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**Subject:** REGNUM CHRISTI NEWS OF THE WEEK -- APRIL 18

## REGNUM CHRISTI NEWS OF THE WEEK

Click on tag line to go to article

[New Territorial Director for North America – Fr John Connor  
LC](#)

[Regnum Christi in the Ivory Coast – seminarian involved](#)

[The Tomb and the Pearl – retreat guide for Easter](#)

[Camp Argyle in Dallas – fathers the sons](#)

**[The past week in Regnum Christi Live!](#)**

[Are you opening the door of your heart to Jesus? – by Fr  
Michael Sliney LC](#)

[Verbum caro factum est? More like ET HIC verbum caro factum  
est – by Megan Luttinen](#)

[What the Wedding at Cana Was Really About – by Megan  
Luttinen](#)

[Somewhere in the hills of Northern Romania – by Fr Simon  
Devereux LC](#)

[A Happy Girl! – by Megan Luttinen](#)

[Holy Thursday – by Fr Simon Devereux LC](#)

[Poverty to need Christ, Faith to touch Christ – by Br Samuel Chow LC](#)

[An Orphan’s Walk with Jesus – by Fr Michael Mitchell LC](#)

[One of my Favorite Places so Far – by Megan Luttinen](#)

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## **New Territorial Director for North America**

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

### *Fr. John Connor LC to head Legion’s North American Territory*

Fr. John Connor LC is appointed territorial director for the Legion of Christ’s North American Territory, effective May 1, 2014.

The Legion’s general director, Fr. Eduardo Robles Gil LC, made the announcement April 12, in a letter to all Legionaries in the territory. Fr. Connor replaces Fr. Luis Garza LC, who has served as the territory’s director for the past three years; his new assignment will be announced later.



“I’m humbled by this assignment and ask for the prayers of everyone in the North American Territory,” said Fr. John. “I especially want to thank

Fr. Luis for his leadership and example of faith and perseverance over the past several years.”

Fr. Connor was ordained to the priesthood in 2001. He has worked in several different ministries, including dean of discipline at the Everest Academy in Madrid, Spain. He worked in the development office of the Legion for several years and from 2004 - 2009 was Local Coordinator of Apostolate for Regnum Christi in New York. He helped found and direct the Lumen Institute, served as assistant to the territorial director for apostolate, and was director of the former Atlanta Territory. He will retain his current role as head of the territory’s Institutional Advancement Office.

Click [here](#) to read a letter from Fr. John to the members of the North American Territory.

## Are you opening the door of your heart to Jesus?

**Regnum Christi Live – April 14, 2014**  
**By Fr Michael Sliney LC**



*"My heart goes incessantly in search of a Treasure, an immense Treasure that I do not find in creatures; a Treasure that will satisfy me and console me, and give me rest." - St. Gemma Galgani*

Jesus is quietly and persistently knocking at the door of the hearts of each and every one of you. He will not leave or stop gently knocking, but he will also not force his way into your heart. It comes down to a very personal

and existential decision: am I willing to let Jesus into my daily life, put him on my schedule and trust in his plan? I did this many years ago and I have absolutely no regrets! He is the most amazing and faithful friend who completely satisfies, and who humbly invites you to join him on this incredible mission of saving souls.

## Regnum Christi in the Ivory Coast

COTE DIVOIRE | WHO WE ARE | NEWS

### *Seminarian Nicaise Abedji promotes the movement while studying for the priesthood*

Nicaise Abedji, is a diocesan seminarian for the Archdiocese of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, and a Regnum Christi member.

He volunteered for his university chaplain, Father Jean-Pierre Kutwa, while he worked on his Masters in psychology. Fr. Kutwa would tell Nicaise that he hoped that someday he would become a priest. Today Father Kutwa is Cardinal Kutwa, the Archbishop of Abidjan



Nicaise Abedji was admitted to the seminary on December 3, 2013 as a member of Regnum Christi.



