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Subject: REGNUM CHRISTI NEWS OF THE WEEK -- JULY 18

<http://www.regnumchristi.org/english/multimedia/video.phtml?id=3111>

Diaconate Ordination in Rome



On June 29, 2014, Bishop Fernando Vérgez, L.C. ordained 25 Legionaries of Christ deacons. These Legionaries will be among those who will be ordained priests in Rome this coming December. Quotes in the clip are taken from Pope Francis' "Evangelii Gaudium".

REGNUM CHRISTI NEWS OF THE WEEK

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New Beginnings in Eastern Canada

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

*Maritime members hold encounter to discuss upcoming
RC renewal process affecting all North American
localities*

Regnum Christi members who live in the Canadian “Maritime” provinces -- Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick – held an encounter last month to review the upcoming Renewal Process for the First and Second Degree Regnum Christi members.



Twenty-two RC members (11 couples) gathered at the home of Joe and Deb D'Ettore in New Brunswick on June 14, 2014, for their "Maritime Encounter."



The day opened with song and prayer, reflecting on God's Word together and lifting up spontaneous

intentions. They also reflected on the themes of “Christ the King” and the “Sacred Heart of Jesus” and “how to provide for their spiritual and apostolic needs while not having active section life due to long distances.”

Regnum Christi consecrated woman Tawnya Arsenault shared some of her vocational journey over the last years regarding the visitation, revision and renewal of the life of the RC consecrated and Legion of Christ members. Tawnya also answered questions and led discussion for group discussion about the RC charism, spirituality, apostolate and common experience over these past 5 years.

Then RC member Deb D'Ettore reviewed the renewal process, which will begin this fall with the “Illumination” stage, to be launched at the Atlanta (Georgia) Convention this coming October. Maritime members will meet following the convention, as will other RC localities, to begin local discussions.

Deb discussed how the Statute Revision stage is set to begin in January 2015, with the local process taking place between through June 2015. In order for RC members to participate in the statute revision, they must take part in the beginning stages. The hope is that all Regnum Christi members who are interested will participate.

Thank you to those who were able to be present at this encounter (and others like them) and to those who supported them through prayer. Please continue to keep the Renewal Process for all localities in your prayers.

The Value of the Cross

Regnum Christi Live – July 14

By Fr Michael Sliney LC



“However much we do to avoid them, we shall never lack crosses in this life if we are in the ranks of the Crucified.” (St. Teresa of Avila)

The cross should be seen more as an opportunity and a gift rather than a useless burden. This gift of the cross allows us to grow in love and show our preferential love to Jesus. A migraine headache, a flat tire, a broken shoe lace, burnt popcorn, bad weather, a difficult in-law, a negative turn in the stock market or housing market, bad traffic...big and small, these are all wonderful opportunities that God gives us to “offer it up” for someone we love. God is touched by our generosity in the midst of real pain and he will shower abundant blessing on those souls to whom we are offering up our sacrifice.

Juggling Faith and Family

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

Entertainer Paul Ponce and his family discuss how they live their Catholic faith

If you watch the video at the following link, you might think you tuned in to a reality series called “Mexico’s got Talent.” (Click the YouTube link: <http://youtu.be/WhWK918MiA4>, and select the “cc” for English subtitles.)



Paul Ponce juggling in one of his many performances.

Paul Ponce, a dynamic performer and juggler who travels around the world, and his family are featured in an episode of [LeCristo TV](#), discussing what it’s like to live their Catholic faith in a world that often does not support or even recognize Christianity.

“It is very simple,” said Paul. “We try to pray together as a family every night.”

He and his wife Lia discuss how they met each other in this hectic lifestyle, thanks to their involvement in Regnum Christi.

Paul’s profession involves constant travel worldwide. “For six generations my family has been in this business,” he said. “At my children’s age, I was already performing and traveling with my parents.”

“I had been doing this nonstop until I decided to give a year...inside Regnum Christi ([RC Mission Corps](#)). This was the happiest year of my life, and I started seeing everything differently.”

Paul said he realized he was living his life in a selfish way, pretending to find happiness in pleasure.

“After that year, and after encountering Christ and the Church, I came back to the artistic life but with a different mission and target. I am now here to do God’s will.”

He said at that time, he knew God wanted him to start a family. He began

dating girls from the world of



Paul Ponce and his family



entertainment, but said they did not “share the same virtues” as him, and when he would meet girls from his Catholic parish, it didn’t work out because of his travel schedule.

He would tell God, “Since I travel a lot, you will have to help me find the right girl for me.”

