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## REGNUM CHRISTI NEWS OF THE WEEK

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## Lent Week 3: Material poverty

Regnum Christi Live – March 24

By Paola Trevino



Pope Francis messages continues:

"Material destitution is what is normally called poverty, and affects those living in conditions opposed to human dignity: those who lack basic rights and needs such as food, water, hygiene, work and the opportunity to develop and grow culturally... In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ... When power, luxury and money become idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing."

Reflection: Am I content with what I have? Am I thankful for all my material things? Do I share and/or tithe, not only materially but also with my time and service to others?

Prayer: Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.

I've been blessed indeed, the world is mine.

Action:

- Grab some granolas, snacks, and put them in your backpack or glove compartment so when meeting a homeless or a person I need you can assist and ease their suffering.
- Go through your belongings and donate what you haven't use in the pass six months.

# Holy Land Pilgrimage 2014

## *Pilgrims walk in the footsteps of Christ*

By Sherwood (Woody) Jones

On Friday, March 7, 2014, a group of 43 pilgrims assembled in the Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv to begin a pilgrimage to the sites of many of the major events in the life of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Led by a group of Legionary priests, brothers, and Regnum Christi consecrated and lay members, the pilgrims and their leaders joined their guide, Rami, for a life-changing journey in the Holy Land, to walk in the footsteps of Christ.

The leadership team included Fr. Simon Devereux, LC; Fr. James Perez, LC, Regnum Christi consecrated woman Deb Bauer, Br. Christopher Tappel LC, Br. Christopher Daniels LC, Phil Liquori and Candy Nesbit.

The group first gathered at the Beatitudes Guest House on the Mount of the Beatitudes in Galilee -- home base for the next three days. At that night's Mass in the chapel, Fr. Simon told the pilgrims to be "flexible" in their expectations and to expect many graces, including a unique message that God would impart to each one.

Daily bus trips to the various sites had a similar schedule: in the morning, the group boarded to an enthusiastic rendition of the song "Jesus, it's a



RC consecrated woman Deb Bauer gives a meditation.



Beautiful Day," followed by the Regnum Christi morning offering and a meditation from one of the priests, brothers or consecrated leaders. As time permitted, the group prayed the rosary, so the atmosphere was decidedly spiritual throughout.

On many occasions there was a little "comic relief." Br. Christopher offered his "killer mimicry" of some of the team leaders (and the repartee among pilgrims -- especially Rami and Phil -- was priceless.)

The first day included a visit to the Church of the First Miracle in Cana, where Jesus transformed water into wine at the intercession of His Mother. Here pilgrim couples renewed their wedding vows, after Fr. James gave a short meditation on the importance of the Cross, signifying sacrificial love, in married life.

From there, the bus took pilgrims to Nazareth, where they experienced the Church of the Annunciation. Following an enlightening orientation by Rami on the archaeological excavations of Joseph's house and its significance for understanding Jesus' background, the pilgrims went into the church for Holy Mass, concelebrated by Legionary priests, including those from another pilgrimage group -- Fathers Daniel Ray LC and Anthony Sortino LC. Here the pilgrims meditated in a profound way on the meaning of Our Lady's "Yes" to God, as well as their own efforts to imitate this openness to God's plan in their lives. Also, following the homily, the consecrated women renewed their vows in a very edifying ceremony.



Fr. Santiago Perez LC talks about cross in marriage while in Cana.



That afternoon, the group traversed up Mount Tabor to the Church of the Transfiguration. A meditation given by one of the Fathers helped the pilgrims to relate the meaning of the event that took place there to their own lives -- the message being a meditation on who Christ is for each of us, how strong our belief in Him as God is, and our own need

to be transformed and to do what He wants us to do.

On Sunday, the pilgrims travelled to Capernaum, to the house of Peter, where the meditation given emphasized how the healing of Peter's mother-in-law summarized all Jesus' human activity of teaching and healing.

Just across the walk lay the remains of a synagogue where Jesus likely had taught many times. Rami pointed out the unique architectural features of the synagogue -- a Hellenistic, Jewish style not to be found elsewhere in Judea.