Nicaise started his own consultation business, but soon left it behind to follow the call to the priesthood he had been feeling since his childhood. Archbishop Kutwa asked Regnum Christi to accompany Nicaise in his vocational discernment.

For several years Nicaise ran the RC Mission Center in Abidjan. Now, after his period of discernment, Archbishop accepted him as a diocesan seminarian while Nicaise remains an active Regnum Christi member. Among other tasks he has been entrusted with promoting the Movement. Hopefully, with the help of shepherds like Nicaise, Regnum Christi will be

able to better evangelize African culture and better serve the Church there.

Nearly 35 seminarians are studying in the Paul VI Seminary. They go to philosophy and theology classes at the Catholic University of West Africa (UCAO).

Regnum Christi began in Ivory Coast in 2007 when a senior official met a French Legionary of Christ in Mexico. Though adversely affected by a political crisis that rocked Ivory Coast in 2011, Regnum Christi continues to live out its mission in Ivory Coast with ever greater confidence, seeking to better find their role and how to support the Archdiocese of Abidjan.



Nicaise with other seminarians.



The Movement is now present in the parish of St. Cecilia (Cocody). Regnum Christi members there are part of the territory of Western and Central Europe. They meet every Monday for formation activities and every Thursday they organize Eucharistic hours in their



Nicaise with the parish choir.



parish. On Wednesdays they hold a prayer group devoted to Our Lady of Guadalupe. (Apparently the image first arrived to the Ivory Coast thanks to a group of young people on mission from Mexico in 2008.)

## Verbum caro factum est? More like ET HIC verbum caro factum est

Regnum Christi Live – April 15

By Megan Luttinen



*The members of the senior class of Everest Collegiate High School (Clarkston, Michigan) are celebrating Holy Week 2014 in the Holy Land. One of those students, Megan Luttinen, shares her experience.*

### **April 13, 2014**

Today marks the first day of travels for our senior class of 2014 in the Holy Land! After 10 hours on a flight from Philadelphia to Tel Aviv, we're here! I expected Israel to be beautiful, but I never expected it to be so GREEN! Flowers, grass, palm trees, you name it! Some was growing along the road as we drove the bus back to our hotel in Nazareth.

After a late Palm Sunday Mass, you would think we would call it a day! But Fr. Daniel (Pajerski) encouraged us to go out and explore, and he took us on a tour to the Basilica of the Annunciation. We came in right before closing, and the man in charge instructed us that it was time for prayer and silence. What good advice that turned out to be! In moments of silence, we have more of a chance to hear God! (My classmate Kersten believes that our experience was more powerful because it took place at night, when the Basilica was silent and we were the only ones in there.)

The most amazing thing about the Basilica is that it has two floors. The main floor is the gorgeous present day Basilica, clad in representations of Mary from all different countries, painted and made from stone, glass, metal and wood. Beneath the gorgeous church lays something even more precious and sacred. The lower level is a circular room with a somewhat dilapidated stone house in the middle. The stone Basilica has the phrase

"Verbum Caro Factum Est" -- which translates to "The Word became Flesh" -- engraved on the outside. On the altar, in the snake stone house there is a similar phrase -- "Et hic verbum caro factum est." This sentence was probably the smallest part of the whole display, but it made the most impact. Fr. Daniel explained that the phrase meant "HERE the word became flesh." And it just hits you. In that very spot!

(My classmates) Becca, Christina and I were all talking about how we were praying the Hail Mary, and the prayer suddenly meant so much more than just words. (My classmate) Lu described the place as where Mary said "yes" to the Lord, and she prayed specifically for the strength to say "Yes" to whatever vocation God wants for her.

My prayers specifically went out to all those couples who are pregnant or trying to get pregnant, and for unborn children.

I'll write more tomorrow and keep you all up to date! Don't worry parents, siblings and friends, God is with us here! We can all feel it, and we all can't wait to experience more of Him!