And he would soon meet Lia at a “Congress” called “United Youth” in Guadalajara, Mexico. He had an immediate interest in her, and discovered a kindred spirit.

“I would say, ‘I go to Mass every day.’ She said, ‘Me too!’”

They would soon separate and not meet again until two years later. Then they started to have serious discussions about a life together.

Lia said email helped a lot. “For a successful relationship, you need to have good communication. We always have new surprises, but our principal issues, we had them clearly settled and discussed.”

“It is important to understand where you are, what your surroundings are and put God’s way in place,” said Paul “Through those ways, using your own self control, you can be faithful.”

While they were dating, Paul would take her to a chapel that was special to him in Berlin, Germany. The chapel happened to be in a hospital. Inside the chapel was a shrine to the Holy Family, to whom the couple would entrust their promise of love. Later, after they were married (in Montserrat, Spain), and amid their travels, they happened to be again in Berlin for the birth of their first child, Pablo. They were amazed that the local hospital was the same place where they had made their pledge of love.

Interestingly, all the members of the family, including their three children, were born in a different country: Paul in Argentina; Lia in Brazil; Pablo in Germany; Jose in the Netherlands; and their daughter, Maria in Portugal.

The family continues their commitment to living God’s will in their lives. At the time of this interview, their most recent engagement was Paul’s performance in Mexico during a series of conferences on John Paul II’s Theology of the Body. The title of event was “Love, Sex and Juggling.”

Kudos



During a clip from the Le

to the Ponce family for their impressive Catholic witness!

Cristo TV interview, Paul Ponce and his wife accept applause from the audience.



Keeping It Real: The Adventure-Love Story of Prayer

Regnum Christi Live – July 15, 2014
By Ashley Osmera



What is prayer? Some would say ‘meditation’, some ‘speaking to God’. One side might emphasize talking, another, listening and receptivity. One could point out praise, and one could describe petition. All of these are correct, but only in the context that they are pieces of a bigger puzzle. Because, in the end, prayer is a relationship. And even more than that, prayer is a love story.

What constitutes a “love story?” Well, it also involves a relationship, an intimate one, between two people. There are secret notes exchanged, and silent gazes which only the two lovers recognize and understand. But in addition, what typical love story would be complete without a

few...unexpected adventures. Mishaps. Bloopers. We've all seen a chick flick (I think) where, just as the two lovers are about to embrace, the boat flips over, ice cream drops in someone's lap, or the cell phone rings. And everyone watching in the theater groans because the perfect moment has been broken.

You might predict the groans, but in fact your reaction all depends on your perspective. You can groan... or you can laugh, and look back later with cheerful humor instead of frustration, because you challenge yourself to capture those moments as unexpected "adventures" instead of disasters.

If you really think about it, experiences of prayer are many times the same way. Doesn't it seem like just as we're about to reach a true stillness of soul or receive some revelation, the elderly lady behind you starts praying the rosary out loud, or the baby starts crying, or the cell phone rings? Our immediate reaction to these moments may very well be to groan and think, "Alas, I'll never be united to God as I desire!" or "These distractions must make me displeasing to God." However, there is, once again, another way to look at these situations.

Jesus isn't some distant, cold boss looking down on us from a big wooden desk with a checklist and giving us checks and strikes when we "do well" or "mess up" in our relationship with him. Oh no, he is very, very different from that. In fact, he's one of us! He is totally God but also completely human, with a human heart which beats faster when we approach him, with human hands and fingers which were surely stubbed by hammers while working in Joseph's carpenter shop, and with a human smile and laugh that can ring with genuine joy...or genuine mischief.

I've had many encounters with this more mischievous smile...which I will affectionately call "Jesus party crashers": those groaning moments which seem to come upon us so often in prayer. Rather shockingly, I have come to discover that those moments, contrary to popular belief, can actually draw us closer to Christ and not farther away from him.

One such moment occurred several weeks ago when I went to spend a morning helping the Missionaries of Charity prepare for a summer camp. Just before I left, I joined the sisters for their midday prayers. A few minutes into the beautiful vocal prayers, a gentle summer rain began to fall outside the chapel windows. I thought nothing of it, but I noticed that one of the sisters was beginning to fidget and look back and forth from the window to Sr. Edward. Suddenly the nervous sister got up and whispered something in Sr. Edward's ear. Suddenly the prayers stopped, and Sr. Edward turned to me, chuckling, and said, "Sorry, we'll be right back, our clothes are hanging outside to dry so we need to go bring them in!" Within a few moments the four smiling sisters had hastily genuflected and run to save their blue and white habits from being "rewashed".

