

**Sent:** Friday, October 10, 2014 4:02 PM

**Subject:** REGNUM CHRISTI NEWS OF THE WEEK -- OCTOBER 10

## REGNUM CHRISTI NEWS OF THE WEEK

**Click on tag line to go to article**

[Finding Adequate Canonical Configuration – Consecrated Women](#)

[Running for Life – Immaculate Conception](#)

[Closing Mater Ecclesiae College – will finish academic year](#)

[Evangelization via Instagram – Fr Jason Smith LC](#)

[Friday Night Live – Philadelphia video](#)

**The past week in Regnum Christi Live!**

[Sixteen Children – by Fr Simon Devereux](#)

[Listen Humbly – by Jana Crea](#)

[One end, another beginning – by Jim Fair](#)

[The Mordarski Family – by Fr Simon Devereux LC](#)

[“Let us rise and be on our way.” – by Deb Bauer](#)

[Which is the Better Part? – by Kelly Luttinen](#)

---

# Finding Adequate Canonical Configuration

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

## *The Church responds regarding the current state of the definitive approval of the statutes of the Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi*

Secretary José Rodríguez Carballo of the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CIVCSVA) recently sent a letter to Gloria Rodríguez, general director of the Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi, explaining that the definitive approval of the groups' statutes would have to wait until the renewal process for the 1st and 2nd degree Regnum Christi members was completed.



A group photo from the December 2013 General Assembly.



At the end of the Assembly of the consecrated women in December 2013, the Papal Delegate Cardinal Velasio De Paolis issued a decree of approval of the groups' statutes "ad experimentum," until the competent authority in the Church gives canonical approval.

Fr. Gianfranco Ghirlanda, pontifical assistant for the Legion of Christ, provided some insight into what this means. He explained that "the constitutions of every institute, and the statutes of every association, when they are new, are first approved 'ad experimentum,' because they should be 'tried out' by the institute or association. At the end of the 'ad experimentum' period, eventual modifications should be made. Nevertheless, this does not minimize the obligation of the statutes during the 'ad experimentum' period."

In April of 2014, Gloria Rodríguez met with Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, Prefect of the CIVCSVA, and gave him a copy of the proposed Statutes of the Association of the Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi, which had been approved by the General Assembly and promulgated by the Pontifical Delegate. She also requested the canonical establishment of the association.

In Msgr. Carballo's letter responding to this request, the CIVCSVA indicated that it considers it necessary to first study the juridical nature of Regnum Christi as a whole before defining which would be the competent authority to definitively approve the statutes of the consecrated women and, therefore, canonically establish the association.

Fr. Ghirlanda said that either the CIVCSVA or the Pontifical Council for the Laity could potentially act as the competent authority for the establishment of the association. He also indicated that the decision either way would not influence the internal life of the consecrated women, and he emphasized that though the consecrated women have not yet been canonically recognized, it has no practical repercussion on their lives.

"Your canonical configuration is clear, as associations of the faithful that assume the evangelical councils", he said. "The Church, based on the fact that it recognizes the right of the faithful to associate, recognizes the existence of associations within her as a fact, even before they have a canonical configuration. The Church recognizes its government and style of life as a fact."

"That recognition is, in no way, put into doubt," he said. "Your vows are valid. They are private vows. You may admit candidates and promote your vocation and the profession of the vows."

At present, Fr. Ghirlanda said it is correct and proper that the consecrated women continue working according to what has been established in the groups' "Framework of Collaboration" with the other branches or Regnum Christi.

Gloria said that in the consecrated women's statutes, they affirm their identity as part of the spiritual family of Regnum Christi movement. She recognizes the news of the approval delay was not what was anticipated, but said it will be very helpful to complete the discernment about the identity of the 1st and 2nd degree members as part of the same spiritual family. She also she believes the fact that the Church is searching for an adequate canonical form for the whole of Regnum Christi will help protect, safeguard and promote the movement's charism.

Gloria reiterated that the work now at hand will be to seek and put into practice what the consecrated women's statutes establish, to refine their formation and continue developing their mission of "announcing the Kingdom of Christ."

