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# REGNUM CHRISTI NEWS OF THE WEEK

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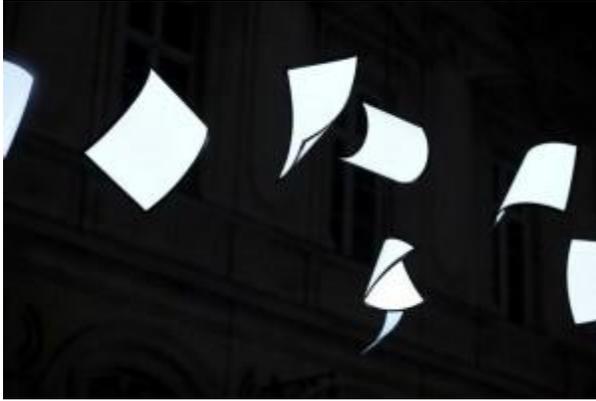
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# Paper chase

Regnum Christi Live – March 3, 2014

By Fr McKenzie LC



Friday was a hard day at school. One of the most beloved teachers was diagnosed with cancer a few months back, and Friday morning the principal explained to the kids how “we’re not sure if she’ll get better.” Everyone was sad, distraught, confused, worried, fearful... you name it.

I had to celebrate and preach at the all-school mass in the afternoon – but about what? How could I help these kids who were suffering so much trying to understand why God would allow their beloved teacher to suffer?

Thankfully the Gospel of the day was about taking up your cross, so I prepared a homily all about that. I thought it was good. 45 minutes before mass, I went to the front row of the chapel to fine tune my homily. As I sat there reflecting, some commotion outside caught my eye through the window. Papers were blowing all across the sidewalk in front of the school.

It was a blustery day beyond compare, so no wonder the papers were blowing all over the place.

For a moment I hesitated between the two possibilities: “go and help”, or “stay and polish my homily.” “Go and help” won, though another “gosh, I never get time to polish my homilies” passed through my head as I walked out the door of the chapel.

I was hoping it would be just a few papers, but as I stepped from the doorway my hopes of a quick cleanup were shattered. Hundreds – yes – hundreds of papers were strewn across the grass, the parking lot, and the

playground. Two students had been carrying a recycling bin full of papers between buildings when a gale-force wind had hit them.

I started grabbing the little white squares left and right. The students couldn't help because they had their hands full just holding onto the papers left in the bin. The only other help was one of the school moms who had seen the disaster happen and had come to help.

But as both of us rounded the corner of the building, a sorry spectacle spread before our eyes. Papers of all sorts had blown to the farthest reaches of the school property. Many up to 500 feet away, some pinned against fences, others caught in pools of water or mud left over from the melting snow. "I'm going to be here all afternoon," I thought, spirits sinking.

And then it happened. One of the side doors of the school opened and out poured a slew of second-graders. They looked so happy and energetic, at first I thought they were coming out to recess.

But no. In a flash, all of them, boys and girls, slow and fast, had spread to the farthest corners of the school grounds, grabbing the lost papers.

After that, things were a cinch. What would have taken me two hours to do took two minutes. The second graders had saved the day! Though a bit cold and wet and muddy, they had performed a powerful act of charity.

As I sat back down in the chapel to work on the homily, a thought slowly grew in my mind. "God just gave me a much better homily than the one I had prepared."

I gave in. My homily would be the story of the second-graders and the runaway papers. What better way to explain suffering!!!

The poor students who had the papers ripped away from them by the wind, what could they see? Only a big disaster. So too are we most often. We can only see our suffering. It's hard for us to understand how God can have a plan in all of this, why God permits the suffering.

For the second-graders, the disaster of the wind-swept papers was a welcome 10-minute break from a day of class, and a wonderful opportunity to exercise charity. Really! Those kids were braving mud and puddles and soggy grass, and – what's more – the possibility of getting in trouble later

for their clothes being dirty. As I poked my head into their classroom afterwards to thank them, I found them feverishly trying to clean the muck off, but I also found them with huge smiles on their faces.

God has a plan, and when we're the ones suffering, we can't see the fullness of His plan. All we can do is trust that He, in His goodness, on His time, will make things work out for the best.

