucy Honner, Director of the RC Spirituality Center. “The first meditation of the newest Retreat Guide discusses why humans find it hard to trust God, and the second meditation focuses on how Jesus builds a bridge of trust between humanity and God.”

The conference which follows these meditations covers ways to exercise trust in God and make that trust grow.

Also available from RCSpirtuality.org is the Retreat Guide “The Colors of the Cross,” a reflection on the meaning of the brown, red and skin colors of the Cross of Christ.

Lucy suggests some ways to share these retreat guides with others.

“You can make them part of your family prayers each evening,” she said. She also suggests talking about them with colleagues at work, perhaps during a lunch break. “You might invite family and friends over for dinner and discussion,” she added. “Or you could bring the Retreat Guide to your parish or Bible study group for a Lenten reflection.”

For more information, or to access the guides, go to www.rcspirituality.org.

Dr Wanda Póltawska

Regnum Christi Live – February 28, 2014

By Fr Simon Devereux LC



“I can’t change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.” - Jimmy Dean

As you know, my brother, Fr Matthew, trains young people in Poland in how to be apostles. One of the ways he does this is by inviting inspirational speakers to talk to the boys. Recently he invited 92-year old Dr Wanda Póltawska.

After the war she became a close friend of Fr Karol Wojtyła. Her face is half paralyzed as she was experimented on by the Nazis in Ravensbruck where she was imprisoned from 1941 to 1945 and was one of the many female

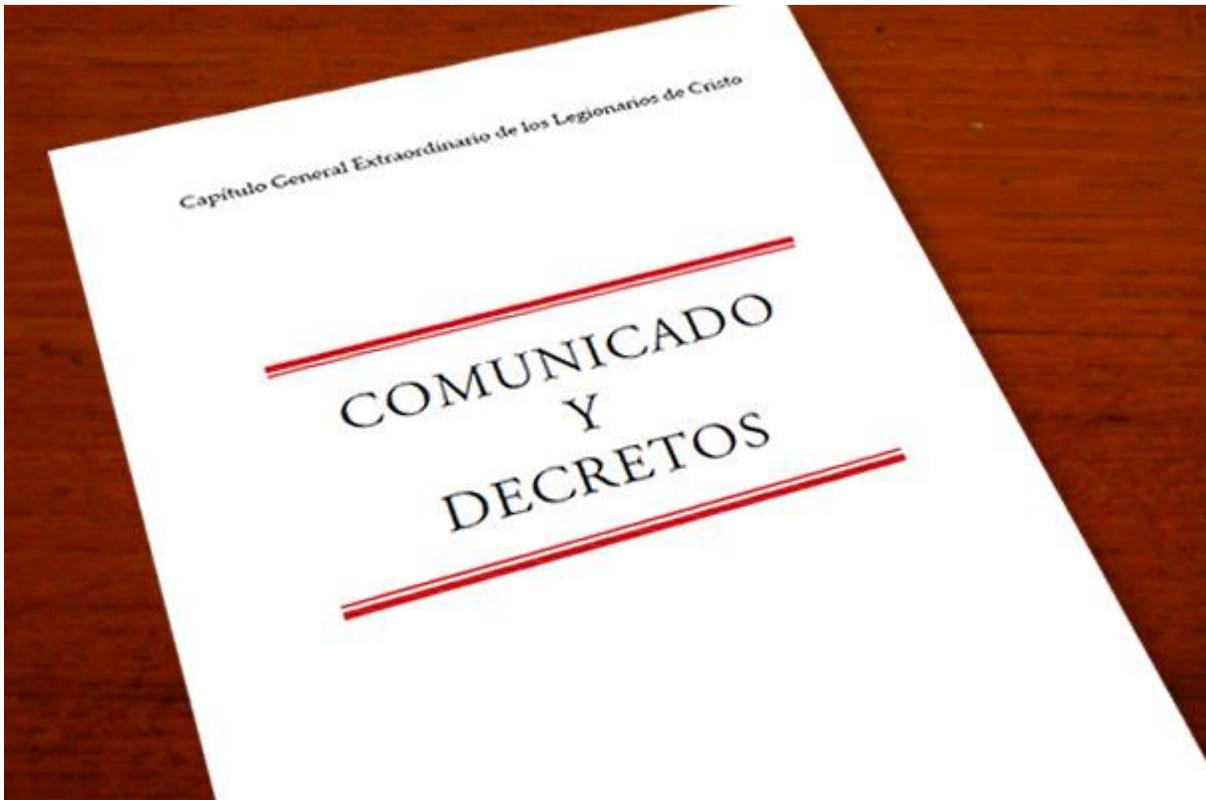
prisoners forced by German physicians to endure inhumane and criminal medical experiments. After the war she wrote her memoirs of those terrible years not as a mere condemnation of those who had been in charge but as a profound study of her own personal response to what she had endured.

Despite her fragile condition she continues to travel Poland spreading the teachings of Pope John Paul II on marriage and the family. For me, this is someone who knows her final destination is Heaven!

Documents produced by the Legion's Extraordinary General Chapter

ITALY | WHO WE ARE | NEWS

The Legion's General Chapter has finalized the draft of the Constitutions and has published communiqués addressing a range of issues



The Legion's General Chapter has produced several important documents. The most important is the draft of the constitutions which the Chapter finalized and sent to the Holy See for review and approval. This draft has been distributed to the members of the Legionaries of Christ for the purposes of personal and community reflection. The constitutions will be formally published and translated once they are approved by the Holy See.

The Chapter has also published a series of communiqués addressing a number of the issues that have been on the minds and hearts of many Legionaries, Regnum Christi members, friends and family members and others who have followed the developments of the past few years.

The Spanish originals of these communiqués can be found [here](#).

As the English translations of the communiqués are finalized, they will be

made public. Given their length, we project that this will take about a week in all.

Here is a list of the themes of the communiqués.

- Presentation letter for the communiqués of the General Chapter (coming soon)
- Charismatic identity of the Legion of Christ (coming soon)
- The Legion of Christ in Regnum Christi (coming soon)
- Fraternal life in community (coming soon)
- Liturgical life and prayer (coming soon)
- The formation of the Legionary and the *Ratio Institutionis* (coming soon)
- Our apostolic renewal (coming soon)
- Government, authority and obedience (coming soon)
- Administration and vow of poverty (coming soon)
- Statement of the Extraordinary General Chapter of the Legionaries of Christ about the path of renewal that we are traveling ([available here](#))
- Some reflections regarding the name of the congregation (coming soon)

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