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Arthritic Hands

Regnum Christi Live – October 20, 2014

By Fr Simon Devereux LC



“Understand this – there is something holy, something divine, hidden in the most ordinary situations, and it is up to each one of you to discover it.” – St. Escriva

My grandmother’s arthritic hands were so swollen and bent that it was difficult for her even to turn on the water faucet. “However,” she said, “I don’t need my hands to pray.” And pray she did – every day all 15 decades of the rosary and the divine chaplet! I believe her prayer became the key for her to unlock the divine in the ordinary.

Life the Holy Land: A Pilgrim Journey

Regnum Christi Live – October 21, 2014

By Jennifer Ristine



Life in the Holy Land is a constant reminder to me that I am a pilgrim...marveling and learning along the way, but not yet having arrived to the final destination. As pilgrims, along the way we experience a multitude of blessings and a few too many challenges from our viewpoint.

At least the present challenges are only opportunities to grow in humility and other blessed virtues...or they simply lend themselves to laughter. The greatest adventures of the past 3 weeks have been learning how to live in a land that does not always speak or write your language. I have bought mystery meat, told strangers good morning when it was nighttime, finagled my way out of a situation with a bad-humored policeman (I think he knew no English and gave up trying to understand me), managed to buy a washing machine in Hebrew, been tricked by a gas station attendant who took advantage of a "rich American", and I gave a tour of ancient ruins using my newly learned Hebrew vocabulary. Ok, it was a 3 word tour (synagogue, market, and house...in Hebrew of course) with lots of hand gestures.

On the other hand, I marvel at the blessings. The greatest blessing came when Fr. John celebrated Holy Mass in our house, converting one small room into our oratory, with the Blessed Sacrament. I need only take 2 steps out of my bedroom and I enter the oratory!

Another blessing is seeing the action of God in others in the Magdala Center, a place dedicated to the public life of Jesus. Every day I walk into a recently excavated first century town of Magdala, which includes a unique synagogue and a treasured altar-like stone depicting images of the Second

Temple of Jerusalem. Nothing as such has been found in the 6 other ancient synagogues discovered in the Holy Land. The Magdala Project is dedicated to Jesus Christ's public life and includes our Duc en Altum spirituality center, complete with 4 mosaiced chapels dedicated to events in the public life of Jesus around the sea of Galilee, an altar in the shape of a boat with Jesus (Blessed Sacrament) within, accompanied by his 12 apostles (paintings that line the sides of the church) and his women disciples (columns with the names of New Testament women disciples in the entrance atrium).

The pilgrims' reactions to this place is unproportional from a human standard. A simple explanation of the ancient synagogue stone, and in particular the spirituality center (church) provokes many open jaws of awe. Women are especially teary eyed in the Women's atrium, when they see a place dedicated to their own role as disciples of Jesus in the history of humanity. So far I have witnessed Germans, Mexicans, Spaniards, Dutch, Americans, Canadians, Jews, Protestants, and Catholics, men and women express their gratitude for this place. And many have requested to volunteer.

I have also witnessed the action of God in our volunteers. We celebrate Mass and Eucharistic hours together and enjoy lunch as a small community after hot mornings of work. I have witnessed the challenges and triumphs of respect for each one's creed and practice among the volunteers. While the majority are Catholic, there is one Jew, one Evangelical, and one "free-lance" believer in God. The French Catholic even helped the Mexican Jew build his sukkot (a special tent that practicing Jews live in for 8 days to remember their 40 years of wandering through the desert and God's providential care).

Finally, I marvel at how the gospels are coming alive for me. One day I spent about an hour reading through the gospel of Luke following Jesus in my mind to the real places in which he taught, preached and healed. If I

have my bearings correct, my living quarters are in the center of a 60 mile radius of the majority of Jesus' public life.

Having the blessed sacrament now in our house I can't help but wonder if almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus rested his feet upon this hill that overlooks the Sea of Galilee. Did he know then, that while he had to continue on to his pilgrimage to Jerusalem, he would one day be back to stay more permanently in a modest wooden tabernacle and the heart of a believer?

Thank you Lord for completing your "pilgrimage" here in this Holy Land. Walk with me now in the place where you taught and healed. Teach me your ways O Lord, that through me, your enlightening and healing presence may be known to other pilgrims I encounter on the way.

Dream Big

CANADA | WHO WE ARE | NEWS

Arcātheos summer camp for boys offers an experience like no other

by **Brian Doran, MD**

Dreaming of a wonderful summer camp experience for your son next year? You may not be dreaming big enough.