No disaster of the papers, no chance for the second-graders to shine.

I know I don't understand why God lets our beloved teacher suffer, but God does. And we have to trust Him. Trust that just around the corner of the building lies the fullness of His plans. And His plans are always better than ours.

## **Holy Week Retreat**

### ***Young women ages 16 - 20 are invited to Mater Ecclesiae College for Holy Week 2014***

Young women ages 16 – 20 are invited to experience Holy Week 2014 with the Regnum Christi consecrated women at Mater Ecclesiae College in Greenville, Rhode Island.

The retreat will begin on Wednesday of Holy Week and come to close with the celebration of Easter Sunday.

Participants will have the opportunity for Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, spiritual direction, meditations on the Gospel, recitation of the rosary and personal prayer.



The cost to attend is \$95. For more information, contact Michelle Reiff at [mreiff@regnumchristi.net](mailto:mreiff@regnumchristi.net)

## Lent Begins

Regnum Christi Live – March 4, 2014  
By Fr Michael Sliney LC



I propose the following three "sacrifices" for Lent:

1. Pray more and pray better- perhaps going to daily Mass a few days a week, meditating on Scripture, making more time for adoration/Eucharistic visits, or the daily rosary.
2. Choose the most difficult person in your life and make a real effort to practice extra patience and love toward that person.
3. Small sacrifice in food or drink that could be an attachment in your life...as a means to foster greater self discipline, detachment, and love for Our Lord.

## Chivalry at the Heart

## *Pinecrest Academy celebrates holiday with unique tradition*

Chivalry is alive and well at Pinecrest Academy in Cumming, Georgia, illustrated by the schools' unique celebration of Valentine's Day. The high school began this tradition in 2007.



This year on the first school day following February 14, 2014, while the high school girls observed from first, second and third floor windows, the 9th through 11th grade boys gathered behind the school to form the image of a giant heart. Then the 12th grade boys ran through the heart, forming an arrow.

Afterwards, the high school girls were invited to go outside and be presented with a flower through a receiving line at the doorway.

# Are you really ready for Lent?

Regnum Christi Live – March 4, 2014  
By Fr Martin Connor LC



I consider the season of Lent one of the most critical times of the year given that we Catholics (priests included!!) have to endure the excessive poison of narcissism that is all around us in our current culture. How very spiritually oppressive and paralyzing it can be to us! All of us know (to some extent) the very power of selfishness that is within each of us and outside of us. It is not very pretty –to say the least!!!

In the Church's wisdom, the season of Lent proposes to stir in us a deeper love and reflection of what Christ actually did for us, to move us out of our self-serving mode of being into a more self-less "other centered" mode of being like our Lord himself lived. Prayer, fasting and Almsgiving are the order of the day and begins with Ash Wednesday.

I offer you some possible resolutions that you could commit to, so that this season truly is one of a deeper conversion: a "drinking in" of the pure air that our Catholic Faith affords us, and a purifying of bad selfish habits for more "life-giving" habits in your life.

I invite you to choose at least 2 from each if not three and stretch yourself in consultation with your spiritual guide if need be should you be fortunate to have one. Remember God can never be out done in generosity!

### **Prayer:**

- 1) Buy a prayer book if you do not have one already and commit to saying everyday a morning offering to begin your day. The Catholic free app LAUDATE will get you started!
- 2) If you feel you are beyond the novice stage then dedicate 15-30 minutes of meditation time on the Gospel. The resources available abound. I attach a list of books I would recommend.
- 3) If you really want to “ratchet-it-up” then commit to a weekly holy hour before the Eucharist and to really stretch yourself do it between 11pm and 8am. You will be tired but so was Christ in the garden of Gethsemane.
- 4) Go to mass at least one more time during the week besides Sunday and either arrive early or stay after for an extra 5 minutes. Slow down.