The pilgrims then sailed on the Sea of Tiberius on a replica of Saint Peter's boat, noting how this body of water was the same as it had been in the time of Christ. Deb Bauer gave a meditation focusing on the meaning of the tempest on the sea, and how Jesus is always present, even in the storms of our lives.

The Church of the Primacy of Peter was next on the route, where the pilgrims meditated on Jesus' love for Peter and for us, and our need for His grace to lead us to live good lives.



The RC consecrated women renew their vows at the Church of the Annunciation.



One of the highlights of the pilgrim experience came next – a visit to the Magdala Center, where the Legion of Christ is constructing a magnificent new pilgrimage center on the site of the town of Magdala, the home of Saint Mary Magdalene. Fr. Juan Solana, LC, rector of Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center and of the Magdala project, presented the new chapel there. Those who had seen the bare shell of the chapel the previous year were amazed at the beauty and quality of the substantially completed and visually stunning chapel.

Fr. Juan discussed how the side chapels illustrate particular themes in the life of Our Lord, and how the columns in the foyer are inscribed with the names of the holy women of the Bible. He said one column is left blank, awaiting inscription of the names of the women of the current time. He also showed the group the nave of the main church and the altar in the shape of Peter's boat. On the walls are striking icons of the twelve apostles and Our Lady.

Then Fr. Juan, Fr. Simon and Fr. James concelebrated Holy Mass for the pilgrims.

The following day, Monday, began with a mini-retreat about the human need for Jesus' touch to heal and transform, to give new life and identity. Then the pilgrims returned to Magdala where the group was given a meditation on the "gaze of Christ."

Following, the pilgrims went to the archaeological site near the chapel, where Fr. Juan Solana explained the importance of the discovery of a first century synagogue, one of only seven such early synagogues in the world, likely a site of an early Christian church as well.

Saying a fond farewell to Magdala, the group traveled to Kursi, the site of Jesus' exorcism of the man possessed by the demons that entered a herd of swine and rushed over a nearby cliff to drown.

Next the group went to

Tabgha to visit the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves, and then they traveled down an interior highway to Bethlehem, where they made a visit to the Holy Family Orphanage, home to many abandoned Palestinian children. The younger children seemed to sense the motherly love of many of the women in the group, especially.

The group retired to the Notre Dame Center, home for the next five days, where the Legionary priests celebrated Holy Mass in the strikingly beautiful chapel.

On Tuesday morning, the pilgrims visited the archaeological site of the Herodion, fortress palace of King Herod outside Jerusalem. The guide described the theological situation at the time of Christ in Judea. From there the group went to Bethlehem, to the Church of the Nativity. The Mass of Christmas was celebrated in the Cave of Saint Jerome, underneath the church, with a profound homiletic meditation on the love of God for all of us. The pilgrims then visited the Nativity grotto, bending low to kiss the silver star, which represents the place of the Savior's birth.

After an early wake-up Wednesday morning, the pilgrims came to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher for Mass at the Tomb of Our Lord at 6:00 a.m. While the two priests offered the Holy Sacrifice in the inner chamber, the pilgrims crowded into the outer chamber, going in pairs into the inner chamber to touch the slab. An atmosphere of deep piety prevailed in the crowded chamber, and Holy Communion was received with great reverence. After breakfast, the group went to pray at the



Mass in the Cave of Saint Jerome under the Church of the Nativity.



Church of Saint Ann, and the birthplace of the Blessed Virgin Mary, now located in the Church crypt, before proceeding to the Church of the Flagellation, to commence the Way of the Cross.

The pilgrims then began the most intense experience of their visit – the Way of Cross on the Via Dolorosa. They carried a wooden cross in teams of four from station to station, while the group sang hymns and listened to a meditation on each station. The Way of the Cross ended in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, after which the pilgrims were able to visit the sites of Jesus' crucifixion, anointing, burial and resurrection, all located under the massive domed roofs of the church.

The weather had turned cold and rainy, so the group was given a free afternoon. Some stayed at Notre Dame while others went to the Church of Saint Peter in Gallicantu to meditate on the condemnation and imprisonment of Our Lord. On the walk back to Notre Dame, the pilgrims' spirits were not dampened as they gratefully sang again "Jesus, it's a Beautiful Day."