## The Tomb and the Pearl

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

### *The RC Spirituality Center releases a Retreat Guide for Easter*

The latest offering from [RCSpirituality.com](http://RCSpirituality.com) is designed to help participants fully experience Easter.

Lucy Honner, Director of the RC Spirituality, said *The Tomb and the Pearl* is designed to make the "glorious Easter Mystery" have a "fresh impact on your life."



“This final stretch of Lent challenges us to persevere in our good resolutions with renewed fervor and enthusiasm,” she said. “We must also find a way to practice deep recollection and interior silence, if we are to comprehend what Christ undertook to win for us true freedom.”

She points out the words of Pope Francis regarding preparing our hearts for this great feast:

*“We need not be afraid! Let us open ourselves to the light of the Lord, he awaits us always in order to enable us to see better, to give us more light, to forgive us...Let us entrust this Lenten journey to the Virgin Mary, so that we too, like the blind man who was healed, by the grace of Christ, may ‘come to the light,’ go forward towards the light, and be reborn to new life.”*

The new Retreat Guide will be available on Holy Saturday, April 19, 2014. The first meditation will present the transforming experience of St. Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb on that first Easter Sunday. The second meditation shows how to seek personal transformation through the parable of “The Pearl of Great Price.” The conference section will review the “Four Last Things,” death, judgment, heaven, and hell, and address false ideas prevalent in secular culture that distort our vision of the afterlife and, consequently, life in the present age.

“Please know that the RC Spirituality Center team holds you close in our prayers,” said Lucy.

She encourages everyone to share the Retreat Guides with friends. “Please don’t keep this resource to yourself! We hope to draw as many souls as possible closer to Christ!”

## **What the Wedding at Cana Was Really About**

**Regnum Christi Live – April 16, 2014**

**By Megan Luttinen**



*Following is the second installment from Everest Collegiate student Megan Luttinen from the Holy Land. She had the unique privilege of turning 18 years on this second day of their pilgrimage.*

#### **April 14, 2014**

You would never have thought that Cana of Galilee was just six miles away from our hotel in Nazareth. This city itself is very small, and we got there in about 20 minutes.

After getting off the bus and walking along the winding stone paths, we reached the Church of Marriage, built over where the Wedding at Cana took place. It was so beautiful! And such a testimony to marriage itself. Amer (our guide) described to us that weddings in Israel are quite different from American weddings. On average, they normally last about 10 days. (My classmate) Owen thought it was awesome that the families extended the fun for such a long period of time.

The story of the Wedding at Cana is important to our faith because it displayed Jesus' first miracle and the beginning of his public ministry, but it was also His way of showing us the importance, the value, and the real meaning of marriage in a world where the image and ideals of marriage have become so distorted.

Amer led us below the Church, down a staircase to the actual ruins of the cave where the wedding took place. (My classmate) Chris told me he was very impacted by seeing the real stone cave where they would have

celebrated, and it made the whole story seem more real. At the end, we prayed in the Church. As far as I know, many of us were inclined to pray for our future spouses and our parents' marriages. The next stop on our tour will be Mount Tabor and the Church of the Transfiguration!

## Somewhere in the hills of Northern Romania

Regnum Christi Live – April 16  
By Fr Simon Devereux LC



*Left to right: Fr. Peter, Fr. Simon, Fr. Matthew*

*"Faith is strengthened when it is given to others!" - John Paul II*

My big brother, Fr. Matthew, is currently in Romania doing missions with a bunch of young people from Poland. My other priest brother, Big Bro Fr. Peter, is doing the same in Mexico. Holy Saturday, I'll be in NYC on missions also.

Thanks to our baptism, Jesus lives inside of us. This Holy Week open the doors of your heart and let Christ out! Don't be afraid to reach out to those around you: invite them to Mass, to go to confession, or just to have a coffee and talk about your friend, Jesus.

God bless you!