### **Fasting (sacrifice):**

- 1) Spend your first 5 minutes of the day on your knees as you begin your day in thanksgiving.
- 2) Food: no “second portions” at any meal for the whole of Lent; eat less of what you like and more of what you do not like;
- 3) No alcohol. Period. No exceptions. No coffee. Period. No exceptions.
- 4) Music/talk shows/noise in the car: “turn it off”. None of it while you are in the car. If you can’t do the “whole time” then do a portion of it.
- 5) Commit to having a family meal more than once a week with all the family members present! Dad should initiate this.
- 6) No TV. Spend that time with your wife or with your children or reading something that stimulates your spiritual life.
- 7) No cell phone after you arrive home from work. Leave it off till the next morning or if that is impossible leave it in your room during all meal times especially dinner. Silence is your best friend!

 ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONES AT SUNDAY MASS (ANY MASS). LEAVE IT IN YOUR CAR OR BETTER LEAVE IT AT HOME!

## **Alms giving (service)**

- 1) Do some act of service (even better if it is hidden) for your family or friends every week but plan on it, do it intentionally –do not think it will just “happen”! It won’t. (Examples: fold the laundry, clean some part of the house, clear the table or do the dishes without someone having to ask you) Your children are watching your example.
- 2) Commit your whole family to go to the parish Lenten mission for at least one day of the mission. Make sure all have the opportunity for confession. You go first.
- 3) Weekly reading and discussion of the Sunday Gospel at the end of dinner to prepare and enrich the experience of Sunday mass.
- 4) Encourage all the family members to fill up a jar in the kitchen with loose change/bills that will go to the less fortunate people of this world. Plenty of causes are out there. This idea is as old as Christmas in the Church.
- 5) Offer up one meal that you would normally go out for and give that money to the cause of the Kingdom!
- 6) Set aside an hour (or more if necessary) during Lent to examine how much you actually tithe (10 percent) each year to God. Do the math. The numbers will not lie. Once you have the number commit to increasing it by 2 percent if necessary.
- 7) Commit to some local service project and invite the family along. This takes organizing the calendar. Get organized.

## **Some guidelines offered by our own Archbishop Wilton here in Atlanta:**

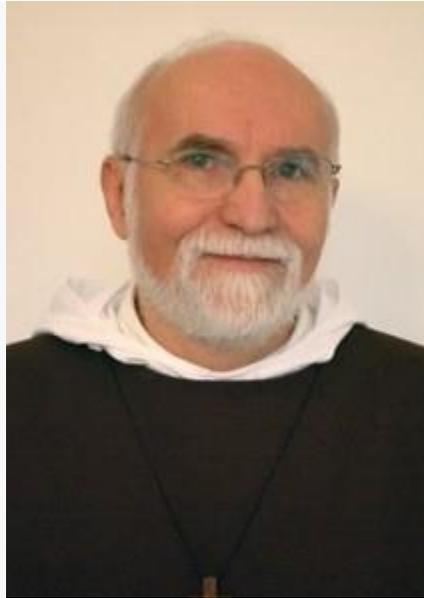
Lent is a season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In order to see that our preparation for Easter has a communal, and not just an individual dimension, the Church gives us certain norms for a common Lenten observance. The Lenten guidelines for the Archdiocese of Atlanta are as follows:

The following fasting and abstinence regulations are observed throughout Lent:

- Abstinence from meat is observed on Ash Wednesday (March 5), Good Friday (April 18) and all the Fridays of Lent by all Catholics 14 years of age and older.
- Fasting is observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59 years of age. Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted as necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.
- Those who are sick, pregnant, or nursing, or whose health would be adversely affected by fasting or abstinence should not consider themselves bound by these norms.
- During the season of Lent, we are all called to embrace penances and to perform works of charity that reflect our desire for conversion of heart. Let us all pray fervently for those Catechumens and Candidates who will celebrate the Easter Sacraments with us this year. May this Lent lead us all to a deeper union in Christ with one another.

## **Lent 2014 -- first of series of weekly reflections**

**Regnum Christi Live – March 5, 2014**  
**By Paola Trevino**



*Fr Jacques Philippe*

A few weeks ago, I attended a conference with Fr. Jacques Philippe. The title was: "interior peace". Yes, peace, a very much-needed virtue these days. Peace in a world that's runs all day long; peace in a world were violence seems to be the way to solve problems; peace in a world were changes are part of daily living; peace in a world were music, video games, TV, and Internet, rule. Peace: something I personally need much more.

