

**Sent:** Friday, October 17, 2014 7:11 PM

**Subject:** REGNUM CHRISTI NEWS OF THE WEEK -- OCTOBER 17

# REGNUM CHRISTI NEWS OF THE WEEK

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

[The RC Toolkit – help for telling our story](#)

[A Year of Daily Mass Homilies – by Fr Jason Mitchell LC](#)

[It's Good to Be Here – territory holds convention](#)

[A Very Special School – a mission in New Orleans](#)

[What Leads to Drug Abuse? – moving testimony](#)

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

[Women on the run – by Jim Fair](#)

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

[Rome in September – by Kelly Luttinen](#)

[Glass Beaches – by Fr Simon Devereux LC](#)

[Pharisaical behavior – by Fr Michael Sliney LC](#)

---

# A Year of Daily Mass Homilies

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

## *Fr. Jason Mitchell's blog reaches a milestone*

---

Father Jason Mitchell LC has good news to share. He just reached a year milestone on the homilies for his new blog “Catholic Homilies 4U.”

“Let’s see if we can keep it up for another year and complete the two-year daily cycle,” he said.



To access his blog, go to: <http://catholichomilies4u.blogspot.com>.



His blog spot is intended as a resource for those who go to daily mass and “want to understand the readings and the connections between them,” he explained.

It is also a service for priests and deacons looking for daily homily assistance.

“There are a lot of websites that help with the Sunday liturgy, so I am trying to fill the gap for the daily liturgy,” he said.

Fr. Jason hopes to eventually publish his homilies into a book or two. “I look forward to seeing what themes repeat throughout the year and get a sense of what God is telling his people over the course of the two years.”

The blog helps Fr. Jason himself, as much as it helps others, “to

understand the Word of God more deeply.” In a previous [article](#) on this website, Fr. Jason said, “I don’t like spiritual talks that concentrate solely on our

efforts to be holy or perfect. Holiness is a primarily a gift from God, and not a human conquest. It is not so much about what I do, but about what God does in me and with me. In our spiritual life, we are responding to God’s grace and inspirations. This is a constant message in the Gospel, in Paul’s writings and even in the Old Testament.”



Jason Mitchell



“I try to avoid reducing the readings to one virtue or to a general theme. I do speak more to the intellect than to the heart, trusting that the Holy Spirit will find fertile ground in those who hear the Word of God.”

## Women on the run

Regnum Christi Live – October 13

By Jim Fair



*Katie (left) and Valerie*

Valerie Fifelski and Katie Tuttle are heroines. I know it is true because I looked up “heroine” in the online dictionary and it said: woman of distinguished courage or ability, admired for her brave deeds and noble qualities.

Katie and Valerie do several things I admire. They are consecrated women of Regnum Christi. They run the Immaculate Conception Program for high-school girls who are considering a vocation to consecrated life. They are joyful people with an abundance of faith and humor.

And they run to promote vocations, which is what caused me to write these lines.

Yesterday, they ran the Chicago Marathon, in highly respectable times, and managed to look full of joy after 26.2 miles. They are a great example for the rest of us. Not everyone can run a marathon, but we can all do the joy part.

# The RC Toolkit

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

*Regnum Christi members now have access to communications tools for their localities*

Regnum Christi members in North America now have a new set of communication tools available to help them serve their localities. The RC Communications Toolkit is online at this

link: <http://www.regnumchristi.org/sites/convention/>.



The Toolkit offers the following items:

- A simple, one-page description of the RC mission and vision statement.
- An updated RC brochure that offers a basic “who we are” explanation. It can be printed from a home printer, or downloaded and taken to a professional print shop to make a large number of copies.
- Branding guidelines that show members how to properly use the RC logo, appropriate colors and typefaces, etc.
- Templates with simple formats for creating communications items like parish bulletin articles, event flyers, press releases and advertisements.
- A short slide presentation and talk that can be used to introduce the movement to an audience.
- A PowerPoint template to create your own presentation.
- Guidelines for submitting articles for internal use on the RC website, in newsletters and in social media.

All items can be updated and adapted, according to Jim Fair, RC Director of Communications. He is also open to suggestions.

“Don’t be shy,” he said. “Send me your ideas, please.” His email address is [jfair@arcol.org](mailto:jfair@arcol.org).

In addition, this very website will soon be redesigned, offering a new and improved version. Goals for the redesigned "Territorial Website" will be to consolidate the RC site with the Legion of Christ website, make it more user-friendly, easy to understand and navigate, with an enhanced media library, a shared calendar for events throughout the territory, and links to all local websites and local social media sites.