Fr. Simon

P.S. Here's a little more information from Fr Matthew's expedition:

Fr. Matthew:

I am somewhere in the hills of Northern Romania, not as exotic as these other guys. We are on the eastern side of Transylvania...no sign of old Drac' along the way. We are about 30km from the southern border with the Ukraine...no signs of Putin down here, thank God.

It is amazing here...the Poles have been here for 180 years...they remain strongly Catholic...and strongly Polish. They pray rosary every day in the Church before Mass...maybe 80 old ladies...totally dressed in black for now...Lenten tradition.

Even though there are so many old women in the Church...it is the young girls from 10 years to 16 that lead the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy...and boy do they know how to lead it...with a stronger voice than most men would dare to use in a Church.

We are in a town called Nowy Soloniec (Polish sp), Solonetu Nou (Romanian sp). Today (Mon) and on Wed we will visit 2 other Polish villages nearby...on the way today we will visit 2 very old monasteries...one is 600 years old...

After the Easter Vigil on Saturday night at 22.30 we will process for half an hour - singing songs as we go, lead by the youth - to the cemetery. There we will sing of Christ's victory over death and then return singing in procession to the Church. These are Catholic experiences that you don't experience everywhere, as you all know. Quite a privilege to be here.

It did take us a while. We were in the bus for 17.5 hours (and it was only 900km). I can never complain about things like that...it's just too good to be here in these places. The last part was thru the falling snow in the Transylvanian mountains. We have a 20 seater and a great driver. He only did half the driving. He had another driver do the first part. We will pick up that driver on the way home. They are strictly controlled here in the UE. Every trip is recorded on a hard disk.

Well that's about it.

Stay close to Jesus and Mary these day, everyone.

We all need it.

## Camp Argyle in Dallas

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

### *More than 100 dads and their sons enjoy the second annual event*

Organizers of a recent Father/Son event in Dallas have reason to be pleased.

“We just had a great campout here!” said Fr. Michael Picard, LC. “It was our 2nd annual spring Argyle Campout. There were more than 100 dads and their boys present, ranging from 5 years of age to high-school age.”

Fr. Michael Picard, in his first year in Dallas, led the retreat along with help from Fr. Benjamin Cieply LC, Br. Joaquin Sainz LC and Br. Jaime Cortes LC. A “great” team of dads and 14 counselors (or “Joes” as they were each called by participants) also assisted.

The weekend began on a Friday night with the Stations of the Cross devotion, illuminated by tiki torches.

“They all had tremendous fun during the Saturday morning Olympics,” said Fr. Michael. The campers enjoyed a ropes obstacle course, including “a maze, wall, and spider web,” tug a war, paintball shooting, archery, a water-balloon



More than 100 fathers and their sons participated in Camp Argyle.



launch and volley, baseball, a faith trivia game and more.

On Saturday, campers had lots of Father/Son time. They said the rosary together and participated in a Eucharistic hour that night, followed by a huge bonfire, complete with s'mores.

“Fathers gave their sons a special fatherly blessing that evening,” said Fr. Michael.

The campout ended on Sunday with Mass and an awards ceremony.

“We are extremely excited and ready for next year’s Father/Son campout in April 2015,” said Fr. Michael.



Fr. Daren Weisbrod, LC, National Vocational Director of the Legion of Christ, said fathers are already volunteering to help out for next year.

“Thanks for all that you are doing to build Christ’s Kingdom!” he said. “God bless you and all of your efforts to bring souls like these closer to



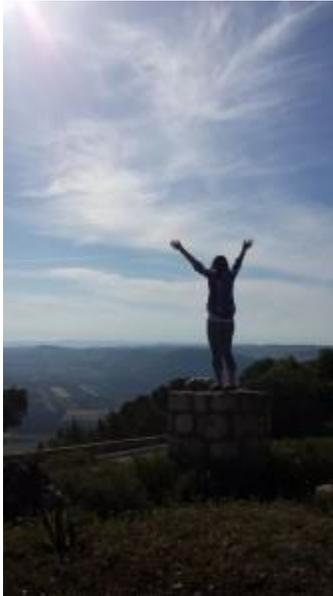
Eucharistic Adoration was a highlight of the event.



him!"

