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REGNUM CHRISTI NEWS OF THE WEEK

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Contemplating Mary at the Foot of the Cross

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

Fr. Eduardo Robles-Gil LC sends letter to Regnum Christi members and Legion of Christ on occasion of the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows

Following is a letter from Legion of Christ General Director Fr. Eduardo Robles-Gil LC to all Regnum Christi members and Legionaries on the occasion of the solemnity of Our Lady of Sorrows.



Thy Kingdom Come!

September 14, 2014

To the Regnum Christi members

Dear fathers and brothers and friends,

On this solemnity of Our Lady of Sorrows, I send each one of you my greetings and prayers for your intentions, your families, and your apostolic mission.

Today the Church invites us to contemplate, from the heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the triumph of her Son on the cross, in order to draw all men to himself. We are also invited to venerate the Mother who shares in his sorrow. The compassion of Mary, who remained faithful at the foot of the cross, can give us many lessons to better answer our call to be apostles of the Kingdom, to announce the merciful love of Christ and to invite others to let themselves be won over by him and therefore

become his apostles. I am writing to you to share some of these lessons that seem especially important to me.

Today's gospel describes one of the decisive moments of our salvation with a few quick brushstrokes, "Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.' Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home" (Jn 19:25-27).

Contemplating Mary at the foot of the cross helps us to understand the reality of human pain and suffering, with our heart and with our faith, in all of its dimensions. All of us have a personal experience of sorrow in our own lives. The Blessed Virgin Mary, who suffered when she saw her Son being hurt, invites us to lift our gaze and to discover so many suffering members of the mystical body. If we look ahead, we can discover around us the sick and the elderly, the unemployed, men and women with marriage difficulties or difficulties with one of their children, orphans, widows, people wounded by life, people with broken ideals, prisoners, victims of violence, of wars, of persecution, of solitude, of fidelity to their own consciences, and maybe also of our own indifference...

Today too Jesus Christ crucified wishes to comfort those who are going through the valley of sorrow and who, maybe with tears in their eyes, raise to God that question that is so human and so dramatic, "Why?"

Jesus responds from the cross, sometimes even in an almost unperceivable way, inviting those who suffer to help in the work of redemption by participating in his own suffering, doing good with Christ through suffering. (cf. John Paul II, *Salvifici Doloris*, n. 26).

But if human pain is like an invitation from Christ to complete what is lacking in his passion, the presence of the Mother of Sorrows on Calvary becomes a challenge for every one of us: what you have done to the smallest of my brothers, you have done to me (see Mt 25:40). It is a call to feel the pain of souls with Christ; to feel it with Mary who is the Mother of all people. She invites us not to close our eyes to suffering, but to have pity, show mercy, do good to those who suffer.

With her example, she urges us to look with faith at the brother or sister who suffers and she opens before them the horizons of the Kingdom, this Kingdom that is made present through service and charity. Sometimes the only thing that can be done will be to accompany others with prayer and being discreetly close to them. But also often much more can be done.

Our Lady of Sorrows, at the foot of the cross, teaches us to be audacious in charity, to “touch the suffering flesh of Christ,” as Pope Francis likes to repeat. Mary invites us to shake off our indifference and to get to work, to know how to put our own worries aside, just as the good Samaritan did: to pause, to become interested in others, to cure wounds, to pour the balm of charity, to accompany, to know how to be there for others, and if necessary, how to ask for forgiveness.

Mary’s charity at the foot of the cross also has a dimension that we can forget: She did not want to be Christ’s only consolation, but rather she let John and the other women accompany her to learn from the Lord how to love together. Those who invite us to conquer our natural fears of suffering and to seek to alleviate them in our neighbor do us so much good! John, thanks to Mary, was there to see the Heart pierced by the lance, and to experience God’s love personally, and to announce it with passion.

Pain in one’s own life and in that of others can also darken our horizons. I am very comforted by the thought of Mary. She saw her Son dying like a criminal as the angel’s words echoed in her heart, “He will be great... he will reign... he will be seated on the throne of David... he will be called the son of the Most High.” I imagine her fighting as a believer, upright, while the foundations of her faith were shaken. She trusted in the Word of God, independently from what she perceived with her eyes. She trusted that God is faithful and repeated her “be it done unto me according to thy word.”