I was left by myself in the little chapel, laughing out loud with Jesus at the rather comical interruption. "Don't worry," I could hear Jesus telling all of us, "I just wanted to mix things up a little...gotta keep you all on your toes! As long as you do what you're doing with me, our conversation isn't really interrupted. It's just an unexpected turn in the road."

You see, Jesus wants to have an intimate relationship with each one of us, but he also wants to keep the love story REAL. None of this "perfect-love-story-with-no-conflict-or-humor" for the King of the Universe. Nah, he's too down-to-earth for that. He much prefers an adventure-love story, with plenty of party-crashing, direction-changing, perfect-plan-frustrating moments.

Maybe we hear this and are not quite sure if we're up for that kind of story or relationship. That's ok! Take that very thing to prayer. That being said, have one thing clear: when Christ reaches out his hand and says "Follow me," you can expect a rather crazy adventure. But I promise you, from experience, that the adventure awaiting you is worth every minute. So don't be afraid to take Christ's hand and enter THE greatest adventure-love story ever!

A Marriage Checkup

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

Plan to attend the 5th Annual “Cana in Cancun” retreat February 26 to March 2, 2015

Cancun, Mexico -- Need to recharge your marriage? Then mark your calendars for the 5th annual “Cana in Cancun” retreat taking place at the Gran Caribe Real resort from February 26 to March 2, 2015.

The retreat will be directed by Fr. Simon Devereux LC and Fr. John Williams, pastor of Epiphany Parish, Cheshire, Connecticut.



"As a priest I see that spouses are constantly pulled in different directions by work, looking after their own parents and children, volunteering, social engagements, and so on," said Fr. Simon. "Little time is left over for the love of their lives. I suggest you make an investment of your time to become the spouse you know God wants you to be. Let the sun shine anew on your marriage!"

Of her experience with her husband Cameron at the Cancun retreat in 2012, Linda Stevens said: "My husband and I had never been on a marriage retreat of any kind. We were more than surprised! There were the guiding words of the priests, some helpful exercises to work on and that warm tropical environment surrounding us. We even did our retreat 'homework' while sunning on the beach! We had just the right amount

of time in session, lots of time to enjoy our surroundings. The meals were great. And we finished it off with a visit to the [City of Joy](#). What a great trip. It couldn't have been more perfect!"

(Click [here](#) to see of video

of their retreat.)

For more information, contact Minerva at Minerva@EliteTravelCT.com.



“A Great Spirit of Being in a Family”

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

Three Legionaries are ordained to the transitional deaconate “Down Under”

Three Legionaries were ordained “Down Under” this summer. They join the ranks of the transitional deaconate and are now preparing for their priestly ordinations this coming December.

Deacon Stephen Howe was ordained in Australia on June 29, and Deacon David Joyce and Deacon Simon Cleary were both ordained in New Zealand on July 5.



Deaconate ordination of Simon Cleary LC



Deacon Stephen Howe

Archbishop Philip Wilson ordained Deacon Stephen Howe at Francis Xavier Cathedral in Adelaide, South Australia.

James Howe (brother of Deacon Stephen) wrote an article about his brother's ordination for the local *Southern Cross* diocesan newspaper. (Click [here](#) to read the article.)

Saying that he had requested to return home for his ordination, Deacon Stephen said, "I wanted to give people a bit of hope, to see that there are still young guys getting ordained. I remember as a kid growing up, I altar-served at a priestly ordination,

and it helped me a lot."

Deacon David Joyce

Deacon David Joyce, originally from Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Palmerston North, New Zealand, said he spent several years growing up in Papua New Guinea serving as a lay missionary.

"My parents were drawn to serve and do something worthwhile with their talents," he said. "Dad worked as an architect designing and building churches - heading a diocesan construction company. Mum taught at local schools and at the time, and I simply attended school with everyone else."

"It was there on mission that I first felt the call to the priesthood, inspired by the example of the nuns and priests who left family, culture and language behind to serve the local people."

Deacon David was ordained at St Mary's Pro-cathedral in Christchurch. He said he wanted to be ordained in New Zealand "to give a boost to the local Church and RC members. It has



Deacon Stephen Howe LC with his family and the bishop following his ordination



been wonderful to be home and with my family.”

Deacon Simon Cleary

Deacon Simon Cleary was ordained by Bishop Colin Campbell in St. Joseph’s parish in Dunedin, New Zealand. The emeritus bishop of Dunedin, Leonard Boyle, four diocesan priests and Fr. Peter Devereux, LC concelebrated in the ordination mass. (Deacon Simon said the mass was also blessed with the presence the newly ordained Deacon David!)