Stay tuned!

## The Blues

**Regnum Christi Live – October 14, 2014**  
**By Fr Simon Devereux LC**



*"If Sadness comes knocking at your door, tell him that you've already made a commitment to Joy to whom you plan on being faithful your whole life long." - Pope Francis*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our feelings and moods go up and down and we can't always control them. But deep down we can be joyful and at peace knowing that God our Father loves us and that we are trying to follow his plan as best we can.

And if today you are feeling a little blue, ask God to send you someone who needs some cheering up.

# It's Good to Be Here

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

*300 members of Regnum Christi gather in Atlanta, Georgia, area to begin the lay portion of the renewal process in North America*



Approximately 300 Regnum Christi members gathered at the Simpsonwood Conference Center in Norcross, Georgia from October 10-12, 2014, to begin the renewal process for the RC movement.

Fr. Eduardo Robles-Gil LC, General Direct of the Legion of Christ, heralded the beginning of the process for the movement on an international level in a letter published in a RC website [article](#) last week.

Nancy Nohrden, Territorial Director for the Consecrated Women of North America, began the event with a special reflection. She likened the RC renewal process to the scriptural journey on the road to Emmaus.

“Jesus walks with them and gently draws them in,” she said. “He opens

the Word to them. In intimate communion, he makes himself known as a total gift.”

She asked the members to consider what aspect of the mystery of Christ’s life they each are called to live out in the RC movement. She asked them to consider when they last had an “experience” of Jesus Christ.

### **Opening Mass**

Nancy’s talk was followed by the opening Mass for the convention. It was an impressive sight to see 60 Legionary priests vested for Mass processing into the crowded conference room. Fr. John Connor LC, Territorial Director for North American, was the main celebrant.

“It’s good to be here,” he said during his homily. “We are privileged to be here.”

Reflecting on the day’s reading, he said the RC movement is in a similar situation to that of Abraham.

“Abraham sent out on an adventure of deep faith in God’s promises,” he said. “Are we also not on a faith adventure similar to Abraham and Sarah?”

“The Church is asking us to continue our journey with the first and second degree members,” he said. Speaking for the members of the Legion and the consecrated members of the movement, he added, “We are here to accompany you. This is your time. Live out this period with passion and joy.”

### **State of the Movement**

During the course of the three-day convention, Fr. Eduardo Robles Gil LC, General Director of the Legion of Christ and Regnum Christi, gave a presentation on the “State of the RC Movement.”

He began by thanking everyone for coming to conference. "Thank you for what you are – members of the RC movement."

Father Eduardo said he became a member of Regnum Christi in 1962 when he was still a university student. He then became a consecrated member in 1975, and after being sent to Rome in 1977, was ordained to the Legion in 1983.

"I feel specifically a member of Regnum Christi," he told his listeners. "It is in RC I found my vocation, or God found me. In the movement, I took consciousness of the presence of God in my life."

Fr. Eduardo pointed out that he was speaking on October 11, the feast of St. John XXVIII.

"He is the symbol of the renewal in the church," he said. "We are (also) on the path of renewal, letting the Spirit work in our lives."

He told the RC members that if they are receiving peace in their



Fr. John Hopkins LC gives talk on evangelization

souls, as Christ gave his peace to his apostles, then it is a “sign the Holy Spirit is coming to us.”



“There are difficulties. But if we are at peace, we are in the renewal of the charismatic family.”

“God is with us. We are very happy to be in the hands of the Holy Spirit.”

## **The Process**

Fr. Sylvester Heereman LC, Coordinator of the Commission on the Renewal, discussed the process involved in revising the RC Statutes, which will be the goal of the renewal process.

He said the statutes will give identity, mission and organization to first and second degree members, and eventually offer a common configuration of the whole RC movement.

The statutes will help “us build communion between ourselves in our shared mission.”

The Church is walking with the movement on this journey, he said, because of its vast experience over the centuries in organizing groups of people. The Church helps groups “ask themselves fundamental questions” and “anticipate and foresee errors.”

During this stage members will be called to “collective discernment,” he said.

“It is seeking and discovering God’s will, done under the light of faith.”

He clarified this process is not to determine a majority opinion, but to seek “consensus under guidance of the Holy Spirit. We must be open to his voice. If we are, he will speak.”

He advised members to enter the process with an attitude of listening, humility and good will, adding that if the process is lived well, it can

actually be an opportunity to evangelize.

