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REGNUM CHRISTI NEWS OF THE WEEK

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Lent Week 5: Spiritual poverty

Regnum Christi Live – April 7, 2014

By Paola Trevino



From the Holy Father: "The Gospel is the real antidote to spiritual destitution: wherever we go, we are called as Christians to proclaim the liberating news that forgiveness for sins committed is possible, that God is greater than our sinfulness, that he freely loves us at all times and that we were made for communion and eternal life. The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It means following and imitating Jesus, who sought out the poor and sinners as a shepherd lovingly seeks his lost sheep."

Reflection: Pause for a moment and reflect on God's love and presence in the world. Thank God for all He has done for you; think of your "crosses" and see how He has been with you through all of them.

Action:

- Write five things you believe in
- Kneel in front of a crucifix, fix your eyes on him and repeat this prayer three times: "Lord you have done all this for me. What have I done for you?"

A New Holy Place is Born

ISRAEL | WHO WE ARE | NEWS

On May 28, 2014, the "Duc in Altum" Church at the

Magdala Center will be dedicated

In 2004 the Legion of Christ and the Regnum Christi movement began a steady presence in the Holy Land, commissioned by Blessed John Paul II to manage the Pontifical Institute Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center. During that time, they have been building on the shore of the Sea of Galilee in the town of Migdal, the Magdala Center to serve pilgrims to Israel.

The project began with approval on October 7, 2007, by Archbishop Michel Sabbah, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, and later with the blessing of the first stone by Pope Benedict XVI on May 11, 2009, and the start of construction on December 30 of the same year.

With hard work and dedication this new pilgrim center has reached an important goal. It is expected that Pope Francis, during his upcoming trip to the Holy Land, will bless the sanctuary of the new church of Magdala Center in a private ceremony. On May 28, 2014, Fouad Twal, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, will celebrate the rite of dedication at the "Duc in Altum" church in the Magdala Center. The ceremony will be preceded by the opening of Magdala Archaeological Park, with the participation of local authorities.

The "Duc in Altum" (translated from Latin as "Into the Deep") sanctuary has a main chapel preceded by an octagonal atrium. Each of the pillars of the court is dedicated to one of the women who accompanied and helped Jesus in his public life. The architectural complex also has four smaller chapels for up to 50 people each. Below



In front of the Duc in Altum Chapel are (left to right) Fr. Eamon Kelly, LC, with Bishop William Shomali, Bishop Maroun Lahham, Bishop Giacinto-Boulos Marcuzzo and Fr. Juan María Solana, LC.



the church is a crypt with an ecumenical chapel, including a specially decorated floor honoring Jesus' time in this city by the sea.

The new church will be part of the larger complex which will include in the future: a shelter to house pilgrims visiting the Holy Land; a place to show a multimedia message on the life of Jesus and the history of the area; a center that promotes human dignity and the vocation of women, inspired by the figure of Mary Magdalene; the preservation and exhibition of the ruins of a synagogue from the time of Jesus.

In a letter dated June 26, 2012, Archbishop Fouad Twal adopted the name of the church, "Duc in Altum," and gave approval to the chapel altar, which is shaped like a boat.

Bishop Giacinto-Boulos Marcuzzo, Auxiliary Bishop and Patriarchal Vicar to Israel for Galilee, is offering counsel in all that relates to issues of ecumenism for the center.

Fr. Arturo Diaz , LC, a member of the Legion community living in the Holy Land, said, "For every priest, being in the Holy Land is a very special grace, but it is more so if you live here, next to the Sea of Galilee. Besides being the city where Christ met Mary Magdalene, Magdala was likely on His tour of cities and synagogues in Galilee during His public ministry. It offers a magnificent view...the lake shore, the mountains, roads...with all this, we can guess what it will mean for the millions of pilgrims who come



Visiting bishops examining the octagonal atrium



View of the Sea of Galilee.

here over time."



Alessandra Soldati, a consecrated member of Regnum Christi who arrived with the first group dedicated to forming a community in the Holy Land on December 3, 2004, said: "This starts an important stage in the mission of the family of Regnum Christi in the Holy Land. This mission actually began in 2005 and continues to move forward through the efforts of Legionaries of Christ, Regnum Christi members and many others. Now that construction is finished in the "Duc in Altum" sanctuary, it is an opportunity to invite others to have the same experience of Peter casting his nets in the 'deep,' becoming apostles of Christ's message.