The Virgin Mary invites us to face sorrow together with her, full of faith and Christian hope. She encourages us to trust more in the Lord than in our own strength. She encourages us to do what we can to follow God’s plan with the certainty that we will not be short on grace. Mary remains standing next to her Son and becomes a model of hope for us. She reminds us that the greatness of a man or woman – or of all of

society – “is essentially determined in relationship to suffering and to the sufferer,” (Benedict XVI, Spe Salvi, n. 38) and she asks us to allow her to accompany us and to help us to give meaning to the crosses of our life.

I will leave these reflections here, and I invite you to imitate Mary, who was standing next to the cross of Christ, so that like her and with her we pause before all the crosses of the men of today to help. May this be a characteristic of all the apostles of the Kingdom, that they do not fear going to the existential outskirts.

I assure you of my prayers and I ask you for yours,

Fr. Eduardo Robles-Gil LC

Our Lady of Sorrows

Regnum Christi Live – September 15

By Jana Crea



I would like to say that I hesitate to embrace this feast. But that would be too mild. I balk. This makes for an

interesting situation as she happens to be a patron of our Movement. (The questions runs through my mind, “couldn’t we make a case for Our Lady of Guadalupe—evangelization of peoples?). But still, Our Lady of Sorrows remains one of our main patrons. There seems something wrong with celebrating someone else’s sorrow.

Today, in the homily that Fr. Nikola Derpich, LC gave, he mentioned the roots of this feast and how, to begin with, it was called “Our Lady of Compassion.” Ahh! What a refreshing way to look at it. No longer am I “celebrating” the sorrows of Mary, but I am focusing on the compassion she had as she accompanied Jesus in His passion.

How does this translate into my life? I just received an email from a priest-friend who is in contact with some missionaries in Iraq. They sent him a plea for prayer as the town they are in was just taken over by ISIS and the Muslim militants have devised a new tactic of terror. They are going from house to house asking the children to denounce Jesus. So far, not one child has. And so far all have consequently been killed. Their parents are spared.

I can’t imagine the pain of these families. But my heart is moved and my prayer is fervent and somehow, I find myself accompanying them from half a world away.

Mary was unable to do anything to put an end to Jesus’ passion...and she suffered greatly for it. She was the woman of sorrows. What a great example for me when I find myself helpless facing the tragedy and loss of others! What a fitting patroness for our time and culture that seeks so much for success and triumph! (And is devastated when it does not come!)

So my prayer becomes that which the liturgy of the Mass proposes today: we humbly ask, O Lord, that honoring how the Blessed Virgin Mary suffered with her Son, we may complete in ourselves for the Church’s sake what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ.”

Mary's triumph (as Christ's) came through what she suffered.

Sally forth!

Regnum Christi Live – September 15, 2014

By Fr Michael Sliney LC



"I didn't go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity." CS Lewis

True Christians need to "sally forth" (an action of rushing or bursting forth; especially : a sortie of troops from a defensive position to attack the enemy). We are not here to hide in our safe and comfortable bunker. We are here to live radical virtue and hopefully inspire and challenge others to follow Christ. Don't be afraid of living radical holiness and leaving your comfort zone...Christ needs our help!

The 2014 Catholic High School Honor Roll

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

Pinecrest Academy, Everest Collegiate and The Highlands School listed by the Cardinal Newman

Society as Catholic Schools of Excellence

On September 15, the Cardinal Newman Society released the list of schools on its [2014 Catholic High School Honor Roll](#). Among the 71 schools honored from 26 states were the three high schools using the education model of the Legion of Christ – Pinecrest Academy in Cumming, Georgia; Everest Collegiate High School in Clarkston, Michigan; and the Highlands School in Irving, Texas.



All three schools have been named to the Catholic School Honor Roll each year since they became eligible to receive the award. The Highlands School has received the recognition each year from the time of the award's inception.

“Since competition began in 2004, the Honor Roll has been a helpful tool for administrators, families, and benefactors in recognizing the quality of a Catholic high school education,” said Patrick J. Reilly, President of The Cardinal Newman Society. “Honor Roll schools are a reminder that Catholic education is getting better every day—not only academically, but in the renewal of Catholic identity—and we are delighted to see the increased level of competition among schools that participated in the program this year.”