Deacon Simon said, “There was a great spirit of being in a family in the many Regnum Christi members present.”

During the homily, Bishop Colin talked about what being a deacon means to Pope Francis, whose actions he said

often speak louder than his words, and who himself took the name of a deacon, St. Francis of Assisi.

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Deacon David Joyce LC assists at Mass



Deacon David Joyce LC (center left) and Deacon Simon Cleary LC (center right) and their bishops



Matthew 13- The Parable of the Sower

Regnum Christi Live – July 17, 2014

By Rachel Peach



Reading through last Sunday's gospel, this line jumped out at me.

"The seed that fell on good soil produced a hundredfold..."

What struck me most was the qualifier "that": "the seed THAT fell on good soil."

What? Jesus, you go around sowing on soil that's thorny, rocky, or a beaten path too? Why? That doesn't seem practical; it doesn't seem like is the best investment of your time and energy.

Every square inch of my heart is His. Every single person is worth His entire passion, death, and resurrection. That's why Jesus Christ sows His love and mercy so freely.

He comes to heal and to save. There's nothing too messy or difficult for Him. There's nothing beyond His gentle reach.

And the most comforting news of all: God never gets frustrated with His garden -- the human heart.

Why? Frustration implies obstacles or unfulfilled desires.

Nothing is impossible for God, much less the beaten path of my limitations and self-centered tendencies, the thorny brush of my fears and worries, or the rocky soil of my impatience, vanity, and laziness. As undesired as these might be, these are not obstacles for Him. They're opportunities for Him to be God in my life.

It will take more time to convert the beaten, rocky, and thorny soil into "good soil": more of His compassion, gentleness, and grace. It will take more time before the Eucharistic Lord, the sacramental grace of confession, and a greater abundance of the waters of his merciful heart. But that's not a bad thing.

Though a "work in progress", I am, nevertheless, His masterpiece. Through the rocky, thorny, and beaten soil of my heart, imagine how much more I will be able to receive from God, and the joy I give Him in letting Him be my Savior.

This is how the Kingdom of His Heart transforms mine: through the gentle persistence of His sowing the abundant overflow of His love.

Mentoring Guidesheets

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

Br. Lucio Boccacci LC shares how to make this tool for events with teens



This article, excerpted from the [Youth2Change blog](#) by Br. Lucio Boccacci LC, explains how to make a “mentoring guidesheet.” (Click [here](#) for the article.)

Br. Lucio Boccacci LC (front) and Br. Manuel Reyes LC (left) with boys and a dad chaperone at a Conquest Day Camp in Texas in 2011.



What is a mentoring guidesheet?

A mentoring guidesheet is a one-page, theme-centered, creative questionnaire that teens first fill out, and is subsequently used to guide their conversation in one-on-one mentoring or group discussions.

Why use mentoring guidesheets?

These help teens think and speak about specific themes more systematically. These also provide adult mentors concrete insights on the teens’ lives and convictions, as well as provide a guide for personal conversation or group discussions.

How can these be used?

Guidesheets can be used for these general purposes:

- 1-on-1 mentoring
- small group discussions

When should these be filled out?

It’s totally up to the leader! Teens can fill them out in the chapel, or in their own seats. They can fill them out in the morning to prepare the day’s theme, or in the evening to close it, depending on the goal of the event. They can fill them out individually (recommended), or as part of a group. They can be filled out at home, during CCD class, at school during Religion class, et cetera!

Do you have any examples?

Yes! Click on these links below to download sample guidesheets:

- [Friendship Talksheet](#)
- [In the World Talksheet](#)
- [Christ Talksheet](#)

- [Your Decisions](#)
- [All About Confession](#)

For a specific example of how I used these during a summer camp, can click on this article link: [A New & Effective Tool for Mentoring Teens](#)

How can I make my own?

It's not easy, but practice and feedback from others help! Follow the steps below:

1. Pick the themes. These should follow the themes of the camp, retreat, youth group, etc.
2. Understand your theme! Brainstorm a bit to come up with ideas, possible questions, important points...
3. Pick between 5 to 7 different question formats to convey your theme.
4. Write your first draft! Combine your brainstorm results with the question formats. Make sure the questions are personalized, addressed to the teen.
5. Get some feedback from other adults and make modifications.
6. Try them out, and then make any more modifications based on teens' observations.

What are the question formats?

(Remember you'll have to adjust these to suit the particulars of your theme.)