"This event is very important for the Church in the Holy Land, because the Magdala Center is a Christian/Catholic project, located at a strategic location at a crossroads where all the pilgrims who visit the Sea of Galilee from various nationalities and religious denominations come, including bishops, priests and members of various congregations and movements. This church is the first stage of the whole project of Magdala Center. There is still much to be done. We need to pray that we will get the help needed to do this work God has placed in our hands."

Fr. Juan Solana, LC, head of the Pontifical Institute Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center and director of the Magdala project, said, "For me it's a dream come true. A dream that came from the heart of God, who loves the church, who loves His Holy Land and who loves women...For me it is a special grace for my priesthood and my experience of Christ. It is an Evangelical Holy Place that God, in His providence, has entrusted to the Legion of Christ and Regnum Christi, especially in these difficult years in our history. Thanks to everyone. Your



An aerial view of the entire center.



support and enthusiasm have been essential. I think it will be a very special place to share our charism with people around the world."

You can learn more about the inauguration of the Magdala Center [here](#).

Holy Week Mercy Missions

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

It is not too late to get involved with local Mission Youth activities in your area

How can we accompany our Lord during this holiest of seasons? Mission Youth is featuring a series of Holy Week Mercy Missions throughout the country on its webpage [here](#). This year, Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 13, 2014, and there is still time to get



involved!

Missions are being organized in the areas of Atlanta, Georgia (click [here](#)); Chicago, Illinois (click [here](#)); Cincinnati, Ohio (click [here](#)); Dallas, Texas (click [here](#)); Detroit, Michigan (click [here](#)); Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (click [here](#)); and New York City, New York (click [here](#)).

Mission participants are high school-aged men and women, as well as families, including all ages. The cost to participate is usually \$15 per person or \$30 per family.

Although the activities and participation varies from location to location, basic commonality surrounds the structure of these Holy Week events.

On the Mission Youth website, it says that “Holy Week Missions are an evangelization project of Mission Youth to serve bishops and parish priests across the United States. Holy Week Missions are a transforming experience which seeks to bring the message of Christ to the world. In the year 2000 Mission Youth organized its first Holy Week Missions in the Catholic Archdioceses of Atlanta and Sacramento. Today, in 2014, we are present in 8 dioceses throughout the United States, where over 1,000 missionaries serve during Holy Week.”

In response to God’s commandment of love and His call to be a missionary of His Gospel, Mission Youth adopted the general theme of “Mercy” in 2012. Missionaries not only share their faith in communities door-to-door, but are involved in projects based on their local community needs. The website states that missionaries “give themselves in humanitarian/ service projects” such as “cleaning a house for a poor family, painting or building a roof for a trailer, building a grotto for Our Lady, feeding the homeless, preparing an Easter carnival for underprivileged kids,” etc.

Activities take place during the Holy Triduum, beginning on Holy Thursday, into Good Friday, the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening and Easter Sunday.

Go to the Mission Youth [website](#) for more information on missions in your local area and to volunteer.

Why do we sacrifice during Lent?

Regnum Christi Live – April 8, 2014
By Fr Simon Devereux LC



"But he was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed." - Isaiah 53:5

My friend's 13-year daughter drew this picture of Jesus. She explained that she was up late one night thinking about the meaning of Lent and why we sacrifice things during that time. She really thought hard about the ultimate sacrifice that Christ made for us and how he suffered and this is what she envisioned and decided to draw as a reminder of that sacrifice.

What might God be asking you to offer up? Have you asked him with an open heart?

A MAP for North America

Territorial Directors issue updated Mission Action Plan for Regnum Christi to better serve the Church

Following is a letter from the Territorial Directors regarding the Legion of Christ and Regnum Christi Mission Action Plan for North America. Click [here](#) to see the Plan.



To all Legionaries of Christ and Regnum Christi members

Dear friends in Christ,

As many of you will recall, in 2011 we engaged the services of the Adizes Institute to help the Legion and Regnum Christi in North America devise a plan to pull out of what can objectively be called a time of crisis. That plan was intended to get us to a better place by this year. Thanks primarily to Divine Providence, but also to the hard work of all of you, we are in a far better position than we were in 2011. Many of the serious issues and points of tension in the territory have been addressed and if they have not yet been solved, they have a clear path to resolution. So, we now find ourselves in need of a new plan.