The experience of the young men who participate in the Arcātheos camp is like no other. From the moment a boy passes through the gates, he enters into an adventure in which he plays an essential part of the plot. While forging friendships, he will learn of the art of brotherhood and the strength of being part of a unified team. He will train to survive against adversity, and to develop skills with the bow



Arcātheos summer camp involves live action role play.



and sword. And each year that he returns, he will have the opportunity to climb the ranks of leadership by his example and

service.

Arcātheos is more than a summer camp. It is a “kingdom” where boys become knights, and knights become men. Within the mighty walls of the Arcātheos castle, virtues are forged and commitments are renewed. Those who come will learn the richness of the Catholic faith and be able to discern the truth of the “Great King.”



Campers enter into an adventure in which they play an essential part of the plot.



Arcātheos is located about 45 minutes southwest of Calgary, Canada. The camp is open to Catholic boys, ages 7-17 years old from throughout North America. The formation experience of the camp program also includes men interested in volunteering, wherever they may be in their journey of faith.

“Those boys who have yet to experience Arcātheos first hand should consider making it part of their summer,” said Fr. John Gannon LC who serves in Canada. “Boys age 9 and older can attend even if

their dads are unable to. And fathers are welcome to join the team!”

This past summer more than 150 boys and 50 adults enjoyed the Arcātheos experience. For more information, go to www.arcatheos.com.

You can also visit the website for Arcātheos’ sister camp for girls, Captivenia, at www.captivenia.com.



Dads are involved in the planning at Arcātheos.



An Update on Our Lady of America

Regnum Christi Live – October 22, 2014

By Kelly Luttinen



On this feast day of St. John Paul II, who was devoted to Our Lady, I humbly request his prayers regarding the subject of this blog.

In August of 2012, I wrote a blog about the modern day Marian apparition, Our Lady of America. (Click [here](#) to read that blog.) Two years later, in this month dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, I think it's a good time to write an update.

While perusing the Internet recently, I found this [statement](#) concerning a legal decision about copyright burdens being lifted that may help bring about fulfillment of the request attributed by Our Lady:

“The United States Catholic Bishops should soon be able to plan that solemn procession and placement into the Basilica of the National Shrine of The Immaculate Conception at Washington, D.C. of the statue of Our Lady of America.”

If you have followed anything at all about this apparition, you know it has been mired in controversy and lawsuits for quite some time. (Click [here](#) to read what she reportedly said in the apparition.)

I am not going to go into it all. But I will review what has been “approved.” (Read my previous blog mentioned above, with a link to the letters from the Archbishop of Toledo and the Archbishop of St. Louis, Edmund Burke at that time, giving their approval.)

Our Lady is purported to have visited a cloistered nun, Sister Mary Ephrem (Mildred Neuzil), in Indiana starting in 1954, with messages about what she wants from her children in the United States of America. She asks for penance and mortification from her children in America, who she wants to honor her specifically by the “purity” of their lives. She has called for the young especially to be her “torchbearers of purity.” And if our Bishops will carry the statue of her image as Our Lady of America in a solemn procession to the Immaculate Conception Basilica in Washington DC, she promised miracles “of the soul” that will be greater than those at Lourdes and Fatima.

As I have said in my 2012 blog, does anyone believe the residents of the United States will listen to Our Lady and reform their lives and do penance without a miracle of grace?

And it would seem to me that her dire predictions about the people in this country suffering “punishments hitherto unknown to them” are beginning to come to pass...

Ebola has come to the United States. ISIS is on our doorstep. Our religious freedom is being challenged in all corners of life. And interestingly enough, the only living bishop who gave his approval to this apparition, Edmund

Burke, has just been vilified in the secular media because his support of traditional teachings of the Church during the current Synod on the Family in Rome.

Please add to your prayers the fulfillment of Our Lady's requests. And if any of you feel so inclined, please send a note to Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, asking him to have our bishops do as Our Lady has asked. (It might be good if he heard from somebody besides me.)

In closing, I offer the simple prayer Our Blessed Mother gave to Sister Ephrem:

"By thy Holy and Immaculate Conception, O Mary, deliver us from evil."

"Wowing" the Crowd

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

University of Notre Dame's band performs at Pinecrest Academy

Pinecrest Academy in Cumming, Georgia, welcomed some special guests to their football field on Friday October 17, 2014. The school was honored with a visit from the University of Notre Dame's Band of the Fighting Irish.

Arriving in nine chartered buses, the 380-member band stopped at Pinecrest on their way to the Notre Dame/Florida State football game in



The University of Notre Dame's Band of the Fighting Irish was at Pinecrest Academy.



Tallahassee, Florida.

The band performed their half-time routine for the Florida game, first for Pinecrest students and staff and then for the local community, and according to officials from Pinecrest, they “wowed the crowd.” Approximately 250 Notre Dame alumni as well as members of other local high school bands were in attendance.