The Mount of Olives and Mount Zion were the location of Thursday's trek, as the pilgrims visited the Church of the Ascension, on the site of Jesus' ascension into heaven, followed by a profound visit to the garden of Gethsemane and the Church of the Agony (also called the Church of All Nations) to touch the rock on which Jesus sweat

blood. After a briefing on a site with a panoramic view of Jerusalem, the group went to Dormition Abbey, honoring the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In front of the life-sized representation of Mary's dormition, the group sang a heartfelt Salve Regina. Members of Regnum Christi renewed their commitments before the altar of the Holy Spirit in the crypt.

Next came a visit to the Cenacle (or upper room) where the group sang "Come Holy Ghost" before leaving to make the short walk to Saint Peter in Gallicantu. There the group proceeded to the crypt and lower portions, where the dungeon had housed Jesus on the night of Holy Thursday. Everyone experienced intense emotion at a reading of Psalm 88 and meditation on Our Lord's passion and love for us all.

That evening, pilgrims enjoyed a special dinner served on the splendid rooftop restaurant of Notre Dame. High spirits and a feeling of immense gratitude for the many stages of the journey prevailed.

On Friday, pilgrims traveled to Bethany for Holy Mass at the Church of Martha and Mary. Then they traveled to Jericho, the oldest city in the world, to ascend to the Mount of Temptation, where Jesus spent the forty days of fasting and was tempted by Satan. The group saw a panoramic view of the desert, and visited the Dead Sea, where the intrepid swam in the salty waters.



Mass at Gethsemane in front of the rock on which Jesus prayed and sweat blood.



That night everyone participated in a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration at Gethsemane, in the Church of the Agony. Another group joined the pilgrims for this intense time of prayer, and many members of both groups took advantage of the opportunity for confession with the Legionaries. At the end of the hour, one of the Franciscan custodians unexpectedly suggested a Eucharistic Procession (all agreed) around the garden's ancient olive trees before returning to the Church for Benediction. The pilgrims left with a feeling of profound closeness to Our Lord. To cap off the night, some pilgrims visited the Western Wall for a time of prayer.

Saturday the group departed for home. Some had the chance to revisit the old city one more time. One pilgrim went again to Dormition Abbey to thank Our Lady for her intercession for a successful pilgrimage. He said he could not help but notice the "universality of our faith" at the variety of pilgrims at the site -- Mexican, Brazilian, German, American -- each group having its own character and reaction to the image of Our Lady fallen asleep.

Having deeply experienced on this pilgrimage the love our Lord has for each of us and our union through His death and resurrection, the pilgrims returned to the United States with joy-filled and grateful hearts for the immense gift they had received.

Click [here](#) for a video of the pilgrimage on Facebook.

## **The Power of Women like Sister Cristina**

**Regnum Christi Live – March 25, 2014**  
**By Kelly Luttinen**



*The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” He heard this and said, “Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.” (Matthew 9:11-13)*

Sicilian nun Sister Cristina Scuccia is making a lot of news these days. Everybody seems to be talking about her, so I’m going to jump on the bandwagon.

If you haven’t heard about her, Sister Cristina recently appeared on the Italian version of the television program, *The Voice*, and stunned the audience and the judges with her amazing rendition of Alicia Keys song, “No One.” Check out one of the following links for more details:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/style-blog/wp/2014/03/21/a-catholic-nun-in-full-habit-sang-alicia-keys-on-italys-version-of-the-voice/>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/20/nun-italy-the-voice\\_n\\_5002937.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/20/nun-italy-the-voice_n_5002937.html)

If you are unfamiliar with the program *The Voice*, singers audition for celebrity judges who cannot see them because their backs are turned. If the judges like what they hear, they turn their chair around, and if more than one judge does so, the artist has to choose which one will become their coach for the rest of the season.

It was amazing to see how the audience and judges were so taken with this diminutive little nun, who they exclaimed was “so full of energy.” (Little do they know where that energy comes from, and it’s not coffee.)