Since we had to wait until we finished the general chapter and assemblies, we could not really start the planning process. Like last time, we would like to involve everyone (Legionaries, consecrated men and women, and non-consecrated RC members) in the process, but it will take some time for all of us to assimilate the documents.

At the same time, the territory needs something that will keep us all headed in the same direction for at least another year. This becomes especially critical right now since most localities are in the midst of their yearly planning and would like some direction. For that reason, we met with our councils and various members of the territorial staff to review the current Mission Action Plan (MAP) and update it. What we are sending you now is basically the same Mission Action Plan as before, but with some changes that try to remove aspects that are outdated, renew some of the language in the document, and add key elements from the two Statutes, the revised Constitutions, and the General Chapter Communiques.

Over the next several months we will be working as a territory to further

define some basic aspects of how the territory will operate on the different levels. Once those operational elements are in place and the plane is ready to fly, so to speak, we can then set more precise coordinates for our long-term journey.

We pray that the Lord help us all to discern well the path that the Holy Spirit wants us to follow.

Sincerely yours in Christ and Movement,

*Fr Luis Garza, LC
Reinhardt*

Territorial Director

Director of the Legionaries of Christ

Women

Regnum Movement of Regnum Christi

Christi

Nancy Nohrden

Territorial Director of the

Consecrated

Lay Consecrated Men

and of the

of Regnum

Matthew

Territorial

Special thank you note to my mom...perhaps an idea for all of you?

**Regnum Christi Live – April 9, 2014
By Fr Michael Sliney LC**



Dear Mom, in Christ,

I have always wanted to thank you in a more sincere and complete way, as it seems that my little postcards and poems have only touched the surface of my gratitude for all that you have done for me.

1. Thank you for the gift of my life. You gave birth to me after two difficult miscarriages when you were almost 40 years old. You could have stopped being open to life, but because you said yes, I am here today. Thank you as well for praying the rosary every day for me while I was still in the womb...not a coincidence that I was born on the feast day of the Blessed Mother's parents (July 26) and baptized on the Feast of the Assumption (August 15). Thank you as well for placing the beautiful grotto of the Blessed Mother in our back yard, directly outside my bedroom window and for the painting of the Sacred Heart in our main hallway...powerful visuals that helped shape my early Faith.

2. Thank you, mom, for the incredible witness of your own Faith. You attended the 6:15 AM daily Mass at St. Hugo's for most of your adult life, you went to Confession regularly, prayed the daily rosary, asked us to pray for the hurting soul when an ambulance went by, and before leaving on road trips for a safe journey...and as a result of this daily torrent of grace coming into your soul, you found the strength to joyfully accept God's plan in your life, both in good times and bad. Losing a son and shortly afterwards losing a husband broke your heart, but you continued to trust in Christ. As your son, I was carefully watching and learning from your magnanimity and trust during these dark and dreary days for you and our family. Your constant and loving devotion to Debbie, your daughter and my "big sister" who has been in a wheelchair for almost 60 years, has also been very moving and edifying. Your faith has truly been tested and you have come out shining so brightly!

3. Thank you for persevering in your marriage for 45 years until dad passed away. Even more important than being a great mom, you were truly a great wife and this was huge! I reflected on this fact as I was preparing for my priestly ordination...a firm commitment made in the presence of God. I know it was not always easy, mom, and I know Dad had a strong temperament...but you softened his heart with your kindness and you often bent over backwards to make it work. Thank you for creating this stable and peaceful environment in our home...it meant a lot to me as a kid and it means even more to me now as a priest.

4. Thank you for the countless acts of kindness and love. Your happy face (in spite of not sleeping well or feeling sick), your wonderful "home-cooked" meals, your funny jokes to lighten everyone up during times of tension, your playing the banjo and singing "Oh Susannah" with a huge and funny smile, and making us all happy with your joy, taking me out for a Baskin Robbins ice cream when I needed a pickier upper, dressing up the "outdoor paper mâché ducks" with new outfits for my annual home visits, so many little acts of creative love and so often...thank you for sweetening my childhood with your random acts of goodness! And not just for me and the family. You cooked so many meals, put together so many flower arrangements, and painted so many works of art for your friends and neighbors who were sick or who needed a little boost. Thank you for including me in this process!