At the end of the conference someone asked Fr. Jacques Philippe "Father, you are so happy, always smiling, how do you do it?"

"We'll you know the beatitude of blessed are the poor in spirit... I can truly tell you, I'm the poorest man in the world, but I'm the happiest man in the world," he answered.

Wow, that really struck me. The poorest and the happiest -- that doesn't make any sense. Then I started reflecting on all my mission trips, and most of the comments (the "take always") have been along the same line: "Here having nothing I was the happiest person; the people here have nothing and are so happy, they give us the little they have..."

Ok, there has to be a lesson here. Then, I came across Pope Francis' message for Lent all about poverty! Ok, it is clear, or at least I will try to make it clear: Poverty may help us to archive PEACE/happiness.

So for the next five weeks we will reflect on poverty to see what we can gain. During this lent I invite all, not only to give up, but also to gain a lot. Gain that inner peace, that happiness that we are all longing for and that only Christ can give us.

## On the Radio

*Regnum Christi members are featured on the "In the Arena" radio show in New York City area*

Members of the Regnum Christi movement have been featured on recent editions of the radio program "[In the Arena](#)" on WOR 710 AM in the New York City area.



Brenner LeCompte (right) is interviewed on the "In the Arena" program.

On the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord this year, RC member Brenner LeCompte was one of four representatives discussing ecclesial movements in the Catholic Church. The host also interviewed members of Opus Dei, the Catholic charismatic movement and the Communion and Liberation movement. Brenner does an excellent job discussing the place of Regnum Christi in the Church at this point in history. His interview takes place toward the end of the program, at approximately the 36-minute mark. Click [here](#) for the interview on Youtube.

On the February 23, 2014, program, financial expert Stephen Auth talked about his involvement in the Lumen apostolate of Regnum Christi, and how the Catholic Church views financial stewardship. Click [here](#) for the interview on Youtube.

## Process Reviewed and Adapted

## *The Regnum Christi consecrated women make changes to vocational discernment and formation*

The consecrated women of Regnum Christi have reviewed and adapted their process of vocational discernment and formation, according to recently appointed National Vocation Director Michelle Reiff.



“In December 2013, we celebrated our General Assembly, in which our statutes were approved by Cardinal Velasio DePaolis, the Papal Delegate charged with the renewal of the Legion of Christ and Regnum Christi,” she said. “One important thing we realized during this time of renewal was the need for more thorough vocational discernment, which we are now implementing and have described in our statutes.”

The General Assembly confirmed the process as follows:

- Women who believe God may be calling them to RC consecrated life should attend a program of discernment for six weeks in the summer.
- This program will be followed by a two-year Candidacy in which the women enter the consecrated community, but do not take vows. They will live a period of deep prayer and discernment of their vocation to RC consecrated life and the movement’s mission to evangelize.
- At the end of those two years, if the women in discernment, and their consecrated spiritual directors, see signs of a clear call, they make their first temporary vows of consecration for three years. During that time they will study (at Mater Ecclesiae College in Greenville, Rhode Island) toward a bachelor’s degree in Religious and Pastoral Studies with a minor in philosophy and a specialization in communication in a global society. (Go to this link for curriculum information: <http://www.mecollege.edu/academics/academicprogram.html>.)

At the end of the three years, if they and their formators continue to see a clear call, they will renew their temporary vows for another three years and move into one of the RC consecrated communities of apostolate throughout the world, where they will experience living their vocation, both in community

and in active apostolate. At the end of these three years (a total of eight years of discernment) they will make their final, definitive vows.