I think Sister Cristina is a wonderful illustration of the following quote from Pope Paul VI from his [closing address](#) to women at the Second Vatican Council:

*“...At this moment when the human race is under-going so deep a transformation, women impregnated with the spirit of the Gospel can do so much to aid mankind in not falling.”*

In my opinion, Sister Cristina shows the power of women. All you have to do is look at the tears in the eyes of the tattooed rapper judge, J-Ax, whom she chose to be her mentor, to know that. Women like her, unashamed of their Catholicism and of their true femininity, are the ones that can bring society back to their knees.

I learned from the news stories about Sister Cristina that it was not her own idea to audition for the program, but she did so at the urging of her religious community. During her interview with the program judges, she said she hoped to use the opportunity to evangelize. And, what is interesting to me is that she also let God pick her coach. She apparently decided to choose the judge who turned around first.

All these tidbits tell me she is truly an example of feminine “receptivity” to God, to use terminology coined by Pope John Paul II, discussing what he called the [Feminine Genius](#).

I want to share a quote from [an article](#) by Catholic writer Mary Jo Anderson, describing this Feminine Genius (and I urge you to read her entire piece.)

*This fullness of the feminine vocation is missing in the debate over "power-sharing" in the Church and the insistence on the ordination of women, because the fullness of the human experience can be realized only when the inherent gifts of each gender are ordered to each other.*

In John Paul II’s explanation of this “fullness of human experience,” men, who image God, initiate the gift of self-giving in human relationships, and women, who image the Church (see Ephesians 5) are receptive to it, and they then return that gift. As John Paul II teaches, in this exchange, women show men how to respond to God.

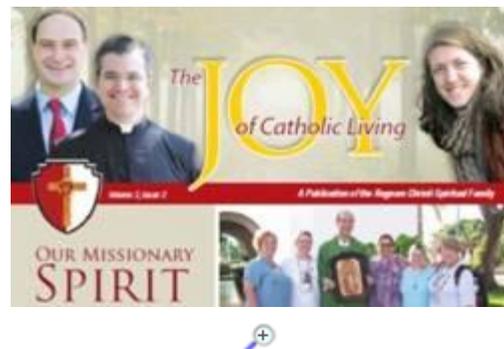
J-Ax initiated the gift by turning his chair. And I make this prediction. He thinks he is going to help make Sister Cristina a star. But this energetic little nun is going to help make him a saint.

## A Time for Service

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

*The 2014 spring edition of the JOY of Catholic Living magazine is on the website and in the mail*

Service activities are the focus of the latest edition of the *JOY of Catholic Living* magazine, now being mailed to donors and friends of Regnum Christi. This spring 2014 edition covers the work of Regnum Christi and the Legion of Christ in medical missions in Quintana Roo, Mexico, and charitable mission work in Haiti. The “Lights of the World” feature story introduces us to Msgr. Simon Assamoah who, with the help of Catholic World Mission, has built fresh water wells for the people in his archdiocese in Ghana, Africa.



In the “Nourishing the Soul” reflection, Fr. Edward McIlmail LC discusses how to live Lent well, and readers can experience what Holy Week will be like with the seminarians in Cheshire, Connecticut. RC consecrated woman Megan McCleneghen, who serves as youth program coordinator for St. Ignatius parish in the Galveston Houston Archdiocese, talks about how she came to be involved in the production of video about vocations.

Click [here](#) to read these features and much more in this latest issue.

# Lucian's Florist

Regnum Christi Live – March 26, 2014  
By Fr Simon Devereux LC



*"To love beauty is to see light." - Victor*

*Hugo*

I was visiting my friend, Lucian's florist store on Whitney Ave in Hamden last Thursday before we went out to Sally's Pizzeria in New Haven (by the way, the Tomato Pie is unbelievable). Lucian shared that years ago he put Jesus in charge of his business. Every day he says, Ok, Boss, what's the plan today? This season he is including a children's book corner in which he'll include lives of the saints. Another example of an apostle at work.