## Sixteen Children

Regnum Christi Live – October 6

By Fr Simon Devereux LC



Br. Paul Maleski's mother Dorothy is a witness to trusting in God. She converted from Mormonism before marrying her husband. Together they had 16 children (Br. Paul is the third youngest). In 2004, when Paul was ten his father died suddenly of a heart attack. Shortly afterwards she started attending daily Mass with the children. I met her last Friday and was so impressed with her joy, common sense and perseverance.

What is it like to have 15 brothers and sisters? I asked Legionary seminarian Br. Paul. "A huge blessing and a lot of fun," he responded. "Everyone helps to balance each other out, and we are so close despite being so spread out."

**Running for Life**

## *Immaculate Conception Program girls show their support for the Pro-life cause*

“We really aren’t here to point fingers and blame others. The best way to defend life is to celebrate it and live it the full.”

These are the words of Anna Nguyen, a junior at Everest Collegiate High School and member of the [Immaculate Conception Program](#) in Oxford, Michigan. Anna and her fellow IC Program friends just completed running in a 5K Run for Life sponsored by the [Women and Teens Crisis Pregnancy Center](#) in Pontiac, Michigan.

Anna said she loves what she calls the “family atmosphere” at events like this one, which took place September 6 at Dodge Park in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

“We showed up for the race and there were grandparents walking it, little nine-year-old boys trying to beat me and parents pushing small children in strollers,” she said. “Everyone was very welcoming and encouraging even if they didn’t know you.”

The Regnum Christi consecrated women in Oxford who help oversee the IC program also participated in the race with the girls, including Valerie Fifelski and Katie Tuttle and April Pickett.

“The environment (at the run) was interesting,” said Katie. She said the experience was very prayerful, adding that the girls especially liked the meditation given at the beginning of the race about humans being made in the image and likeness of God.

“It added meaning of the experience,” she said.



(From left to right) RC consecrated women April Pickett and Valerie Fifelski with Immaculate Conception girls Haein Ro, Anna Nguyen and Samay Tuc Xuan. RC consecrated woman Katie Tuttle is on the right.



Katie learned about the event online and asked the IC members if they wanted to participate.

“Our girls are very prolife,” she said, saying they frequently participate in events to support the cause. “It’s something they are passionate about.”

The IC Program girls are planning to attend the March for Life in Washington DC for the third year in a row. They also have been active in the local 40 Days for Life events, praying outside abortion clinics. And they helped raise money for their local Oxford Pregnancy Center last year, delivering baby bottles for people to fill with spare change at nearby parishes.

This is the first time they have participated in a 5K Run, however.

“The girls are active and like to get outside, but they are not avid runners so this was a fantastic achievement for them on top of supporting a great cause,” said Valerie, who is director of the IC Program.

Valerie, Katie and April had an impressive showing at the event. All three women won first place honors in their age categories during the 5K Run.

Katie and Valerie will soon be participating in the upcoming Chicago Marathon on October 12.

“We are running to promote and support vocations to the consecrated life,” she said.

*Our prayers are with you ladies!*

## **Listen Humbly**

**Regnum Christi Live – October 7, 2014**

**By Jana Crea**



The Holy Father had some words of wisdom to hand on to the Fathers attending the Synod of the Family just before it opened this weekend: “Listen Humbly”.

These words echo what I have felt in my heart regarding the renewal of the first and second degree of Regnum Christi. The Legion has had their turn to reflect. The Consecrated Men and Consecrated Women have embarked on their renewal. Now it is your turn.

And I think that these words are addressed, in particular, to those of us who have already had moments for reflection. The danger right now is for us to think that because we started before the rest of the RC members, that we have a really clear idea of where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

It’s true, we have an idea, and it’s called the Regnum Christi Family. But clarity will only come when each member of the family has his and her moment to speak.

So, my exhortation to all you first and second degree members is to use your voice! And for those Legionaries and Consecrated members who will be accompanying this process, my prayer is that we listen and listen deeply.

# Closing Mater Ecclesiae College

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

*At the end of the academic year, the college in Greenville, Rhode Island, will no longer be the formation center in North America for the Regnum consecrated women*

Territorial Director for the Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi in North America, Nancy Nohrden, made an announcement today with what she described as a “heavy heart.” [Mater Ecclesiae College](#) (MEC), the formation center in Greenville, Rhode Island, will be closing at the end of this academic year.



“In a world where there truly is constant change, we sometimes must find new ways to carry out our mission,” she said in a letter sent today to the consecrated women in North America.