The Acton Institute founded the Catholic High School Honor Roll in 2004. The Cardinal Newman Society assumed the program in 2012, consistent with its mission of helping Catholic families and promoting faithful Catholic education.

Schools receiving the honor are recognized for integration of Catholic identity throughout all aspects of their programs, and excellence in academics.

Less than five percent of the Catholic high schools in the United States were given the title this year. In addition to the 71 schools, an additional nine received the distinction of Honorable Mention.

Fr. Daniel Ray, president of The Highlands, said, “We are very grateful

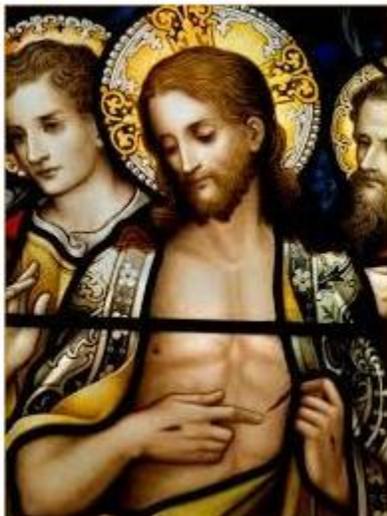
for this recognition, and are very proud of the way our teachers and staff bring the fullness of the faith into the classroom, and the way our student body lives this day in and day out. We are very proud to receive this honor yet again.”

"It is an honor for Everest Collegiate High School to be recognized by the Catholic Education Honor Roll as a School of Excellence," said Michael Nalepa, Executive Director of Everest Collegiate. "Since becoming eligible for the program in 2012, we have been recognized by the Catholic Education Honor Roll – truly affirming our commitment to the mission of Catholic education."

Fr. Robert Presutti LC, President of Pinecrest Academy, said of his school's award, "This distinction confirms our commitment to the mission of Catholic education. I applaud the leadership, administration, students, parents, teachers, and staff for their hard work and commitment to assuring a strong Catholic identity in all we do at Pinecrest to prepare our students to be future Christian leaders in both society and the Church."

Letting you...Jesus

Regnum Christi Live – September 16, 2014
By Heidi Seubert



As I am before

You

Hesitation curls

round me

Why? Do I?

Hold back – shy

Gaze down

What fear do I carry

of your eyes?

Come closer

give me the strength

to look up

unguarded

to let you

touch what

feels untouchable

in me

Let me

let you

Be, free

To see within

these walls
unwanted...
let me be
free
to see – You
see me.

Fall JOY

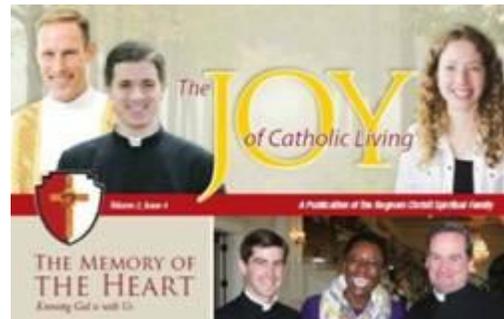
U. S. A. | WHO WE ARE | NEWS

The most recent edition of the JOY of Catholic Living Magazine is now online

The fall 2014 issue of the *JOY of Catholic Living* magazine for friends of the Legion of Christ and Regnum Christi is now available for viewing on this website.

The latest issue includes:

- A memorial segment about Fr. Alvaro Corcuera LC, who died on June 30, 2014.
- Coverage of a recent gathering of Legionaries, lay and consecrated members of Regnum Christi in Connecticut and Rhode Island, as well as a summary of the homily given by Fr. Eduardo Robles-Gil LC reflecting on the blessings of the Legion General Chapter and RC General Assemblies for the consecrated men and women.



- A glimpse into some of the apostolate work of Legion seminarians and Regnum Christi consecrated women.
- An explanation of the concept of “Spiritual Accompaniment.”
- A testimony on the value of having priests available for confession.
- A reflection from Fr. David Daly LC on the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.
- An article about the ordination of 36 Legionaries to the transitional diaconate.
- A feature on the missionary activities of Mission Youth.

Click [here](#) to read these articles and more.