## The Flame of the Mission

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

### *ICAS senior shares his experience going door-to-door*

*Just in time to help prepare us for upcoming Holy Week missions, a senior from Immaculate Conception Apostolic School (Center Harbor, NH), Troy Lawrence, shares with us an article he wrote about his experience doing door-to-door missions with the novices in Cheshire, Connecticut, in December, 2013.*



**By Troy Lawrence**

Shuffling down Birch Street, my hands clenched tightly in my pockets, I

shudder against the cold. A gust of wind sets my teeth chattering, and I scrunch my neck further into the collar of my jacket to preserve some heat. I look to my side at my fellow companion Anselm Kim, a third-year precandidate from South Korea, and catch him studying the tendrils of his breath as it winds its way through the cold December air. He sees me watching him, turns to me, and says, “It’s really great being out here again in Connecticut for missions. I just hope we’ll have more doors opened than slammed today.”

Br. Peter Kang, our mission leader, also South Korean, turns around and encourages us, “It’s all in the Holy Spirit’s hands. We have nothing to worry about.”

“Hey, brothers, are we going to try this next house? It seems as if nobody’s home,” I ask, pointing to

a low, one-story house with a small garden surrounding the path leading to it.

Br. Philip Litchfield, a tall, dark-haired, first-year novice from Indiana, looks up from the map which has all the streets highlighted that we are to visit and shrugs his shoulders. “I guess it’s worth a shot. Troy, remember it’s your turn,” he says to me as he places the map back into our bag full of rosaries and prayer cards. I nod, and we all walk up the short path. Few of the flowers are blooming on either side, now with winter approaching. I ring the doorbell and brush off the sleeves of my jacket. We wait there in silence for a few moments, but no one answers. I turn and give Br. Peter a questioning glance, but he gestures for me to try knocking. I knock a few times, but that too fails to bring anyone to the door. My companions and I turn to leave, making our way down the path.



Troy Lawrence



Back on the sidewalk we only stroll a few yards when an old, red Honda Civic pulls up into the driveway of the house we had just visited. We stop to watch the driver, a tall, young man, step out of the car and sit down on its hood to light a cigarette. His friend gets out of the passenger seat, and she strides immediately to the front door, giving the impression that the man's habit of smoking bothers her.

"Hey!" the man calls out to us as he notices us watching him. "Just wanted to say Hi." He returns his focus on trying to get his lighter to work.

We break from our befuddlement and begin to walk towards him. Br. Philip responds, "We want to say Hi, too." We cover the short distance to him, and Br. Philip introduces us. "Good morning, we are Catholic seminarians. My name is Br. Philip, and this is Br. Peter Kang. We're novices at a seminary down in Cheshire."

"Oh, okay," the man nods his head. He is clean-shaven, but has a chestnut-colored mohawk running down his head. I place him roughly around twenty-six years old. As he gets up to shake our hands, I notice the glint of an earring in his left ear.

Br. Philip continues, "This here is Anselm. Both he and Br. Peter are from South Korea." Indicating me, he adds, "This is Troy. He's from

California. He and Anselm study in a minor seminary up in New Hampshire."

"Nice meetin' you. My name's Kyle." He gives my hand a firm shake and sits back down, transferring his cigarette back to his right hand. "Well, uh, what can I do for you? I myself am not Catholic, but go to this new group down the road. A few of us get together and discuss things among ourselves there."



"Oh, so is it a kind of New Age group?" Br. Peter asks.

"No, not exactly."

"Is it sort of nihilistic?" Br. Philip tries.

“Definitely not. I do believe that there is some all-powerful Being out there.” He pauses to take a puff of smoke, his bright blue eyes gazing at it as it rises up and disperses.

“So then I take it you do believe in an absolute truth,” Br. Philip prompts.

Kyle begins to chuckle to himself and looks down, shaking his head. “I don’t like to go there because that’s where I get in trouble. I think that doing good is very important, but – I don’t know – I just don’t see that doing good ultimately to be rewarded by a Deity is right. Then it becomes selfish and so not actually good. So, yeah, there’s a distinction to be made, and I try to keep my motives pure and do good for its own sake.”

“Well,” I begin, “We have a Mass today at 5:00 PM at Mary, Our Queen Parish, just down Regent Road. We would like you to come. It does us all much good.”