Dr. Ken Dye, Notre Dame’s Band Director, had hosted a summer band clinic for middle school students at Pinecrest this past summer.

“Dr. Dye contacted me after his visit to Pinecrest and asked if we would be interested in hosting

the Notre Dame Marching Band in October, on their way to the Notre Dame/Florida State Football game,” said Len Insalaca, Pinecrest Academy Band Director. “We were delighted with the opportunity.”



The tubas are coming.

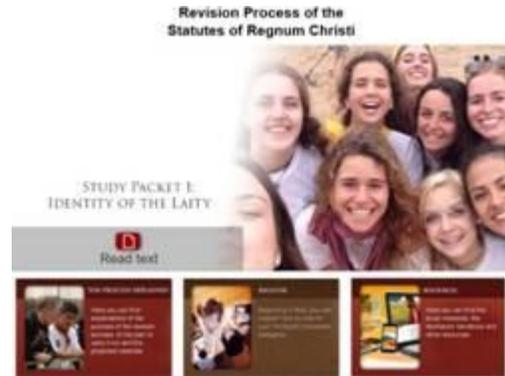


Regnum Christi Renewal Website Now Available in English

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

RCStatutes.org has been launched for North America

The website detailing the Regnum Christi Renewal Process, rcstatutes.org, is now available in English. The website contains the needed information and resources for North American localities to conduct the renewal process locally.



“The rcstatutes.org website is a great tool to support our members in this time of discernment and renewal,” said Kerrie Rivard, Executive Leader of the North American Renewal Commission. “All of the support resources for the group study and group discernment phases will be available there.”

Kerrie said the goal of the territorial renewal commission is “to support the local process of reflection and discernment with materials, training and accompaniment, all of which can be accessed through the website.”

She said the Renewal Commission is currently creating a series of 45-minute videos and podcasts to accompany the renewal study packets to provide “a synthesis of the material in a format that local groups can use as their base for discussion.”

Items currently on the renewal website, which will be updated as needed, 21ba include the following:

- A letter from Fr. Eduardo Robles-Gil, General Director for the Legion of Christ and Regnum Christi.
- An explanation of the renewal process, including a video conference with Fr. Sylvester Heereman LC, Coordinator of the Commission on the Renewal.
- A link for RC members to register to vote for their Territorial Convention delegates. (This link will not be fully functional until May 2015.)
- Contact information for members of the North American Territorial

- Commission (listed under the “Coordinators” link.)
- A special prayer for the Regnum Christi renewal process.
 - A link to available resources and study materials.

In the “Resources” section, there is an overview of the study packets. (There will be 5 in total). Currently available study packets include “Ecclesial Identity of the Laity” and “The Apostolate of the Laity.” Also in this section is the 2004 Statutes document and a Facilitator’s Handbook. The Handbook contains a Values Statement, Guidelines for Phase 1 of the Renewal Process, the Central Commission Charter (in Spanish only) and the Charter for the Territorial Commission.

The Power of the Eucharist

Regnum Christi Live – October 23, 2014
By Fr Michael Sliney LC



"If I am distracted, Holy Communion helps me to become recollected. If opportunities are offered by each day to offend my God, I arm myself anew each day for the combat by the reception of the Eucharist." -- St. Thomas More

With the daily reception or visit of Christ in the Eucharist, so many fears, problems, anxieties, and internal struggles can be overcome! Christ is there waiting in the tabernacle in every Catholic Church, but he will not force anyone through the door. You simply need to make it a priority.

Twenty-five Years

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

St. Thomas More Academy in Burton, Michigan, celebrates a special anniversary

by Dan McAvoy

Burton, Michigan - St. Thomas More Academy (STMA) located in Burton, Michigan, celebrated its 25th anniversary on Friday, October 10, 2014, when the Most Reverend Bishop Earl Boyea of the Lansing diocese came to celebrate mass at the school.



Bishop Earl Boyea with students at St. Thomas More Academy.

STMA was founded in 1989 by Joseph and Jean LeBlanc. Jean was on hand for the special service and received a handshake and kiss from Bishop Boyea. After the special mass, Bishop Boyea, along other local priests and the LeBlanc family, later dedicated the school chapel to St. Maria Goretti.

Fr. Aaron Smith LC (local coordinator of apostolate for Detroit) has formed a special relationship with the STMA and its students, saying masses during the school year and attending prayer services (with students) at a local abortion clinic.

“This school provides a solid Catholic education,” said Fr. Aaron adding he is happy the school reached its 25th anniversary. “The young people who attend are given all the tools necessary so as to live their faith in the midst of society today.”

“This school has done so much good to so many souls over the past 25 years. It is only right to thank the Lord for His many blessings.”