# A Happy Girl!

Regnum Christi Live – April 17, 2014  
By Megan Luttinen



*More of Everest student Megan Luttinen's reflections from her high senior pilgrimage to the Holy Land this week:*

## **April 14, 2014 (continued...)**

“You’re a happy girl!”

Amer, our guide, told me this as we sat outside the Church of the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor in Israel. I smiled even bigger and told him that it's not every day you get to spend your birthday in the Holy Land!

He laughed and agreed, and went on to tell us about the incredible church we were about to enter. We talked of its history, the nature of the terrifying roads, the story of how Deborah the Prophetess conquered the Mennonites, and the Transfiguration itself.

Amer even joked that Fr. Daniel could join him for a beer overlooking the valley that was foretold to be the site of the final battle before Jesus comes.

Amer told us that saints are not dead, no matter what anyone says. Jesus encountered Elijah and Moses on this mountain and that they are real and alive, in Heaven and on earth.

The Church of the Transfiguration is stunning. Inside the top section, there is a depiction of Jesus transfigured, with the entire scene around him encased in gold and a stain-glass window right behind the altar. (My classmate) Daman described the view as “downright incredible.” It overlooks the Jezreel Valley. You could never fall more in love with a view -  
- God's painting clearly displayed in the Holiest of Lands.

(My classmates) Jackie, Becca and Christina were “dying” to get a closer view of the valley, and the last I saw of them, they were off looking for a monk to unlock the door to get even closer. With weather this perfect, great friends and a whole lot of Jesus, what more do you need?

To end our day, we were actually able to walk down Mount Tabor!!!! The view was just beautiful, and we took so many pictures! Everyone enjoyed the hike back to the bus, and after that we were able to get a little site-seeing in Nazareth. This day has been one of my “all-time” favorite days, and the most spectacular of birthdays. So you're right, Amer. I am a happy girl. There's just so much to smile about!

## Holy Thursday

Regnum Christi Live – April 17, 2014  
By Fr Simon Devereux LC



*“Out of the darkness of my life, so much frustrated, I put before you the one great thing to love on earth: the Blessed Sacrament ... There you will find romance, glory, honour, fidelity, and the true way of all your loves upon earth.” - — J.R.R. Tolkien, The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien*

Today we celebrate the Last Supper.

There in the Upper Room, Our Lord gave us three amazing gifts: the commandment of charity, the sacrament of the Eucharist and the gift of the priesthood.

The first is the path to Heaven. Unless we love like Christ, we will not be fit for eternal life. The second gift, the Eucharist, is our food to help us love in this way. Finally, our priests, acting in the person of Christ, perpetuate the spiritual food of the Eucharist down through the centuries.

## Poverty to need Christ, Faith to touch Christ

Regnum Christi Live – April 17, 2014  
By Br Samuel Chow LC



*Br Samuel gave the following reflection during a holy hour a week ago and later sent to your humble blog editor -- just too good not to post...*

In a couple of days, Jesus will enter into Jerusalem. The King comes to redeem the world...my world. He humbly rides into the city, sitting on a donkey...Much like here on the altar right now... There was and is no pompous procession to be seen, no angels nor saints visible to the eye, no sign of his mighty power, and yet, that's precisely the sign of his omnipotence...He's here, on the altar, patiently waiting for me to acknowledge his presence, his love, his careful watch over me...

And my response can be two-fold: The first, telling my Lord that I don't want him and that I don't need him...that he's walking into Jerusalem in vain...