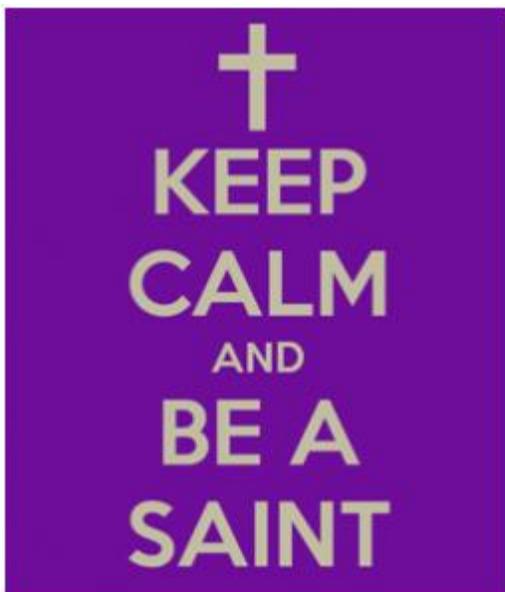
Michelle said she has informed the diocesan bishops where the RC consecrated women live and work of these new procedures. “We want them to be aware of the changes since we know that this is an area of concern for some people,” she said.

“Discerning vocations and forming young people for future ministry takes specialized, experienced personnel,” she said. “We are investing time and resources to better educate ourselves as spiritual directors and formators. I would appreciate your prayers as we seek to build a solid foundation for our future.”

## **It is easy to become a saint**

**Regnum Christi Live – March 6, 2014**

**By Br Antonio Lemos LC**



Every week I need to prepare a presentation on the life of a saint for the Conquest club boys here in San Jose, California. The boys' ages range from 8 to 11 years old. I always try to choose a saint to whom they can easily relate. Last week I spoke about St Dominic Savio, who was an example of Christian virtue at a young age.

It is funny how every week I am deeply touched by the stories that I prepare for the boys. This time what struck me most was Dominic's deep desire to become a saint.

When he was 12 years old he listened to a sermon about sainthood from his spiritual guide, St John Bosco – it changed his life. Three points called his attention:

1. That it is God's Will for every person to become a saint.
2. That it is easy to become a saint.
3. That there is a great reward in heaven awaiting those who try to become saints.

At first, despite wanting more than anything else to be holy, the young Dominic was a little confused on the "how." Then, St John Bosco told him, "The way to be a saint, Dominic, is to be always cheerful, do your duties to the best of your ability, and give your classmates good example. Keep in mind that the Lord Jesus is always with you and wants your happiness."

This lesson brought me a lot of consolation, because it helped me understand that Jesus would not ask us something that we cannot accomplish. He actually gives us the tools to become saints in our daily lives: it is as easy as living cheerfully and doing our ordinary duties for Christ as best we can.

Dominic died at the age of 14, and he was canonized a saint on June 12, 1954, by Pope Pius XII, making him the youngest non-martyr to be canonized in the Catholic Church. His feast is celebrated on March 6.

## **Called to Create**

***Artists gather at retreat in Cincinnati to ponder John Paul II's "Letter to Artists"***

The first annual Catholic retreat for artists, sponsored by Regnum Christi, took place at the Milford Retreat Center in Cincinnati, Ohio from January 10-12, 2014. The “Called to Create” retreat gathered participants of all ages who came to pray, celebrate Mass and engage in group discussions on Pope John Paul II’s [Letter to Artists](#).



There was also time for the artists to share their own artwork creations with one another.

“The goal was for them to strengthen the connection between their vocation as Catholics and their vocation as artists,” said one of the organizers, Fr. John Bullock, LC. “The two go hand in hand, since the person is one, and art is merely an expression of what is inside the person.”

One of the participants, a freelance artist, said of the retreat experience, “I just want to stay here!”

The group’s next activity will be a workshop in Louisville, Kentucky on

May 24, 2014. For more information  
contact Laura Kline  
at [rck941@twc.com](mailto:rck941@twc.com).



One of the participants with  
her artwork



## Hope of a nation

Regnum Christi Live – March 7, 2014  
By Fr Simon Devereux LC



*“The main hope of a nation lies in the  
proper education of its youth.” – Erasmus*

I spent last weekend at a New Hampshire boarding school run by my brother Legionaries.

It was a joy to be with these young men during the daily celebration of the Eucharist and see them studying, playing basketball and cleaning the house. A great peace and enthusiasm pervades the whole school.

Please pray for the seniors as they discern whether or not God is inviting them to enter our novitiate in Connecticut this summer.

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