5. Thank you for supporting my priestly vocation through your prayers, phone calls and letters of encouragement. You told me that you pray for me everyday during that special time with Our Lord in Holy Communion and I know these prayers have not gone unanswered! Although you have often been physically far away, you are spiritually so close to me since I left home over 29 years ago, and I am so grateful!

6. Thank you for showing me how to use my own time well through your example of always serving, reading, praying, exercising...never wasting a minute but at the same time, I never felt that you were in a hurry when you looked me in the eyes or were patiently listening to my concerns or problems.

7. Thank you for your strong optimism. You always saw the bright side, always encouraging and lifting me up during my own personal struggles as a kid. You never allowed me to feel sorry for myself and your warm smile and inspiring words helped me through many dark valleys and tunnels. Home was not only a safe place, it was a place where I received a lot of heart felt love!

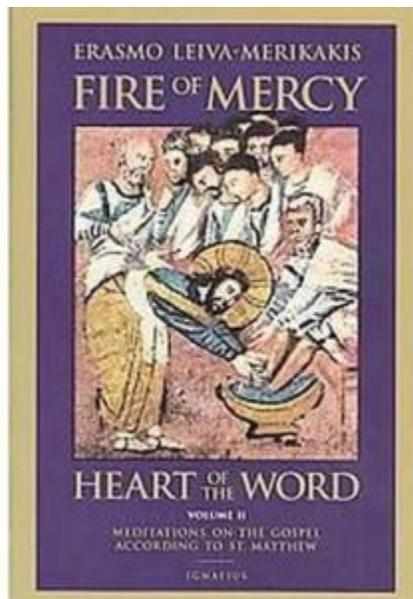
*I could go on and on, but this covers the key points. I love you, mom and I thank you for everything!!

With my priestly blessing,

Fr. Michael Sliney, LC

Poverty of Spirit

Regnum Christi Live – April 10, 2014
By Jill Preisack



We have been hearing a lot from Pope Francis lately about poverty and “poor in spirit”. In world of so many possessions and self seeking, his words help move us toward the gospel love and light of truth that has always been there but sometimes remains hidden. There is a great need to look at the tragic poverty in the world today and rectify it. There is no room for doubt on this. But, I have also been reflecting more deeply lately on what it means to have poverty of spirit. While reading the book “Fire of Mercy, Heart of the Word”, I came across this beautiful reminder:

“What is omitted by the Lord in the beatitudes is as striking as what he actually says, because the omissions run contrary to our habitual religious expectations and once again awaken us to conversion. The Lord does not say: ‘Blessed are those who pray, give alms, fast...Blessed are the pious, those who attend church frequently, read Sacred Scripture and books of theology and spirituality...’ All of these are works, whose efficacy and merit wholly depend on the spirit in which they are performed, on the poverty of

spirit that determines their whole intentionality and reason-for-being". (Fire of Mercy, Heart of the Word, by Erasmos Merikakis, p. 188).

The true living of the beatitudes brings us to a fundamental way of living: loving in the most selfless way possible, to love so that “the right hand does not know what the left hand is doing”. It means loving in a way that generates service, a treasure of self emptying. It is through poverty of spirit makes our hearts so rich!!

Bible “Boot Camp” in Houston

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

Lumen members gather to grow in understanding of sacred Scripture

On the second weekend of March, members of the Lumen Institute Houston Chapter gathered at Houston Oaks Country Club for “Bible Boot Camp 1.0,” led by Fr. Shawn Aaron, LC. The event was intended to help participants grow in their understanding of sacred Scripture.

The program commenced on Friday evening with a welcome dinner and Gospel reflection. On Saturday, the program continued through lunch-time with the celebration of the Eucharist, seminars on Scripture, and moments of fellowship.

One of the members said: “It was a truly enjoyable personal and spiritual journey, getting to know those who will be life-long friends.”

“The Bootcamp was a wonderful experience,” said another participant. “It created a better frame of reference, or context, for all sacred



Fr. Nathaniel Haslam LC and Fr. Shawn Aaron LC (back row, L to R) with the Lumen members at "Bible Boot Camp" in Houston.



Scripture. It has added a new dimension to my understanding.”