“Actually me and my friend,” he jerks his thumb back to the front door where his friend had entered, “we’re going to a Christmas party, and I don’t think we’ll make it for your Mass.”

“Then why don’t you just stop by and visit? The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed all day, and Our Lord will help you find the answers you seek,” Br. Peter requests. “Oh, and do you have any intentions we could pray for? As seminarians we spend a good portion of our day praying.”

Kyle looks up thoughtfully for a while, rubbing his chin. “How about for world peace,” he finally adds.

“Yes, that’s important. Well then, it was nice meeting you,” says Anselm, “and God bless!”

“Yeah, you too. Take care of yourselves.” He stands up and stamps out his cigarette.

We turn around and walk down his driveway as he heads inside. I



spin around at the last minute and call out after him, “Merry Christmas!” He stops before his front door and looks back at us, a big smile on his face. Giving a final wave, he steps inside.

The wind continues to bluster, scattering leaves around us, but no longer do I feel cold. I tread down Birch Street with a joyful purpose in my step and a sense of contentment and warmth welling up within me. I see the wind no longer as a disturbance but as the Holy Spirit, kindling in me the fire of his love. Each gust stokes the flame, and I make a prayer of thanksgiving, recalling the words of John Paul II: “If you are what you should be, you will set the world ablaze!” Yes, Lord, that is what you are asking of me, to be an instrument bringing your light to the world. You are the truth leading me. Fill me with the passion to evangelize, the flame of the mission.

We turn the corner of the street and tramp up another driveway. Another soul waits behind the façade of the front door, another child of God perhaps estranged from the Father. We knock and wait; the Father calls and waits. A door opens, and a man steps out. A heart opens, and God’s

love and grace rushes in.

## Communion and Cooperation in Evangelizing

### *A meeting to chart the course towards a canonical configuration of Regnum Christi*

Leaders of the different branches of the Regnum Christi movement are working to create an adequate canonical configuration for Regnum Christi as a whole and to agree on a provisory model to foster the communion and cooperation of all the branches in the meantime.



“We sought to identify the principles that should be protected, the mission that God is entrusting to us, the spirit that moves us and the institutional means that we should employ to live it out and so walk together,” said Viviana Limón, a general councilor of the Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi.

The central governments of the Legion of Christ, of the Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi, and of the Consecrated Lay Men of Regnum Christi met March 17 – 19 in Rome. Joining there were the five representatives of the lay members of the first and second degrees of Regnum Christi: Kerrie Rivard (United States), José Antonio Lebrija (Mexico), Lucia Hauser (Germany), Iliano Piccolo (Mexico) and Francisco Gámez (from Venezuela, who participated via Skype).

During the meetings, Bernardo Pérez, a general councilor of the

Consecrated Lay Men of Regnum Christi, said they were seeking “to give continuity to our efforts to delve into the charism of the movement and the specific contribution of each of the vocations that make it up. We are also confronting issues about the way in which we will fulfill the mission together.”

Lucia Hauser, a member of the movement from Germany, said, “We sought to address the principles in order to get at the roots of the issues. Without this clarity, a very well developed set of statutes and guidelines will not be of any use. Each of us should ask himself or herself where we stand and how we want to confront the mission. We can emphasize results, drawing our fulfillment from success, achieving goals, but without fostering mercy. Or we can recognize our own limits, strengths and weaknesses, and emphasize the fact that we are loved. In this way we can seek to serve love from where God has put us in life and so, fulfill our mission as an expression of that love.”

Fr. Juan Sabadell, one of the general councilors of the Legion, said, “It is important to remember that our agreement here is provisional. Sooner or later we will have to adjust it through institutional channels such that, in the light of experience and in mutual dialogue, we will interpret the signs of the times and respond to new situations and hopes.”

Click [here](#) for an article discussing the various documents that resulted from this meeting.

## **Who Cares?**

**Regnum Christi Live – March 27, 2014**  
**By Amelia Hoover**



I believed and still believe that the most important thing to do is God's will – what He wants in my life. I used to think, though, that it didn't matter at all how I felt about what God asked me – no matter how miserable it could make me I would have to suck it up and do it.