### **Evangelization Pep Talk**

Fr. John Hopkins LC would take the theme of evangelization a step further in an effort to energize members to their mission of bringing Jesus Christ to the world.

He said the one constant throughout the history of Regnum Christi is that “we foster a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.” He said this is the type of evangelization effort being called for by Pope Francis.

He told his listeners to read the Pope’s document, *Evangelium Gaudium*, numbers 78-88. He said this segment could have been written specifically for Regnum Christi.

“We have something to offer the church!” he stressed.

Fr. John said the world is ready for our evangelization efforts. “Hearts are lonely, in a desert,” he said. “Families are fragmented. Fathers are working long hours and commuting. Kids have to be involved in everything. Moms are chauffeurs. There is no family life.”

He said RC members must not be discouraged. “We need to expect the

Holy Spirit to have the same power he always has had.”

Because people are drifting away from Church attendance, he said, it is impossible for pastors to reach them so the laity must do it.

“Go back to the fundamentals and give people what they need. Souls are at stake!”

He stressed the things our movement are good at include personally accompanying people on their faith journey, organizing them into small groups to encourage friendship and community, and giving them meaningful spiritual experiences such as spiritual direction and retreats.

### **Other Presentations**

Many other presentations were given during the weekend. Others of note included a moving testimony from Donna Garrett, Lay LCA from Nebraska, about how the work of RC members in her area has bore fruit over the last 15 years, meeting people where they are, walking with them in love, and meeting their needs through small group experiences. She also said Missions to Haiti has taken off there.

Jim Fair, Director of Communications for North America, introduced to convention participants the new Toolkit resource to help localities with their communication programs. Click [here](#) to find out more.

Also, RC consecrated woman Jill Swallow touched the group deeply



The RC Convention took place at the beautiful Simpsonwood Conference Center in Norcross, Georgia.



with her new original song, Thy Kingdom Come.

All the presentations from the convention will soon be posted in the Resources Section of the RC website. And all the necessary resources for the RC renewal process are detailed on a new website, [www.rcstatutes.org](http://www.rcstatutes.org), now available in Spanish and soon to be launched in English. Stay tuned for more details.

To see more photos from the convention, go to the convention Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/RC-Convention-2014/330760620429439>

## Rome in September

Regnum Christi Live – October 15  
By Kelly Luttinen



*The tomb of JP II*

I had the great privilege of visiting the eternal city last month. Having always dreamed of going to see the Vatican, the “heart” of our Church, my first trip was a bit different than I had envisioned since it was for business, not pleasure.

The Legion of Christ and Regnum Christi brings to Rome its communicators from around the world for an annual planning meeting. Usually Jim Fair, Director of Communications for North America, attends from our side of the world. But this year, he brought me (his “staff”) too!

I have to say it was wonderful experience, meeting all those who share our common mission to spread the good news about our movement. It was inspiring to meet my counterparts from locations such as Germany, Chile, Mexico, Italy and Columbia.

Also while in Rome, I had the great privilege of attending the Sunday Angelus and the Wednesday audience, both led by our wonderful Pope Francis. I did not get to see him up close, but Jim did. (Click [here](#) to read his blog about the experience.)

I also was privileged to be part of a small Mass celebrated by the Legionaries at the altar which is now the tomb of St. John Paul II. (Though I didn't realize this until the Mass was over! But I did pray there later on for all those who gave me their intentions!)



*Paula and me*

And I was blessed to participate in the coveted “Scavi” tour, which takes place underneath St. Peters in the catacombs beneath. The apex of the tour is viewing the actual burial place of the first pontiff of the Catholic Church, Peter himself. I have to say, standing at the altar in front of the

remains of this great servant and martyr of the church was awe inspiring and humbling, to say the least. (I snapped a photo, which I found out later is expressly forbidden.)

(A reminder for those women who ever plan to go on the tour --- make sure your shoulders are covered! I wore a sleeveless dress and learned this rule the hard way from a stern member of the Swiss Guard. Thank God for consecrated woman Paula Nunez and her scarf!)

Finally, with this blog, I need to keep a promise I made to the wonderful nuns who were our hostesses during our stay in Rome. When Jim told me I was going on this trip, he said he had arranged for me to stay at the same place where he was staying, Villa Maria Pia, a small hotel run by the “Crucified Sisters Adorers of the Eucharist.” I had no idea what to expect when he said it was a convent. But it was actually quite wonderful! I would recommend this place to anyone who is travelling to Rome and Vatican, especially if they are involved with our movement, since it is just across the street from the residence of the Legionaries!