“The like-minded business leaders of the Lumen Institute strive to grow in faith, character and leadership, in order to be good stewards of the time, talent, treasure and influence granted to them by the Lord,” said Fr. Nathaniel Haslam, LC, chaplain of the Houston Chapter of the Institute, and spiritual coach of the members.

For more information about Lumen, go to www.lumeninstitute.org.

The Quest for the Core

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

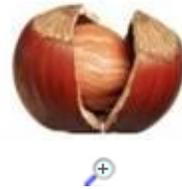
A summary review of the new book by Fr. Patrick Langan LC and Fr. Owen Kearns LC

The following is a summary review about their new book, “Quest for the Core,” by authors Fr. Patrick Langan LC and Fr. Owen Kearns LC.

**The Quest
for the Core**
of the Regnum Christi Charism

Reading this book is a journey into joy.

It’s a joy to accompany two very different Irish Legionaries on their adventure around the world into the heart of the Regnum Christi charism.



It’s a joy to accompany Regnum Christi members around the world as they refine the expression of the charism we all share and live.

It’s a joy to watch the inner core of the Regnum Christi charism gradually crystallize into a thing of wonder, a beautiful harmony.

It’s a joy to grasp the inner working of the Regnum Christi charism -- its core.

It’s a joy, once you’ve read this book, to feel competence and

confidence as you yourself explain to the next generation of Regnum Christi members the amazing beauty and humble power of a charism you live in communion with other Regnum Christi members -- Legionary priests and religious, diocesan priest members, consecrated men and women, and lay members in Regnum Christi sections around the world.

Enjoy the joy!

The “Quest for the Core” is available in paperback and Kindle versions on Amazon at <http://www.amazon.com/The-Quest-Core-Christi-Charism/dp/1491237864>. The paperback edition is print-on-demand, with printing facilities worldwide. Coming soon – “En Busca del Núcleo,” a Spanish translation of this book.

Bunch of losers

Regnum Christi Live – April 11, 2014

By Jim Fair



I'm fresh out of NCAA basketball tournaments. The men are done; Connecticut won. The women are done; Connecticut won.

Each tournament started with 64 teams. (Yes, there were a few more that “played in” to the men’s tournament, but I’m going to ignore that because I don’t really understand how that part works or why it exists.) Only one team

in each tournament got to the end without losing...I think I mentioned they were both from Connecticut.

So, everyone in Connecticut is jumping for joy and 49 states are full of losers. In fact, 126 of 128 teams in the two tournaments are losers. After all, all those teams lost the last game they played. They all walked off the court in defeat. Only those hustling Huskies from Connecticut won.

And basketball players are not the only ones who are mostly losers. (I'm a baseball fan in Chicago, so I'm very familiar with losing.)

Salesmen typically fail more times than they make a sale. Weeds grow in farmers' fields. Paint peels off houses. Basements leak. Tires go flat. Students have trouble with math and reading.

The more I think about it, the more I realize that I am surrounded by failure. And there is no denying that I contribute to this epidemic of falling shortness.

I never lost a national championship game. But I fall short daily of some ideal or other. And some of these failings often lead me to the confessional.

Losing a basketball game doesn't trigger a need for confession (unless you bet on your own team to lose and intentionally throw the game). In the normal world of one team is better than the other, the losers have not sinned by committing turnovers or missing clutch free throws.

They just didn't do as well playing a game. Likewise, people who fail in business or farmers who have weeds in their corn aren't sinning – they just aren't as smart or talented as they would like to be. But most of us spend an inordinate amount of time worrying about things that, if they fail, do not result in sin.

Losing a basketball game is a disappointment, not a sin.

Failed business may result in a foreclosed property – but that isn't a sin.

A failed corn crop may mean financial ruin – but that isn't a sin.

Lots of things we may view as less problematic – a lie, cheating on an expense account, a bribe to get a favor – are sins. If we don't get caught

and don't think anyone was hurt, why would a little bribe be as big a problem as a failed business?

In practical, earthly terms, it likely wouldn't be. But those aren't the terms that matter in the long run (eternity). The things that get a person to confession are the ones that count, and ones we should really worry about. And they are the ones for which we can be forgiven.

But if I ever have a grandchild who is a great basketball player, I might recommend University of Connecticut.

Jim Fair
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