(Click [here](#) to read the letter.)

Citing fewer vocations and lower than expected enrollment at the college due to the “difficulties and institutional changes” during the last few years and the “reality of our current world,” Nancy said maintaining the college’s NEASC accreditation would be “unviable in the foreseeable future.”

She expressed her thanks to the many consecrated women who have served on the MEC team through the years, and emphasized that

Regnum Christi will continue to form the young women in North America who are discerning a vocation to consecrated life in the Regnum Christi movement.

“In fact, we are making plans for a new class of candidates next year here in the territory, and will let you know the location of that program when we have the details worked out,” she said. “As for those consecrated women currently in the studies stage, their formation continues to be a priority. We want to assure you that each of them will have the opportunity to complete her studies and receive a degree.”

Nancy pointed out that continuing the formation process at a different venue outside MEC could “provide new opportunities to share this gift (of consecrated life) and to live out this mission.”

“It can also allow for a more prudent use of our donor’s contributions in the future,” she added.

“Over the last two decades, MEC has served Christ and the Church by forming hundreds of women who came to discern a call to consecrated life in Regnum Christi,” she said. “With your support over one hundred young women in recent years have received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious and Pastoral Studies from the College.”

She said that because of their formation at MEC, dozens of women have discerned a call to consecrated life in Regnum Christi. Graduates have gone on to minister around the world, “working with youth and adults, serving in parishes, and providing spiritual accompaniment to people seeking the love of Christ.”

Nancy was not able to discuss whether the Greenville property would be retained or not by the consecrated women and the Regnum Christi movement. “We are looking at options, and we hope it will stay in the Regnum Christi family, but that is not yet determined.”

# One end, another beginning

Regnum Christi Live – October 9

By Jim Fair



Several years ago I landed a great teaching job, getting paid in prayers, peace of heart and chocolate chip cookies.

In the academic world this job would not be seen as esteemed. It was only for one week a year and didn't require a doctorate. But to me, no teacher ever had a better assignment.

That's because I have been adjunct professor of communications at Mater Ecclesiae College, Greenville, Rhode Island. It is a beautiful, holy place where the Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi study and pray. And as you probably have heard, it will close next spring, a victim of low enrollment and lack of a pot of gold.

I know that some very dear friends, past students at MEC, faculty at the college and friends of these holy women are sad today. I am praying for them, and hoping that they remember all the school gave them, which overshadows its closing in the great scheme of God's plan.

The first time I stood in front of a class of your consecrated-women-to-be I felt, well, awkward. I was like a dandelion in the middle of a perfect, green lawn. I was teaching from my area of expertise, but the class was

advanced so far beyond me in the really important subjects of life: faith, hope and charity. I soon realized my suspicion that I would be more a student than a teacher in that class and it has been the same each year.

For that one week, each fall, I was blessed to be a part of a holy community of beautiful people – who always made me feel welcome, who approached life with joy and gratitude. They filled me with such hope.

And that will continue. They may not be in that physical place, but young women will continue to find a vocation to consecrated life in Regnum Christi. They will love and serve the Church.

And whenever they need one, I know where they can find an adjunct professor of communications.

## Evangelization via Instagram

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

*Fr. Jason Smith LC is interviewed on Catholic Radio about his efforts to spread the faith via his smart phone*

---



One of Fr. Jason Smith's latest photos on Instagram of Legion of Christ novices at the seminary praying the

A picture speaks a thousand words, they say, and that is why Instagram can be such an effective means for evangelization, according to Fr. Jason Smith LC.

rosary.



Fr. Jason, who was recently named among the “[Top 12 Catholic Instagrammers](#)” on a blog by one of his fellow Legionaries, Fr. Matthew Schneider LC, was interviewed recently on the Catholic radio program, the [Son Rise Morning Show](#), broadcast out of the Cincinnati, Ohio area.

More than 150 million people currently make use of the cell phone app, Instagram, according to Fr. Jason. He likens the premise of the app to using a Polaroid camera to obtain instant photos that can be shared online immediately.

Users most commonly share photos of life’s moments with their family and friends. But Fr. Jason believes Instagram can also become an instrument of God’s grace.

After he obtained his first smart phone a few years ago, Fr. Jason was visiting a Dominican convent to celebrate a 6 am Mass. He said he saw a statue of St. Dominic shrouded in the early morning mist and wanted to take a photo of it with his new phone.