There was one day when I was struggling to do something I felt God was asking me to do. I remember going to a chapel and kneeling before Jesus in the Eucharist and telling him, "Lord, who cares if this is going to be hell for me? What matters is that I do what you want." In the silence of my heart I sensed Jesus' answer to my question, "Who cares?"

"I do," he told me.

I realized in that moment that my self-deprecating approach to God's will for me was an insult to his goodness and love.

God's will and my fulfillment are the same. He is a good and loving God who wants what will make me the most happy. That is his will. His will for me is never hell. If he asks me to sacrifice it is because he sees that it will lead to the insurmountable depths of fulfillment that only he knows I can find.

This understanding of who God is has deepened my relationship with him and broadened my vision of his will. Instead of thinking I need to suck it up and do it, I seek how I can encounter his loving hand even in the midst of trials and struggles.

# Why LORD?

**Regnum Christi Live – March 28, 2014**  
**By Rachel Peach**



I've been on a quest since January. Ok, maybe it's been longer -- more like the past year and a half. Why a king, and how a kingdom?

Especially this lent, the word "LORD" has been jumping out at me in the daily mass readings. It's a substitute for "Yahweh," the name God revealed to Moses and the Israelite people on Sinai in forming a covenant relationship with them. The title LORD has a kingly connotation, because in entering into a covenant with Yahweh, the Israelites accepted him as their king.

The tenderness of the heart of the LORD, expressed through the liturgy this past week, has been blowing my mind:

Psalm 103: "The LORD is kind and merciful...he pardons all your iniquities, he heals all your ills...he will not always chide, not keep his wrath forever...as far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us."

Isaiah 7: "The LORD himself will give you a sign...Emmanuel...God with us!"

Deuteronomy 4: “What nation is there that has gods so close to it as the LORD, our God, is to us whenever we call him?”

Psalms 147: “Praise the LORD, Jerusalem...he has blessed your children within you. He has not done thus for any other nation.”

Jeremiah 7: “Thus says the LORD...listen to my voice; then I will be your God and you shall be my people. Walk in all the ways I command you so that you may prosper.”

Hosea 14: “Thus says the LORD: return, O Israel, to the LORD, your God...I will heal their defection, says the LORD, I will love them freely...”

What a different take to the concept of kingship!

Reveal your heart to me, O LORD!

## Advice for the Soul

| WHO WE ARE | NEWS

### *Archbishop Allen Vigneron visits Everest Collegiate High School to share some of his wisdom with the students*

**Clarkston, Michigan** -- “I’m 65 years old. Old people like to give advice.”

These are the words of Detroit Archbishop Allen Vigneron to the seniors of [Everest Collegiate High School](#) in Clarkston, Michigan. The archbishop is taking a tour of the Detroit-area Catholic high schools to impart to them a bit of his wisdom before they move onto their life beyond school.

He visited Everest Collegiate on March 25, 2014, saying Mass for the teachers and high school students, and then holding a special audience with the



Archbishop Allen Vigneron talks to the senior class at Everest Collegiate High School. (Photo by EC student Bradley Mansour.)



seniors scheduled to graduate on May 18 of this year.

“For me, this is the great privilege of being a priest,” he told the students.

“My job is to be a bit of a coach to help you do your job more effectively, to participate more fully. God wants your help.”

### **The Mass**

During his homily, using the occasion of what he called the “Great Feast” of the Annunciation, he reminded the students that they have been created by God for a special purpose in life. But they must choose to achieve that purpose.

“Every human being is a center of choice. You are free. This is what it means to be a human -- to be free, to make choices.

“Our Lord invited Our Lady to her vocation, and she said yes. It was a watershed moment. She said yes, and everything has been different ever since. The world is made new. Her creator became her child. She became his protector. There was a union of two wills.”

Mary conformed her will to God’s, the Archbishop said, in the same way that Jesus conformed His will to the Father’s. He told the students that, by their presence at Mass, they and all Catholics join themselves with Jesus in sacrificial love to the Father.

“That is why you are here today to make an offering of yourself in the Eucharist.