Some of these are a matter of choosing from a list:

- Multiple choice:
 - ♣ Check one, or several, from a list of multiple choice answers.
- Difficult situation:
 - ♣ How would you respond to this difficult situation? (i.e. author describes the difficult situation, and the teen circles from among

- possible answers)
- Yes or No:
 - ♣ Write yes/no (or maybe) if the following statements describe you.
 - True or False:
 - ♣ Regarding the theme, state if the following are true or false.
 - Agree or disagree:
 - ♣ Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
 - Three words:
 - ♣ What three words describe this theme for you?
 - Circle two:
 - ♣ Circle two of the following words that describe you (or this theme)
 - Which is more true:
 - ♣ Which of these two statements is more true?
 - Intensity line:
 - ♣ Place an X on where best fits you. (example: left “close to God”; right: “far from God”)

Others require writing down a response:

- Definition:
 - ♣ What does this theme mean to you?
- Open answer:
 - ♣ How would you describe this theme to another person?
- Open question:
 - ♣ What other questions do you have about this theme?
- Jesus´ answer:
 - ♣ What does Jesus say about this theme in the Bible?
- Scripture passage:
 - ♣ Find this passage in the Bible; in your words write down what it says.
- Church´ s teaching:
 - ♣ What does the Church teach about this, and why?

Any other advice?

- Remember, these are a tool to help you, not to replace you. Feel free to jump ship if they are not working for your group or for your

style. Generally teens like to learn and speak about themselves, but don't force the issue if some teens don't want to use them.

- Keep in mind these do not substitute for your knowledge of the themes covered. In fact, they may challenge your own understanding! Make sure to do your homework!
- Be very positive. Congratulate them if they chose a wise answer, and gently correct them if they didn't.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten the teens, and in turn, to enlighten you as you lead a discussion.
- Ask them why they chose their answers. This will reveal convictions that may spark new conversations. Let them speak as much as they feel they need to. The guidesheet will then help you return to the theme.
- As they speak, ask questions that bring them to a practical resolution, or change of behavior/attitude, such as, "So what do you think you could do differently?" Avoid making practical decisions for them. If needed, offer them some examples.
- Before you end, ask them if they've learned something new or not, or if they have any other questions.

Carmel

Regnum Christi Live – July 18
By Fr Kevin McKenzie LC



*Entrance to the Carmelite monastery of Piacenza, Italy. The plaque reads:
"God gives His whole self to those who leave everything out of love for
Him"*

A few years back I was traveling around northern Italy with another seminarian and we stopped to visit the Carmelite nuns in the town of Piacenza. They have a rather small and simple convent in the farmland outside town. At the time, Pope Benedict was in Brazil, taking part in World Youth Day.

Twelve or thirteen of the sisters welcomed us and we exchanged stories. I told the sisters about life in the seminary, studies, living in Rome near the Pope, and our recent vacation time. Then Mother Superior spoke about how the sisters had gone on “vacation”.

These were cloistered sisters – the ones who never leave the convent – so I raised my eyes at that. She went on to explain. That afternoon, all of the sisters had gotten together in the courtyard of the convent. One of them, an artist, had drawn a huge picture of Pope Benedict in his airplane. Then they all sat in chairs and pretended to fly with him to Brazil for World Youth Day. They sang songs and a few of the sisters pretended they were stewardesses. They also prayed the rosary with the pope en route. During their explanation, the sisters were laughing and giggling as if they had just gotten back from Disneyland.

At this point, both of us seminarians had our mouths hanging open. The sisters were so joy-filled and happy as they explained the whole thing to us. And their “vacation” must have lasted no more than an hour. Wow!

We listened, breathlessly, as another sister chimed in: “Oh yes, and we had a special surprise. The family of one of the sisters gave us all ice cream!”

I was speechless. To be honest, only a little while back I had been complaining about how I didn’t like the place where my seminary went on vacation. Hearing the sisters talk about theirs with such simple delight sure nipped that in the bud!

It was a tremendous testimony to how simple things can bring such tremendous joy. I'd be willing to bet that the sisters' afternoon "vacation" was a hundred times more enjoyable than the vacations many people have at five-star resorts.

As you start or finish your vacation this summer – or even just wish you had one! – take a moment to thank God for the simple things, the simple joys he gives you. Life is full of them. Be content with them. Joy is something you can't buy. You find it in places that aren't advertised on travel websites.

Today is the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Mary is the perfect example of someone who had nothing, but really had everything – "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my savior".

May she watch over you all this summer.

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