Someone then told him about the Instagram app, so he uploaded his photo, and people started following him.

Before becoming a priest, Fr. Jason had studied illustration and design, so he has an “eye” for beauty in the world around him. “I realized as a priest, I am surrounded by the beauty of the Catholic faith wherever I go,” he said.

So he started snapping photos of whatever caught his eye -- churches, statues, life in the seminary, etc.

“It’s almost like I am running my own little ‘newspaper,’ so to speak,” he said. “You would never guess the good that comes out of it.”

He said one young man who saw his photos came to visit Fr. Jason at the seminary. He also remembers getting a note from a woman who saw one of his photos while she was sitting in the waiting room at an

abortion clinic, and then decided to get up and leave.

So far the photo that has received the most positive feedback on his account is an image of a Church in Manhattan dedicated to St. Monica that he posted on the saint's feast day.

"It is a simple reminder from this simple app," he said. "It surprised me the impact one little photo can have."

To listen to the entire radio interview, go to the following link:[www.sonrisemorningshow.com/podcastgen/media/2014-09-30\\_sonrise\\_09\\_30.mp3](http://www.sonrisemorningshow.com/podcastgen/media/2014-09-30_sonrise_09_30.mp3). Fr. Jason's segment is at about the 2-hour, 2-minute and 19-second mark. (2.2.19).

To see Fr. Jason's Instagram photos, go to <http://instagram.com/FRJASONSMITH>.

## The Mordarski Family

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



*"God rejoices more in what He can do in a soul humbly resigned... than in the creation of millions of suns and the vast stretch of the heavens." St. Therese of Lisieux*

"The Mordarski family is maybe the most generous family I have ever met," writes my bigger brother, Fr. Matthew, who works in Poland.

"They have four of their own children. Piotrek is the second oldest of the four. They are also a foster family, which means they normally have an extra two or three children with them at any time (kids from very troubled backgrounds – parents with alcoholism or drug abuse, some doing time etc)."

"The Mordarski family depend upon the only salary of Krzysztof, who is an English teacher, to make ends meet. Elżbieta, his wife, decided to give up her teaching career about five years ago when she knew God was calling her to give all of her time to the raising of foster children as well as their own four children."

With parents like this, no wonder Piotrek has just joined the Legion's high school seminary in Germany!

Let's pray for the Mordarskis and also ask God how He would like us to be more generous.

## “Let us rise and be on our way.”

Regnum Christi Live – October 9, 2014

By Deb Bauer



These familiar words from the Gospel and borrowed by St. John Paul II are a sturdy platform for me to share a few reflections in this moment as we end the chapter of Mater Ecclesiae College.

My heart is full of immense gratitude for the innumerable lessons I have learned in these years from the dedicated women who have been part of MEC. I have had the blessing to work with and serve countless consecrated women over these years; I've seen so many hearts searching to be configured to His, so many lives seeking to dethrone selfishness; placing there a surrender to allow Christ to reign in their hearts.

God's will is for us to rise up and reflect on a new vocational reality for the consecrated women of Regnum Christi, one that fits the times and meets the needs of the women that who are feelingfeel the impetus to follow Christ in a lifestyle of total dedication in the Evangelical Counsels. I no doubt, as Christ has guided us before; He will lead us along this new path - -; with the same dispositions of seeking to be transformed more and more into Him as the ultimate goal.

Personally, I've had the grace and the privilege to guide, educate and form consecrated souls; the MEC professors, spiritual guides and staff know, this is an encounter with Christ and we will cherish so many immeasurable "supernatural" moments in our my hearts.

MEC has taught us to love better by knowing Christ more deeply. And then to love others, sharing with them the greatest treasure we've found: the One we have staked our lives on and with this, whether they reciprocate that love or not, He is our reward. We are called simply to sow.

I've seen the sleepless nights filled with college reports and,, audits, as companions gave all they had to offer so many a college degree. Their service and surrender is an unwritten testimony of love to me.

I'm grateful beyond words for these years; for these lessons and the countless unwritten ones. My heart overflows with gratitude and awe at the gifts God has given me through MEC.

Lastly, over these years I've come to know what I really desire-Him to bring souls to know and love Him.