*Jim and Sister*

The hotel is quaint, quiet and very comfortable. The sisters were up early offering their guests a lovely continental breakfast (including cappuccino!) The room accommodations, though simple, include a private bath and everything you need for a pleasant stay.

Visitors also can attend the early morning daily Mass with the sisters if they wish (something I sadly learned on the last day of our visit.)

Another really nice thing about staying with the sisters is that the price is, as Jim puts it, about half of what costs to stay at other hotels in the area. And the fee helps the sisters to fund their other apostolates serving the poor and needy in various locations such as the Philippines.

For more information about Villa Maria Pia, go to <http://www.casaperferievillamariapiaroma.it/en/index.html>. You can send email inquiries to [villapia@tiscali.it](mailto:villapia@tiscali.it). You can also check out this private [website](#) from two guests who were so impressed they wanted to do a little promotion for the nuns. (It's in Italian, but if you enter via Google Chrome, it will translate for you.)

In closing, I will mention that the sisters' patron, Mother Maria Pia of the Cross, is being considered for sainthood in the Church. The sisters asked me to include her in my prayers. I reprint below the prayer from the card they gave me, in case you would like to join me!



*Mother Maria Pia of the Cross*

O God our Father, you have given Mother Maria Pia Notari the strength and the joy of opening herself entirely to the Holy Spirit to conform herself to Christ, host of expiation and of salvation, and of offering a family of consecrated virgins crucified with Christ, adorers of the mystery of the Altar, apostles of the Eucharist.

We humbly pray You deign to elevate in your Church her figure so as to continue to orient and induce with more efficiency through the centuries the faithful toward the Eucharistic table where the Church community of salvation continuously bears and strengthens herself.

By her intercession, grant me the particular grace that I ask for with trust\_\_\_\_\_, and the grace I need to live serenely a Christian life and to glorify You, Endless Love, who reign forever and ever. Amen.

## A Very Special School

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

*Fathers and daughters go on annual mission trip to New Orleans to support a unique education program at St. Michael's Special School*

For the third year in a row, Fr. Michael Sliney LC has taken a group of fathers and their daughters on a special trip to New Orleans.

Hailing from the Washington DC area, New York, Houston and even Canada, the missionaries go to provide service and companionship to the students from St. Michael's Special School.



Students at St. Michael's Special School



Matt McCormick, who participated on the mission with his own

daughter, put together a YouTube video (click [here](#)) about this year's experience.

"St. Michael's is a very unique place within New Orleans," said Matt. "It is a Catholic-run school for children mainly who have Down syndrome and Autism."

He said most of these children attend this unique program for "many, many years," from grade school through job training into their 40's and 50's.

"They get to compete in sports, go to birthday parties and become part of the St. Michael's family," he said. "Then they go to work, and help to support the school."

In addition to going to Mass and meeting some of the families at St. Michael's, the missionaries lend their support to the school doing any needed projects such as painting, washing, weeding the grounds, etc.

"But the best part of the trip is the daughter's interaction with the children in their classrooms and in the playground," said Matt.

"We also were able to bring lunch to a homeless community who live underneath a New Orleans area freeway," he added.

To find out how you can help St. Michael's, go to their website at <http://stmichaelspecialschool.com/>. For more information on this mission to New Orleans, contact Fr. Michael at [msliney@legionaries.org](mailto:msliney@legionaries.org).

## **Glass Beaches**

**Regnum Christi Live – October 16, 2014**  
**By Fr Simon Devereux LC**



*"The time has come to turn to God and reassert our trust in Him for the healing of America - our country is in need of and ready for a spiritual renewal." - Ronald Reagan*

We all desire the spiritual revival of our world, but we get depressed when we look at ourselves in the mirror and see all our defects and sins? How could I possibly change the world when I'm such a mess?

My friend, Jeff Schriefer, sent me an email last week about the Glass Beach in Fort Bragg in California. It speaks about nature's healing ways.

In the early 1900s, Fort Bragg, California residents threw their household garbage over the cliffs above what is now called Glass Beach, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass.

Beginning in 1949, the area around Glass Beach became a public dump, and locals referred to it as The Dumps. Sometimes fires were lit to reduce the size of the trash pile (up to 30 feet high). However in 1967, the city leaders closed the area. Various cleanup programs were undertaken through the years to try to correct the damage, but without success.

Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass were created by the pounding surf. These smoothed, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and so a magnificent

beach was formed. The name was changed from “The Dump” to what we currently know as “The Glass Beach.”