Your Hands

Regnum Christi Live – September 17, 2014

By Br John Klein LC



When I was a teenager I loved classic rock music. The ripping guitar solos and the loud, untamed drums really made my teenage boyish jaw drop. However, in the middle of my college years I went to see a concert by a young musician named Bebo Norman. Bebo got up on stage with only his acoustic guitar and played a beautiful and moving show. He poured out his heart on stage that night, just him and his guitar. From that moment on I set aside classic rock and really began to listen to music, not for the flashy solos, but for the message behind the melody. I fell in love with the art of songwriting and how great songwriters, like Bebo, so easily and fluidly were able to express their deepest thoughts and experiences in simple and memorable melodies and lyrics. In my experience, what makes good song writers is that they write and sing with passion. When you have a message that you feel very passionately about, it makes a song so much

better. The man who is desperately in love writes and sings a better, more passionate love song. As well, the man who has found hope in God in the midst of deep suffering writes the better Christian song. This reflection got me thinking. What was I passionate about? What was the message that I needed to communicate in song? What was the message that would transform me from a guy who played guitar into a real artist, an artist with a unique message to bring forth? It didn't take me long to figure out that I needed to communicate my experience of Jesus Christ and my desire, after encountering him, to go out and be His hands and feet to others. What are you passionate about? What message moves you to speak, write, or sing?

Your Hands <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPyCvApslgA>

The Vatican Cricket Team Begins “Light of Faith” Tour

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

Fr. Eamonn O'Higgins LC and Br. Sameer Advani LC are traveling with the team this week for an exhibition match and ecumenical encounter with the Anglicans in Britain



In the sporting arena, Br. Sameer Advani LC, the first Legionary from India, has a good reason to be proud of his nationality.

He serves as assistant to Fr. Eamonn O'Higgins LC, who is the chaplain for the St. Peter's Cricket team, the official cricket team of the Vatican. The majority of the players on the team, seven in fact, are from India. The rest of the team members are from Great Britain, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Br. Sameer and Fr. Eamonn are traveling with the Vatican team to England this week for an exhibition game against the Anglicans in Canterbury today, September 18, and tomorrow.

"The Anglican team is very good," said Sameer. "They are the favorite."

The [UK Guardian newspaper](#) quoted Fr. Eamonn saying, "Realistically, we are rank underdogs with a very outside chance, but that's okay." (Click [here](#) an interview with Fr. Eamonn about the cricket team.)

The Vatican team is

beginning what they call their “Light of Faith” exhibition tour, which includes matches against the British army chaplains and the staff of the Royal Household at Windsor.



While in England, the Vatican team, along with Br. Sameer and Fr. Eamonn, will also participate in an ecumenical encounter that reportedly will include the Archbishop of Canterbury.

“The whole trip is part of a dialogue and encounter which hopefully will bring much fruit,” said Br. Sameer.

For more news about the Vatican cricket team, go to the following links:

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/vatican-cricket-team-to-play-church-of-england-in-first-tour-38891/>

<http://www.news.va/en/news/pope-francis-meets-with-members-of-st-peters-crick>

<http://www.bellenews.com/2013/10/23/world/europe-news/vatican-launches-st-peters-cricket-club-to-encourage-interfaith-dialogue/>

Regnum Christi Live – September 18, 2014
By Ashley Osmera



Over the years I've tried to distinguish the difference between the definition of a "friend" and of a "sister." At least for me personally, one difference I've come to recognize is that friends may come and go, but sisters...don't. Once you find a sister, you're kind of stuck with them, but in the best, most beautiful way possible.

When you have a sister by your side who is striving toward the same goal as you, namely to love and serve Christ, you can't truly look at that person for long without catching a glimpse of Christ himself and unveiling His own heart. I've seen it countless times: that Christ-like love shining through wounded, human hearts, overcoming every kind of natural tendencies and human weakness. It's something that never ceases to baffle and inspire me and bring me to my knees in sheer awe and gratitude.

Some would look at one of my sisters and say, "Yeah, I know her, she's loud and talkative and crazy." But oh, if they had only seen the times my

tear-stained face rested on her shoulder; the only words she spoke being silent, whispered prayers to Christ on my behalf.

Others would say of another sister, “Yup, she’s very strong, a natural leader.” But they would never know how, with such gentleness and humility, she would work hard to keep her areas especially neat and arrive on time to certain activities because she knew how much I appreciated it.

