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REGNUM CHRISTI NEWS OF THE WEEK

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A guy walks into a baseball game...

Regnum Christi Live – September 29

By Jim Fair



OK...so a man walks into a White Sox game with an Australian, a South African, a Cubs fan (all consecrated women) and his wife. What happens? The man has a wonderful afternoon with great friends. Thanks to Sonia Baldwin (Australian), Lauren Hawkesworth (South African), Mary Maher (Cubs fan) and Charmaine Fair (wife).

New Dean of Bioethics

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

Fr. Joseph Tham LC named to Dean of Bioethics at Regina Apostolorum in Rome



Fr. Eduardo Robles-Gil LC has appointed Fr. Joseph Tham LC as Dean of the School of Bioethics for the next three years at the Pontifical Regina Apostolorum in Rome.

Fr. Joseph Tham LC (second from right) talks with students and faculty at Regina Apostolorum. (Also pictured is the late bioethics professor Dr. Edmund Pellegrino.)



The study of Bioethics focuses on ethical considerations in medical and biological research. The Regina Apostolorum faculty offers three degrees in Bioethics, including baccalaureate, licentiate and doctorate, as well as a “Diploma of Specialization” in Bioethics.

“Secular bioethics does not properly address the deeper questions of life, of suffering and death, illness and healing, and the right use of technology,” said Fr. Joseph. “But theological perspectives on creation, idolatry, suffering, aging, sin and salvation can provide necessary bioethical reflection on the human condition.”

Fr. Joseph said the challenges he faces during his term of service include increasing enrollment at Regina Apostolorum, strengthening research at the educational institute, encouraging teamwork among its instructors, improving academic excellence and strengthening its international presence.

Fr. Joseph has been a professor of Bioethics at Regina Apostolorum since 2008. Born in Hong Kong, he immigrated to Toronto at the age of 15. Fr. Joseph graduated in Medicine at the University of Toronto and worked as a physician at Etobicoke General Hospital and St. Joseph’s Health Centre in Toronto.

In 1994 he entered the novitiate of the Legionaries of Christ in Cheshire, Connecticut, and in 2004 was ordained a priest. In 2007 Fr. Joseph presented his doctoral thesis on “Secularization of Bioethics”, covering the historical development of secularization and its impact in the area of theology and religion in the field of Bioethics.

Among other issues, in an increasingly globalized world, Fr. Joseph’s work includes exploring the themes of multiculturalism and other religions in the field of Bioethics.

“My Chinese roots and my Christian commitment have allowed me to delve into this fascinating world of thought and cultures,” he said.

Shop and Support Regnum Christi!

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Your Amazon.com purchases can help fund Mission Network Apostolate Programs

Looking for an easy way to help support Regnum Christi's apostolate work? You can do so when you shop on Amazon.com!

Just enter the Amazon website at the following

link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1500093>.

"Amazon makes it easy," said Todd Brechbill of Mission Network. "And we receive .5% of anyone's total purchase directly into our 501 c 3 account."

Participants need only select "Mission Network Programs" as their non-profit of choice.

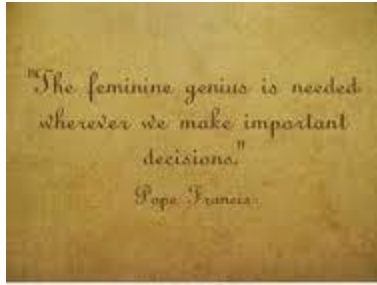
"Simply click the link, and save it as a FAVORITE in your Browser, so anytime you shop on Amazon, you can simply click this link," said Todd. "To make it easy, delete any other direct link to Amazon on your tablet or computer so you always enter in through this link."



The feminine genius

Regnum Christi Live – September 30

By Fr Michael Sliney LC



"Thank you, every woman, for the simple fact of being a woman! Through the insight which is so much a part of your womanhood you enrich the world's understanding and help to make human relations more honest and authentic."

St. John Paul II

Both Pope Francis and St. John Paul II used the expression "feminine genius." Not much to add to the quotes above...but I am certainly grateful for the input and example that I have received from so many women in my life.

When I A Weak, Then I Am Strong

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

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is examined in the latest Retreat Guide from RCSpirituality.org

The meaning behind the Catholic sacrament the Anointing of the Sick is the subject of the latest Retreat Guide from RCSpirituality.org.

[*When I Am Weak, Then I Am Strong: A Retreat Guide on the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick*](#) is the latest in a long list of online, “do-it-yourself” retreats now available at the website. Divided into three segments, the Retreat Guide includes:



- A meditation on how Jesus treated the sick.
- A second meditation examining the meaning of the sacrament itself.
- A conference about how our culture treats the sick and dying—and what the Church has to say about it.