He feels the school is special because there is a strong family spirit as

well as a sincere love for each student. “The faith is lived on a daily basis in a vibrant way,” said Fr. Aaron.

STMA kindergarten teacher and Regnum Christi member Rae Houbeck also has a special connection with the school.

“St. Thomas More Academy has been a wonderful blessing for me and my family,” said Houbeck adding her children have been attending the school since 1991, and she has been teaching here since January 1993.

Her daughter Megan is a consecrated woman in Regnum Christi, currently studying for her Master’s in Theology in Rome, Italy. Two of her two sons are lawyers – Christopher works for the Veterans’ Administration in Washington DC, and David is an attorney in Troy, Michigan. Anneke has her Master’s degree in Theology and teaches at St. Catherine of Sienna all-girls high school in Wixom, Michigan. Elizabeth has her Master’s degree in Spanish and is teaching at Grand Valley State University. Patricia is studying in the Honors Program at University of Michigan-Flint.

“This is my first year of teaching without one of my children in attendance at the school - I miss them, but continue to enjoy the other students at STMA,” said Rae Ann.

For another school family, the Kudwa’s, St. Thomas More will always have a place where their family calls home.

“I am very grateful that STMA is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year because our kids have been able to attend for the past 15 years,” said Lisa Kudwa, adding she and many parents were excited and grateful to have Bishop Boyea come celebrate the special anniversary mass.

The Kudwa’s chose STMA because it was a nice, small Catholic school close to their home. “My husband really liked that they had Mass everyday and Adoration each week,” said Lisa. “I have come to love that as well. We also really appreciate the wonderful teachers at the school and the good Catholic formation they give. Two of their sons have graduated from STMA.”

Lisa feels one thing that separates STMA for other Catholic schools in the area is that they start everyday with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. “The greatest prayer the Church has to offer is offered each day at school,” said Lisa. “It is such an amazing blessing the kids and teachers get to receive Jesus everyday! Also, all the teachers at STMA are faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church and the Holy Father.”

Two of Kudwa’s children, 2014 graduate Daniel Kudwa and sister Christine, have tried to give back to the community. Last year, Daniel went on a mission trip to Haiti (sponsored by [Mission Youth](#)) and Christine recently talked to the congregation at mass to raise money for local seminarians.

JOY Magazine

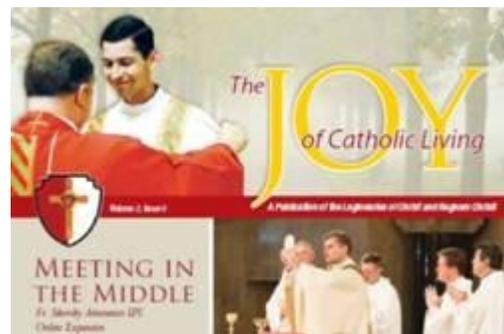
U. S. A. | WHO WE ARE | NEWS

Latest edition, Volume 2 Issue 5, is now online

The *JOY of Catholic Living* magazine, Volume 2 Issue 5, has been mailed to the friends of the Legion of Christ and Regnum Christi, and is now available for viewing on this website.

This edition includes articles about:

- Fr. Charles Sikorsky LC, President of the Institute for the Psychological Sciences, and the school’s expansion online.
- Twenty Legion of Christ seminarians who recently professed their vows.
- The book *Behold My Lord* from the Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi.



Joy Volume 2 Issue 5



- The Faith and Family Festival in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Details of the recent Theology of the Body course offered for members of Regnum Christi and the Legion of Christ in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Regnum Christi member Kay Dodds and the Changing Hearts apostolate.
- And much more!

Click [here](#) to see this latest edition.

Bah, humbug, boo Halloween

Regnum Christi Live – October 24, 2014

By Jim Fair



Halloween is my least favorite time of year.

OK, when I was a kid I enjoyed roaming about the neighborhood and amassing a shopping bag of candy. And when my own kids were little I enjoyed escorting them on their candy-collection expeditions.

But with a just a week to go before this annual event, my neighborhood is decorated with ghosts hanging from trees, bones sticking out of graves in

front yards, headless forms hanging from basketball hoops, giant spiders crawling over rooftops and lines of tombstones along driveways.

Some people think this is fun and clever. But I think it is just plain creepy. I don't mind a jack-o-lantern or two, but I really think there is something wrong with people who surround their homes with bloodied zombie manikins.

As a great option to the images from the mind of Edgar Allen Poe, I offer the picture accompanying this short comment. It is the pumpkin carved from my friend Katelyn Moroney, consecrated woman of Regnum Christi, missionary and, obviously, artist. I'll take a missionary pumpkin over a ghoul any day.

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