Still others would mention a sister’s name and follow it with, “You know, the really quiet, reserved one.” Ah! They never saw our many moments of (charitable) teasing and laughter, talking and reading poetry as we walked outside together, or staying up talking about Our Lady after I had knee surgery and had trouble falling asleep some nights.

You see, the relationship between sisters opens doors and explores depths which no one outside can even begin to imagine or understand. I think Christ gives this gift in a special way to souls who consecrate their lives to Him. When people ask me about my journey of consecrated life I will sometimes hear, “So, you’ll never have your own family?” When this occurs I just smile, shake my head, and attempt to explain how they really couldn’t be further from the truth. Yes, perhaps I won’t have a physical, earthly husband and children to call mine. But consecrated life draws you into a family of its own, a family who will spend sweat and blood and tears for you, love you unconditionally, and die to themselves and their own desires for your sake.

This sisterhood...it’s real. I’ve seen it. I wouldn’t trade it for anything in the universe. And you can be sure that I will spend the rest of my life thanking God for this incredible, truly awe-some treasure.

International meeting: The Pastoral Project of *Evangelii gaudium*

Regnum Christi Live – September 18, 2014 **By Mary Patt Pirie**

Organized by the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization

Rome, Sept 18-19-20

<http://www.novaevangelizatio.va/content/nvev/en/eventi/Incontro-evangelii-gaudium.html>

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/the-pastoral-project-of-evangelii-gaudium>



Mary Patt Pirie, Veronica Fernández and Alice Bresolin outside Paul VI on their way into the Congress.

I was blessed to participate today in the first of three days in which the Church is inviting pastoral agents from all over the world to reflect on how to make Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii gaudium* a true "pastoral project" in the practical sense of the word.

Vero Fernández, Alice Bresolin and Bernardo Pérez, consecrated members of the Movement, also participated.

This first day was an introduction to what is to follow tomorrow and Saturday. After a moment of communitary prayer, we heard Jean Vanier tell us about his experiences caring for and learning from the handicapped and disabled. He encouraged us to learn to "listen to the sufferings of the

poor, listen to their tears”, and through our contact with them understand our own barriers to loving and tear them down.

Mons Octavio Ruiz Arenas, the Secretary of the Pontifical Council organizing this event, gave a brief but thorough explanation regarding the way Pope Francis uses the term “New Evangelization” in relation to the way his predecessors did. He touched on most of the novel expressions the Holy Father uses in *Evangelii gaudium* that have sparked interest because they respond to real pastoral concerns and needs.

The next talk made me very glad, as Mons André Léonard, Archbishop of Malines-Bruselles, outlined clearly where *Evangelii gaudium* mirrors and gives continuity to the main messages of *Evangelii nuntiandi* (Pope Paul VI, 1975, http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_p-vi_exh_19751208_evangelii-nuntiandi_en.html). Did you know that such topics as kerygmatic proclamation, a “spirit of evangelization”, popular piety and homilies had already been addressed by the soon to be beatified Paul VI? Naturally, Pope Francis has put his own twist on them, his cultural and pastoral background being so different from Paul VI’s. But their intuitions were essentially the same on those points. One thing I thought Mons. Léonard underlined beautifully was the real meaning of evangelization, which has nothing at all to do with “Catholic marketing” and needs to be understood by all of us in the Church as task that pertains to us, and as a way of life.

Mons. Rino Fisichella, the Prefect of the Congregation, closed the afternoon with a talk on *Evangelii gaudium* as a pastoral project that has to get us moving as a Church towards people who need to hear the good news of Jesus’ love for them. He spoke about the Word, about prophecy and about welcoming as three important aspects, and pushed strongly for solid formation for all pastoral agents and all Catholics as we are called to “give an account for the hope that is within us” (1 Peter 3:15).

There were many priests and religious present, but also lay people: married, single, consecrated, and even a few children with their parents. Everyone there is committed to the evangelization in a direct way. As the Pope tells us, “The Church exists for the purpose of evangelizing.” And we as her members, children of God and participants in the salvation Christ came to offer us, share her “endless desire to show mercy” (EG n.24).

Tomorrow there are several interesting topics to be discussed and the program mentions a meeting with Pope Francis at 4 pm. I will keep you posted.