“How can we make sure that we survive and thrive through the storms of life, so that they make us more mature and lead us closer to God?” asked Lucy Honner, Director of the RC Spirituality Center. “Whenever that time comes for those we love, and even ourselves, to suffer and to die, we are faced with a critical choice: will we allow the illness and suffering to lead us, as the Catechism puts it, to ‘anguish, self-absorption... despair, and revolt against God?’ (CCC 1501) Or will we allow them to make us, once again quoting the Catechism, ‘more mature’ and to help us ‘discern... what is not essential’ so as to ‘turn toward that which is?’” (CCC 1501)

Is it time for the last first?

Regnum Christi Live – October 1

By Jim Fair



Long ago in the days of typewriters and carbon paper, I was editor of a small weekly newspaper in the Chicago suburbs.

I was blessed to have two energetic and enterprising reports on my staff. One was a male with very traditional views of the role of women. Frankly, he was a bit of a Neanderthal.

The other was a female who was active in the local chapter of the National Organization for Women and an ardent feminist.

To the credit of both reporters, they kept their discussions spirited but respectful; I never had to break up a fight, physical or verbal.

I had not thought about those days for many years, but was reminded last week when I saw a major newspaper's headline: "First Black Attorney General Resigns." Yes, the attorney general was resigning. Yes, he is Black. But I wish we were beyond the "First" designation.

Why this made me think of my reporting staff was that the female member of the team was generating a constant stream of articles about women who were doing things for the first time:

- First woman fire fighter
- First woman police officer
- First woman telephone repair person

- First woman construction worker

Of course, this was the mid-1970s, and it seemed to be news that women were doing jobs traditionally done by men. Today, a woman working in construction would hardly be news. In fact, we're getting to the point that a woman staying home to raise children might be odd enough to be news. But I'm bordering on being politically incorrect and we can't have that. And perhaps it is politically incorrect to suggest that we are – or ought to be – past the point of "First Black" being the first words in a headline when a cabinet member quits. We certainly can find something more significant to say about a man or woman than the color of their skin.

Pinecrest Academy Named a 2014 Blue Ribbon School

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

The school is among only 337 in nation to receive the honor

[Pinecrest Academy](#) in Cumming, Georgia, has been named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2014.

The program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap. Pinecrest Academy was recognized under the category of "Exemplary High Performing Schools."

This year the award recognized 337 throughout the country. Fifty of the schools recognized were private schools.

Pinecrest President Fr. Robert Presutti LC and Pinecrest fifth grade



Maria Insalaca, wife of the Pinecrest band director, made this cake and cupcakes for the faculty and staff after learning Pinecrest is a 2014 Blue Ribbon school.



teacher Eleanor Millspaugh will attend a special event in November in Washington, D.C to accept the award for their school.

“We are honored and humbled to be among the less than one percent of schools across the nation to receive the distinction of 2014 School of Excellence,” said Fr. Robert. “I attribute this achievement to the unwavering pursuit of excellence in education among our administration and faculty,



Students at Pinecrest celebrate their Blue Ribbon award in a convocation, singing the alma mater.



all of whom, over our twenty-one year history, have given selflessly to each and every student who has been educated here at Pinecrest.”

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed this award on 7,900 schools since it began the program 32 years ago.

The Department invites National Blue Ribbon School nominations from the top education official in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Department of Defense Education Activity and the Bureau of Indian Education. The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) nominates private schools. The U.S. Secretary of Education then

invites nominated schools to submit an application for possible recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School.

For more information on the National Blue Ribbon awards, go to <http://www.ed.gov/nationalblueribbonschools>.

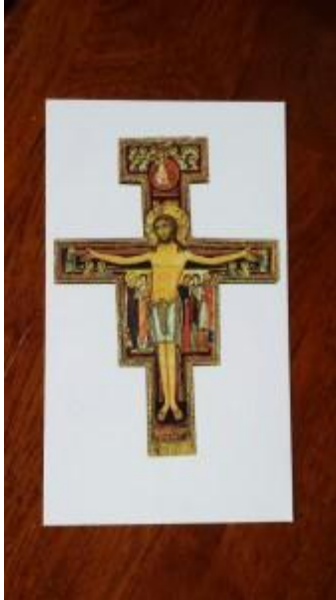


Edward Lindekugel, Pinecrest Principal, hands out balloons with some of the high school students.



looking beyond the dreadlocks

Regnum Christi Live – October 2
By Fr Kevin McKenzie LC



It was Divine Mercy Sunday. I had just finished hearing confessions at a parish about an hour from home. The gas gauge in my car read “E” – the red side of “E”.

So I pulled up at the first gas station I saw and reached for my wallet. But it wasn't there! I had left it at home.

Luckily for me, there was quite a collection of change in the cup holder in the car. I counted it out – two dollars and eighteen cents in assorted pennies, nickels, quarters and dimes. Probably not enough to get home, but it might get me close, and then I could call for help. As I walked to the register, change in hand, there were all sorts of people about filling up their cars, but I noticed one man with fluffy dreadlocks in particular. “Wow,” I thought inside.

Feeling embarrassed about all the coins, I asked the lady at the register if she didn't mind taking it all. She said she'd make do. Then, as I poured the coins into her little dish, I heard a voice over my shoulder. “Need some gas money?”