I can only imagine how Christ sees me entering the chapel, how I'm either half asleep, or how my mind wanders into a thousand things, and how most of my visits start and end without even having said, "Good morning" or "Thank you" to Him...How he sees me living as if I didn't depend on Him...He sees how my attitude throughout most of the day is made up of what 'I' think 'I' have to do, what 'I' have to do, what 'I' want to do, how 'I' would like to do it...He sees how I try so hard to be self-sufficient. All my thoughts, decisions and actions rotate around myself...Sometimes, He even sees how I make my resolutions to conquer my dominant defect, and my vices and imperfections...and how I have a perfect mathematical program made to solve my problems this year...but I am the one who has to fulfill it...And I can hear Christ say to me from the altar, "You live as if you don't need me."...And it's true...My life doesn't seem to depend essentially on the Eucharist...I could live one day without receiving communion, and I wouldn't even notice a difference! Instead of "Christus Vita Vestra" on the front door, they should have "Christus Aliquando Vita Vestra"...It seems like I need him only to get me out of the quick sand. Otherwise, I can fare pretty well by myself...In the personal revelations to Catherine Emmerich, Christ was weeping when he entered Jerusalem...And he weeps when he enters my heart...because sometimes, he experiences my indifference towards him, shown in my attitudes...Nevertheless, he still saves me, even if I don't acknowledge him....

The second response is: Lord, help me realize that I can't live without you, but help me also to desire you, and want to you. I can only desire you if I have nothing else...Poverty and Faith, hand in hand...This is what I ask of you tonight Lord. I want to change my attitude of indifference.

I professed my vow of poverty a couple years ago, but I ask myself if I am really poor? "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the Kingdom of God is theirs." The Kingdom of Christ in our souls...Christ in our souls...But I have so many lifelines that aren't the Eucharist...How often I can hear myself saying, "I need primerisima, I need recreation, I need to talk right now, I need more brotherly support, I need my security of my vocation, I need security in knowing that I can do this or that apostolate well...etc...etc..." All things that are good and needed for a balanced religious life...But when

I find myself needing these things, and looking for them more than I look forward to mass or adoration, or time spent in the heart of Christ...That's when I forget that Christ himself starts to cut my lifelines, one by one, to shake me up and take all my securities away, so I have no other rock than Him...because everything else is sand...And it's uncomfortable, very uncomfortable and painful...that's why the Pharisees were so uneasy... "Stop it Lord!" "Stop taking my securities away!" "Tell your disciples to be quiet!" "If they stop, the rocks will start shouting!" replied Jesus...Rocks...events, circumstances, words, everything around me starts speaking about Christ and his hand in my life...Lord, grant me a greater faith, so as to see You as my All, my only certainty...

Right after the entrance into Jerusalem, the children in the temple were still acclaiming Him as King...They couldn't stop...They had such a simple faith, that they could see everything our Lord was for them...How happy and what a consolation that was for our Lord's heart, seeing that in less than a week, he was to be put to death...

It's amazing how Christ can love me so much! Mon. Luis Martínez says in his book, that if I were the only person in the world, the only object of his love, God wouldn't love me anymore than he already loves me now. His love surpasses all my dreams...Infinitely. Everything I am, everything I do, depends on how much I have let Christ transform my heart. He wants me to grow in faith, so I can see how much my life really depends on Him in the Eucharist...Just going to mass every single day...if I really knew the depth of the mystery in which I participate every day, I would die...Christ gives me the grace to participate in my Redemption every single day...Redemption! Every single day I can experience His immense love...His immense love for me right now...I can only imagine how much it cost him to stay here in the Eucharist with me. Only now do I understand a little more why indifference is so painful for Christ. There he is, day after day, the faithful friend.

Something that attracted me to the Legion was how Father celebrated the mass...how he would hold up the Eucharist for such a long time to emphasize the culminating moment of history, my history, my day...Attending a funeral last week, an elderly priest who concelebrated said to Fr. Justin, "Never lose that love for the Eucharist!" He said that because he saw how a legionary celebrate mass...We have such a great grace that we can spend so much time meditating on...