The Examen Prayer for Teens – Part 1

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

Br. Lucio Boccacci LC discusses how to guide a prayerful examination of conscience with teenagers

Following is Part 1 of a series by Br. Lucio Boccacci LC, who writes for the blog <http://youth2change.com/>, talking about the Examen Prayer from St. Ignatius. St. Ignatius described the prayer as “a key to the spiritual life that moves from thanksgiving and petition to review, repentance and a resolution.” Br. Lucio talks about how it can be used with teens in youth ministry, at camps and retreats and even at home. (Look for Part II in October.)



St. Ignatius considered prayerful attention to one’s interior spiritual experience as the key element of the spiritual life.

His Examen Prayer is meant to do exactly this! The consistent practice of Examen will reveal God's work in one's life and help guide a corresponding response of love. Indeed, as St. Ignatius writes in his Spiritual Exercises, "our hearts are an arena where many different movements occur."

This is why the fundamental attitude for a successful Examen Prayer is to "seek and find the divine will in the disposition of our lives." (Spiritual Exercises 1)

St. Ignatius proposes 5 steps in the Prayer of Examen:

- Gratitude to God for the blessings of the day
- Petition for the grace to see and overcome failings
- Review the day to see the spiritual experience throughout it
- Seek God's forgiveness where necessary
- Renewal for the next day

The purpose of the prayer is not just to find what went wrong, as we often do in conscience exams, but also to see what went right. In other words, where is the Holy Spirit leading?

The Prayer of Examen may help teens in many ways:

- To recognize how much God does in their lives.
- To learn to be grateful to God.
- To understand faults and weaknesses better.
- To take off their "masks" and live authentically before others.
- To discover new resolutions they could try.
- To learn to speak (more) to God.
- To grow in one's image of God.

Leading the Examen Prayer

I highly recommend that a qualified adult guide the Examen Prayer. It's much easier if it is guided, especially for teens! In a one or two-night retreat, and even in a one-week camp, it's just too little time to give teens the training and experience they need to actually guide it

themselves. Here's what I recommend as the best way:

- The adult leader guides it completely.
- He sets an example by leading a prayer of his own at some or all of the steps.
- He invites the teens to contribute out loud (perhaps raising their hand for big groups).
- He can even use an examination of conscience video (see below).
- If you have a large group and several qualified adults, dividing the teen participants into smaller groups may help quite a bit.

The exam can progress in different ways, depending on the style of the leader, the length of time you want the exam to last, and the needs of the teens. Here are three ways:

- Randomly, as the teens recall significant events from their day.
- Chronologically, beginning in the morning up through the night.
- Selectively, if the leader wants to highlight specific moments in the day.

It's important to look concretely at the time frame you have. You could do the examen process before lunch, or at some point in the evening, or perhaps at the end of the retreat, or scattered throughout the camp. Experiment a bit with the timing to suit your group's needs.

But I think it's best to do it at night before going to bed. This is a good way to review the entire day, set the stage for a good night's sleep, and prepare for the next day.

Some Extra Tips

For teens new to the Examen, you may want to focus more on gratitude. This will help them recognize God's love and hopefully help them better welcome the tougher steps later. If your group does really well at a particular step, take note of that, and consider allowing them to continue expounding on it. This may be how the Holy Spirit wants to work in their souls.

Keep in mind that you have to battle against the clock and the teens' desire to pray and examine themselves. Depending on their age and spiritual openness, you may have from as little as 5 minutes to as much as 25 minutes. You may want to start out short, and over the length of the camp, expand the exam time. In any case, especially if done at night, the exam becomes more like a spiritual reflection.

Some other ways to use the Examen Prayer are:

- To prepare your large group for confession.
- Presenting and leading it during your youth ministry or religious education class, especially to teach teens to pray it on their own.
- Teaching parents to pray it, so they can lead the prayer at home for their own children.
- Leading it during adoration. (Students pray silently as you lead and the leader offers moments of silence at each step.)
- Training young adults to lead the prayer in small groups during a retreat or camp.
- At the very beginning of an event to create the right disposition of heart.

Here is a short video that might help to better understand the Examen Prayer:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=io1w1AWs_Gc

You can also read more about the prayer in the book *The Examen Prayer: Ignatian Wisdom for Our Lives Today* by Timothy Gallagher.

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