I pray for you to unite with me in the Benedictus of St. Agnes. A, treatise of recognizing we are all pilgrims. This sums up what we ultimately seek, may this be engraved on the souls of those totally consecrated Him.

*“what I longed for I see,  
what I hoped for I now possess;  
in heaven I am espoused to Him on earth  
I longed for with all my heart.”*

## Friday Night Live

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

### *Philadelphia locality shares the video from its local fundraising event*

“It’s kept our marriage and our lives centered on Christ and God.”

“What I like about Regnum Christi is that we have these beautiful priests that role model goodness for us every day.”

“It’s just not something that I have found anywhere else in my life.”

These testimonies and more can be found inside a special video prepared by the members of the Legion of Christ and Regnum Christi in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area.



Regnum Christi member Patellen Corr gives her testimony.



The video was shown recently during the second annual "Friday Night Live" fundraising event for this locality. And they wanted to share the video with all of you.

To watch, go to the following

link: <http://www.regnumchristi.org/english/multimedia/video.phtml?id=3215>

## Which is the Better Part?

Regnum Christi Live – October 10

By Kelly Luttinen



*Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her. -- (Luke 10:42)*

I have been thinking a lot about the [Synod](#) on the family going on in Rome right now.

It's interesting how the media and bloggers are covering this topic, adding all their "wise" insights and predictions about what this will mean for the Church and her teaching now and into the future. Some of the things being said, I must say, have caused me some consternation and yes, even a few tears.

When I am “troubled,” Mary has always shown me the way. I try to “ponder,” and the best way to do that, I find, is through prayerful reading of scripture.

So I was attentive the day before the Synod convened. It was the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend Mass. The gospel passage was the well known story of Martha and her sister Mary. (Luke 10: 38-42)

As a busy working mom, I have always wistfully wished I could be Mary, but relate to Martha, who is “worried about many things.” So when I heard this passage being read, I thought the Holy Spirit would tell me to stop my fretting.

But that is not the light I was given. I was surprised to find God showing me how I was also like Mary in this story. Perhaps it is because I try to place an emphasis in my life on prayer. And God has given me a great love for sacred scripture and for teachings of His Church (especially those teachings that helped heal my own life most – the writings of John Paul II.)

Maybe this is also why I tend to think of myself as a morality-focused, conservative Catholic. And I worry that I tend toward being a “Pharisee” in my life. We know how Christ warned those men to change their lives. So I pray, and pray and pray that I can be open to what God wants me to hear from those who tell me I ought stop wasting my time in Eucharistic Adoration and get out on the streets and feed the poor.

As I listened to that gospel being read, I could see before me the division in our Church today. You can call the sides in this division whatever you like – liberal versus conservative, social justice versus morality, orthodox versus non-orthodox...the list goes on.

I saw Martha as the “doer” of God’s will in the world, and Mary as the one pondering the teachings of Christ. And this surprised me.

It also reminded me of the topic of a discussion I had just recently with a family member. I shared with him the [story](#) of one of the recent honor graduates of Everest Collegiate High School who was planning to enter a cloistered convent. My family member lamented what a waste of talent this was.

I wonder if he would have been more pleased to hear she was becoming a nun in the like of Sister Judy Ann, the angel of the homeless in Detroit.

<http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/woman-on-mission-to-help-hungry-in-detroit/29003560>

I would argue that both of these women are exemplary Catholics following God's call. Both show what it means to be a member of the Body of Christ, using her particular gifts to meet the needs of Christ's Church.

I repeat, our Church would not be able to fulfill her mission in the world without BOTH of them.

The divisions in our Church I think, would heal if we only did as the Pope was asking at the beginning of the synod, and "listen humbly" to one another. (See the insightful [blog](#) by one of our RC family, Jana Crea.)

While perusing Facebook just before writing this blog, I saw the following story about the Pope asking for healing in divisions between Christians.

[http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2014/10/08/pope\\_divisions\\_between\\_christians\\_are\\_wounds\\_in\\_the\\_church/1108125](http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2014/10/08/pope_divisions_between_christians_are_wounds_in_the_church/1108125)

I would take his hopes and prayers one step further, and ask for healing in the divisions within the one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Catholic Church. (I have made this prayer many times before, and I know God will hear me because of my persistence!)

St. John Paul II and Mother Mary, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us.

Jim Fair  
Communications Director  
Legion of Christ  
312-953-9864