I receive Christ in communion every single day. He wants me to unite my imagination with His, my thoughts with His, my desires and feelings with His, my intuitions, my actions, my all with His... And little by little I start thinking like he thinks, desire what he desires, do what he does, imagine what he imagines, feel what he feels...In that moment, when he gives himself totally to me in communion and even right now on the altar, he says, "I have only you right now. I created this universe, I who keep everything in being, I have only you right now." Fr. Tadeusz says, "It is humanly speaking, quite insane for Him to fall in love with the likes of me..." But he does...And it takes a simple faith, like that of the children in the temple, to believe. My cross, my sin, my defects are so humiliating...I'm so ashamed because of my cross...My soul is so stained and covered with scars...How can God love a wretch like me? It is through faith that I see God who doesn't judge me by human categories....that maybe he loves me with my imperfections and not despite them, that he bestows on me more mercy and grace, more loving care to mend my wounds...Right now he might seem so far away, so distant and disconnected, but with faith I can see how close he is to me...Just for me...I will lay my cloak down before him to step on, like the blind man of Jericho, and cut my lifelines, and stop pretending I can fare well without Christ...Souls don't need me...they look for Christ in me...That's something very clear, almost the first brick wall you run in to during internship.

Lord, grant me the spirit of true poverty, so as to truly desire you, because I can't live without you...The poorer I am, the more I will realize that I need You...only You, and therefore desire You more...because you'll be my only Treasure...and the more faith I have, the more I will see You really present in my life...the Eucharist acting in every fiber of my being, in every moment of my day...

## **An Orphan's Walk with Jesus**

**Regnum Christi Live – April 18, 2014**  
**By Fr Michael Mitchell LC**



I write this blog from Haiti where for Holy Week and Easter Mission Youth has been working with the Missionaries of Charity.

During the mission trip I have been spending most of the day with the young men overseeing some small construction projects: school benches, vegetable gardens for families and a future school-house. After a long day working, I came one afternoon into the orphanage having in mind to simply spend a few hours with the children. These children are between 3-6 years of age, all of them lost parents in the earthquake or cholera epidemics.

I found the children in the playground area and as I entered I was surrounded by them. They know me by now and of course, they also know I will push the swings for them. The little children began pulling me toward the swings and saying, “mon Père!” which is a traditional greeting to a priest and means “my Father!”



I gathered the children around the swing-sets and began pushing the swings. After a few moments of this lightheartedness I was simple basking in the simplicity of life in Haiti. Life

had given them very little but these orphan children needed very little to be happy.

After some time, a sister interrupted me with a request. "Father, could you repose the Blessed Sacrament for us?"

I readily agreed. Being close to the Eucharist is always a gift. The sisters had brought the Blessed Sacrament out from their chapel to a far end of the compound. At this end, they had established an open air pavilion that served as a church for the neighborhood. The pavilion was about one hundred yards from the chapel so it meant I would carry Jesus to the chapel in a procession. I imagined that just the sister would accompany me but I was in for a surprise!



Before the surprise however, I must backtrack a few years to Rome. Each June there is a Corpus Christi procession with the Holy Father. It is a magnificent affair. The procession is over a mile long and leads from the basilica of St. John Lateran to the basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. The streets are decorated with signs, banners and flowers. Traffic is stopped while the faithful line up on both sides of the street to greet and adore the Eucharist and the Holy Father. Surrounding the Holy Father are a good number of bishops, hundreds of priests, close to a thousand seminarians, and countless religious and consecrated women. This enormous procession takes over an hour and is accompanied by hymns and prayers. During those hours, Jesus is very happy. I never thought I would enjoy a Eucharistic procession more than in Rome, but I was wrong!