“My responsibility

is to take you at your word. I believe you freely want to make a gift of yourself to God with Jesus. I become the instrument by which your Yes is lifted up to the Father.

“I know it isn’t easy. It takes courage. It might be very difficult to say yes to God. You might think you have a better way. But God’s will is not without sacrifice. Love and sacrifice go together. Ask yourself, when is your sacrifice worthwhile?”

### **Senior Class Audience**

After Mass, when he was with the seniors, he shared his own particular story of being called the priesthood.

“I also wanted to be a farmer, but that didn’t pan out,” he joked.

He said he had always been attracted, from the very early age of 7, to the things of the Catholic faith like Mass and the Eucharist.

“I liked going to Mass,” he said. “It meant a lot to me. At each stage of my life, I continued to be attracted.”

He said he finally decided for the priesthood and entered the seminary when he was 20 years of age, but not without a period of struggle.

“1968 was a very confusing time for the church and the country,” he said, recalling the unrest during the Civil Rights movement, the Vietnam War, and what he called the “crazy ideas” ideas going around.

“I wasn’t sure I wanted to put up with all that confusion,” he said. “There was a temptation to cowardice, to take the easy way.”



Archbishop Allen Vigneron during the consecration, with Fr. Steve Pullis. (Photo by EC student Bradley Mansour.)



But then he said he asked himself, "If Christ was willing to go through hard times, shouldn't I be?"

"I stayed," he said.

He gave some specific suggestions to the seniors about what to do to stay strong in their own faith after graduation.

"Your Catholic education has helped to shape and direct your talents so you have something offer."

He urged the students to consider the question, "What did God make me for? How am I going to spend my life?"

"If you do what God made you for, you will be very happy," he assured them.

"There are so many wonderful things to explore as you go off to higher education. Know its goodness and thank God for it."

He told them not to let the world intimidate them. "Don't feel you have to be defensive about bringing your faith to what you study. The Church has a rich history of intellectualism. Our faith has resources to deal with any question. There is truth. There is no conflict between [what we choose for] our profession and being a Christian."

He also told them very sharply, "Go to Mass!"

"Stay with it, for your sake and for the church's sake" he said. "You have a lot to contribute. Don't let your friend Jesus down."

When asked if they had any questions for him, one young lady asked the Archbishop if he wanted them to bring any of his prayer intentions with them on their upcoming Senior Trip to the Holy Land during Holy Week.

"I

ask that you pray for more vocations in the archdiocese,” he said. He specifically requested that they make their prayer while in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, putting their hands on the slab where the Lord’s body lay.



EC students perform the song "For Good" for the Archbishop.



Also during the audience, some of the Everest students, who will perform in the upcoming Spring Musical, sang a special song for the Archbishop, “For Good” from the Broadway show *Wicked*.

Visibly moved, the Archbishop said he felt another sermon coming on.

Referencing the mention of the demands of friendship in the lyrics, he dovetailed his discussion of his priestly discernment struggle with what goes on in all relationships, coming to the crossroads of conflict and fighting.

“Then you either patch it up or give up,” he said, and move toward “making a commitment.”

Relationships are at the heart of what it means to be a human being, he said. “Friendship is unconditional because of the gift of Christ.”

The Archbishop mentioned how the song points out the possibility of separation in this life. He assured his audience that they “will see one another again” because of Christ. “Relationships have been preserved from the corrosion of time and death.”

### **Time with the teachers**

After the students departed



With the Kindergarten students before Mass.



for class, the Archbishop took some time to meet with the high school teachers to encourage them and answer their questions.

He quoted Socrates, who said teachers are “midwives to the soul.”

He suggested they work to make their students “self starters” who can find the answers to the questions the world will present to them. “Give them places to go for answers.”

He told them to challenge their students not to be “tacit,” but to go forth with conviction and meet those people who reject the truth with patience and love.

When asked how they should help the students confront the inevitability of

suffering, the Archbishop said, “Even in suffering, there is the joy of knowing God. There is joy that comes from the Gospel, and in suffering for the Gospel.”

Jim Fair  
Communications Director  
Legion of Christ  
312-953-9864