I turned, and gave a double take. It was the man with the fluffy dreadlocks. I hesitated and gave a whispered “Yes.” Immediately he took some money from his hand – enough to get me home – and placed it in my hand.

At this the cashier cheered up, as you can imagine I did. “Thank you,” I said. The man just nodded and smiled.

As soon as I got back to the car and started pumping the gas, I started searching for something to give him in gratitude. All I could find was a picture of the cross of Saint Francis blessed by Pope Francis. (Which I guess isn't that bad a gift!) I brought it over to the man and he accepted it graciously, but humbly.

And I was left with two lessons. First, what a beautiful image of how kind and selfless and caring Our good Lord is and how he watches out for us! Second, it was a concrete lesson of how silly it is to judge by appearances. The man with the fluffy dreadlocks was the last one I thought would have helped me – he was the kind of person I would have stayed away from. But the Lord “sees the heart”. Unlike us.

Well now I know. The heart is what matters. And this man had a heart of gold.

Renewal for Regnum Christi Movement Begins

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

Fr. Eduardo Robles-Gil sends letter to 1st and 2nd Degree RC members discussing the process



I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have... (2Tim 1:6)

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's grace. (1Pet 4:10)

With these quotes from scripture, Fr. Eduardo Robles-Gil LC kicks off the start of the renewal process for the 1st and 2nd degree members of Regnum Christi.

In a letter to members of the movement, he explains the renewal process. (Click [here](#) to see the original version in Spanish, and [here](#) for the English translation.)

“I invite you to undertake this journey with an attitude of openness to the Holy Spirit,” he said. “With this letter I am sending the text of a prayer that implores the Lord to bless this journey with his grace and presence.” (To access the prayer, click [here](#).)

(Members of the North American Territory may also sign up for a slot to participate in 10 days of prayer, beginning today, for the renewal process at the following

link

Fr. Eduardo said that existing statutes of Regnum Christi movement approved by the Holy See in 2004 remain in force. He explained that the renewal process will work toward developing a revised set of statutes, for which a draft will be written during the international convention convoked for Pentecost of 2016, and then be submitted to the Holy See for approval.

Fr. Eduardo said that, from now until April 2015, the various localities will organize activities to become familiar with the teachings of the Magisterium regarding the role of the laity in the Church.

Then from May to November 2015, organized study groups will discern the identity, mission, spirituality, formation, structure, organization, etc., of the 1st and 2nd degree members, using prepared materials, including the part of the RC Statutes referring to the 1st and 2nd degree, the RC Members' Handbook, and proposals made by

The renewal process website, currently in Spanish, will be live in English after the North American National Convention.



representatives of the 1st and 2nd degree in July 2013 in Rome. Following this reflection period, during Pentecost 2016, a new phase will begin involving the entire RC family, including Legionaries, consecrated members and 1st and 2nd degree members, to determine “the canonical configuration” or that is, “the most appropriate juridical expression in order to foster communion in the mission we share,” writes Fr. Eduardo.

Study guides, documents for reflection, the explanation of the procedure, the contact information for each territory, etc. will be available on a website created for the review of the Statutes -- www.rcstatutes.org -- that will be live in English after the official launch in the North American Territory following the Atlanta convention next week. Currently it is available only in Spanish.

Gratitude, humility or just plain silliness

Regnum Christi Live – October 3

By Jim Fair



This week’s crisis for professional football occurred when a Muslim player intercepted a pass, scored a touchdown, fell to his knees to pray and was promptly penalized 15 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Apparently the officials didn’t realize what the player was doing was a religious gesture and not one of the many various celebration dances

players engage in. And a religious gesture (think Tim Tebow) is allowed, albeit uncomfortably for many fans.

Frankly, I'm getting a bit uncomfortable with all the celebrating and religious gesturing each time a football player scores a touchdown, sacks a quarterback or finds his water bottle on the bench. (Although American football players aren't as bad as professional soccer players who start taking off their clothes when they score – I really don't get that one.)

I can't get into a player's head, so maybe when he crosses the goal line and points to the sky, crosses himself or drops to a knee to pray he really is demonstrating deep, heartfelt gratitude to God or the transcendent being of his particular choice. But I'm a bit cynical; sometimes I think it is as much to say "see how cool I am" as "give credit to God." Which begs the question of whether God really cares about football.

There seems to be an inverse relationship between celebration of achievement and the value of the actual achievement. Some guy runs around end 20 yards for a touchdown. The crowd cheers. He drops to his knees and thanks the Good Lord for giving him the strength and speed to score six points. Then he does a few nifty dance steps, jumps into the crowd to share their adulation and high fives a few teammates.

On the other hand, some nerd in a lab finds a cure to some form of cancer and he gets a write-up in scholarly journals and his friends take him for a quiet dinner at Smith & Wollensky. You just don't see scientists doing high fives and happy dances, although I expect many do take time for a sincere prayer of gratitude.

I'd like to see a football player cross the goal line, drop the ball and jog off the field. That would put his achievement in the proper perspective.

Jim Fair
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