Jeff reflected that God does the same with our lives: healing our lost and broken souls and turning them into something beautiful.

Let's not give up on ourselves, but allow God to polish our rough edges. If He can change us, then He can change our world too.

## What Leads to Drug Abuse?

MEXICO | WHO WE ARE | NEWS

*Hanns Myholut shares his testimony about the trials of drug addiction and how he was saved*

Imagine being so high on drugs that you jump off a building thinking you can fly.

This is what happened to Hanns Myholut.

On an episode of LeCristo TV he gave his testimony about his life of drug abuse and how he was saved by Gods' grace. The two-part series is available to watch on YouTube at the following links (go to the “cc” for English subtitles):

<http://youtu.be/FZqfrkulQJI>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRWD4FCuu9s>

(His first name is spelled with two n's, and we apologize for the misspelling in the video titles.)

Hanns said he survived the fall, but he lost his hips and both his legs



Hanns Myholut



and now wears prostheses to be able to move around.

“I would seriously do anything to walk one more time near the ocean and feel the warm sand touch my feet,” he said.

Hanns has been clean from drug abuse for 23 years. Simple words from an Italian missionary profoundly changed his life.

“He told me, ‘Hanns, Jesus loves you.’”

The former drug addict now works to help those with addiction problems through an organization called “Uno Mas Para Jesus” (One More for Jesus) that works in countries like Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, helping those who live on the streets and who are involved in gangs and prostitution or infected with HIV.

### **What Leads to Drug Abuse?**

During his interview, Hanns offered some words of wisdom gained by experience.

“Drugs are not the real problem – they are the consequence of the many problems in our world.”

He believes society is losing its values, and young people have no guidance. Parents have become what he calls “suppliers.”

He quips, “I have no time for you, so here is an iPhone...”

Hanns’ explained how he felt rejected by his own parents and that sense of loneliness and need for belonging led to his drug abuse.

“That is the problem of many kids,” he said. “They have millions of friends around through social media, but they end up alone. I felt so empty inside that I had to fill the emptiness with something.”

Hanns started using drugs at the age of 9, attracted by the kids who went to parties and seemed popular. “They became my family,” he said, and he became their “pet.”

He started getting high because others were, first by using marijuana

(for which he said he is not in favor of legalizing because “it is not just a drug. It is a way of life”). Then he went onto to use cocaine and heroin.

“You don’t notice how deep you are falling,” he said. “When you least expect it, you are at the bottom.”

Hanns started stealing things from his parents’ home to pay for his habit. “When I couldn’t steal from my house I started stealing from the streets.”

He then ended up living in the Paris underground, “fighting with dogs for food.”

During his suffering, he tried to commit suicide 11 times.

But by coming to know Jesus Christ, he was saved.

“Jesus has his arms wide open because he was crucified,” he said. “You don’t have to knock very hard on the door, because he is waiting for you. You don’t have to live through what I’ve been through.”

### **A Warning for Parents**

He warns parents to “give your kids love and quality time, not money.”

He lists 5 steps parents can do to help their children avoid drug addiction.

- Set clear rules about what is acceptable in your home, and then set an example with your behavior.
- Make good communication a way of life. “Make sure to share your day with you children,” he said. “Kids believe that what they have to say is not important to their parents. Because parents don’t have time, kids learn to keep in silence their feelings.”
- Never lie to your children. They can sense when you are being hypocritical.
- Know that technology is a tool, not a way of life. Hanns said a little girl once told him that her mother loved her cell phone more than her own daughter.
- God’s love must be present in your home.

## Words of Encouragement

He gives young people some simple advice.

“Start by leaving those friends that have the drugs,” he said.

“If Jesus can love (me) this horrible man who has done terrible things, I tell you how much he can love you. The only condition is to have a willing heart.”

“It doesn’t matter how dark the tunnel looks. There is a marvelous hand waiting for you to come out on the other side. Thank God that you are alive.”

For more information about Hanns and his work, contact him at [Unomas.parajesus@hotmail.com](mailto:Unomas.parajesus@hotmail.com) or go to this [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page.

## Pharisaical behavior

**Regnum Christi Live – October 17, 2014**

**By Fr Michael Sliney LC**



*"My daughter, I see more Pharisees among Christians than there were around Pilate."--  
St. Margaret of Cortona*

It is easy to consider yourself a "practicing Catholic" by the mere fact of going to Mass every Sunday, but it needs to show in your daily life. There is a risk of looking down on

others and feeling superior as a result, without living hard fought virtue that should be the fruit of receiving Christ in your heart.

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