I stepped out of the playground area and promised the children I would be back. Following the sister to the pavilion I found the Haitian locals were kneeling in silent prayer. I ascended the steps to the altar and knelt before Jesus. As is customary, I placed the host in a pyx. As I descended the altar, this time with Jesus sacramentally in my hands, I folded my hands around the pyx and kept them close to my heart. I would have enjoyed this silent walk back to the chapel immensely, but what happened next made it a moment I will never forget.

I backtracked toward the playground area to proceed on my way to the chapel. The sister was in front of me ringing a small bell and holding a candle. As the children on the swing saw me approach, they seemed to know instantly what was happening. Of course, for them this must be a common occurrence. They had seen this procession many times and possess a certain innate ability of children to penetrate divine mysteries without the complexity of adults. Jesus was walking by, so they were going to walk with Him!

The children got down from their swings, laid aside their dolls and toy cars and hopped down from the merry-go-round. The playground was vacated as they encircled me to be close to Jesus and join the procession! They held onto my pant legs and tried to be as close as possible.

The procession became an orphan's walk with Jesus. A moment before they were laughing and singing like children do, but now they were imitating the solemn and prayerful walk of the sister and the priest. Jesus was very happy in that moment! It was simple and beautiful and it certainly gave new meaning to Jesus' words:

"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." (Mark 5: 35-36)

We made our way slowly to the chapel and at the doorway I assumed the children would let go of me and stay outside. However, they all entered and followed me right to the tabernacle. As I knelt down before closing the door of the tabernacle, they all knelt with me. Once the door was closed they all began to laugh and giggle and talk. The procession was over!

I left the chapel still surrounded by the orphans who then ran ahead back to the swings and playground. I knew that this simple procession of about two minutes was possibly more pleasing to Jesus than the magnificent procession in Rome. We only had a handful of orphans and nothing more. What we lacked in flowers and hymns, pomp and splendor, we made up for with simple and pure hearts.

I think the beauty of the moment doesn't need much explanation. In the spiritual life, we grow not by becoming more self-sufficient and autonomous. We grow the more we begin to depend on God. Spiritual growth means to become the child. Spiritual childhood means walking with Jesus along the pathway of life, not worried so much as where Jesus is going or what we are leaving behind. So long as you walk with Jesus, you are going to be alright. These orphans had nothing, but because Jesus was with them, they had everything, and all of them will be alright!

## One of my Favorite Places so Far

Regnum Christi Live – April 18, 2014  
By Megan Luttinen



*Following is another segment in the blog series from Everest Collegiate student Megan Luttinen on pilgrimage with her senior class in the Holy Land:*

Magdala is the place where Mary Magdalene lived, and is also the place where Jesus removed the seven demons from her. The most amazing part is that the Legion of Christ oversees the place we visited (They are the ones who started it!) and we are the first ever Everest group to visit the completed church! ([Click here](#) to read about the upcoming church dedication.)

The Magdala Center is not only a church and pilgrimage center, but a future restaurant and hotel, and there are plans to make it a refuge and home for women who need help from bad situations. I was stunned, and (my classmate) Kimmy and I talked about the beauty of the testimony of this small city.

Our guide Claudia explained about the struggle to recover this land and make it into such a special place. It used to be a hotel's property until the Legion raised the money to buy it, and started laying the foundations of the new buildings. They made it a refuge, a safe haven, almost like a shelter, but absolutely stunning! There is a view of the Sea of Galilee and there are 4 different chapels with gorgeous handmade mosaics depicting bible scenes behind them. The main altar of the big chapel is in the shape of a boat, and it's almost like you're back in time with Jesus. What a beautiful place!

I am in awe of the dedication of the people here in Magdala to help women in similar situations as the famous biblical figure, Mary Magdalene. The ceiling depicts the folded hands and part of the tunic made of stars on the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Eight pillars grace the building, each showcasing a famous woman from the Bible. The eighth pillar of the church is dedicated to all women who visit! This has been one of my favorite places to visit so far.

Mrs. Krogh thought that they did an incredible job making a new building that depicted the old in a new way -- a marriage between the past and present!

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