

Thy Kingdom Come!

## LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST

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To the Legionaries of Christ  
North American Territory

Dear fathers and brothers in Christ,

We just celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Decree of Praise, the Church's recognition that God is at work through the Legion of Christ. After 50 years we can see how the seed the Holy Spirit planted has become a robust tree. A tree must go through its seasons. We have gone through our autumn and winter, and now spring is on the horizon. I truly believe the Holy Spirit is bringing us to a new springtime for the Legion and the Movement.

The image of the tree is a good one for the news that I need to share. In one season trees bear their fruit, but then their leaves and branches fall so that they can be ready again to bear even more fruit (cf. Jn 15:2). Recently I have had to make a decision that I believe is consistent with the realities and priorities of our on-going renewal and will have a positive impact for our territory going forward. After much study, prayer, and consultation with the territorial council and many others, including our general director, Fr Eduardo Robles Gil, I have decided to consolidate our apostolic schools in a single facility, Sacred Heart Apostolic School in Indiana. As a result, we will close Immaculate Conception Apostolic School (ICAS) in New Hampshire, at the end of the academic year.

This certainly is disquieting news for some – perhaps many – of you. ICAS has been an important part of our territory for more than three decades. More than 700 students have attended the school – more than 70 going on to ordination as priests. Some of you are among the ICAS alumni and have served there as members of the formation team. I think also of the current teachers and employees at ICAS. Clearly, the merger of the schools will impact many generous and valuable people. The school will always be a part of our heritage; its contribution to who we are today will not be lost.

We have several important reasons for this decision. First, we believe that the needs of current and projected enrollment can be met by one facility. One vibrant, fully utilized facility is preferable to two partially used schools, both from a resource-management perspective and for providing optimum formation opportunities for the apostolics and precandidates.

Second, in addition to proper management of the financial resources entrusted to us by our donors, we need to make the best use of our human resources: our Legionaries. This consolidation will allow us to build the best formation team possible and allow us to free some

Legionaries to engage more directly in vocation promotion and in other equally important apostolates within the territory.

And third, the Indiana facility is in a central location in the territory, well-positioned to the sources of the majority of our vocations today and to more of our apostolate houses. We recognize that there has been a shift in the demographics of the country since the founding of ICAS. We believe that Indiana will be the best site to serve our students and their families. It will also allow the apostolics and precandidates greater exposure to Movement members and give Movement members greater exposure to the apostolic school.

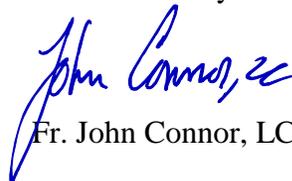
It is my hope that by consolidating in one school, we can focus our efforts both on the admissions side as well as the formation side. The formation of our boys in both schools has been top notch. But now we have the opportunity to make it even better. Fr Timothy Walsh will be appointed as the rector and leader of the formation team, while Fr Ronald Conklin will be the admissions director, which will include working with all the localities and communities to promote vocations to the apostolic school. Fr Steven Liscinsky will be the dean of studies. Other changes will be announced at a future date.

While the ICAS campus will no longer be a school, the spirit of its many former students will continue and will have a long-lasting impact on the Legion, Regnum Christi and the Church. I want to thank all of you who have worked to make the school a success over so many years; I think particularly of Father Anthony Bannon, who made ICAS a reality, and of those who have served as rectors over the years, especially Fr. David Steffy and his 20 years of priesthood at the service of the apostolic school. And I also thank the teachers and staff at ICAS for their dedication to generations of students and our benefactors who have been friends and supporters to ICAS in so many ways.

Fathers and brothers, it is important to understand that we only prune a tree so that it can grow stronger and fuller. That is the motive behind this decision. We are embarking on a great future for the Legion and the Movement in North America. Let's allow our faith in Christ to illuminate our path forward to help the Church build up the Kingdom. As our general director told us in his letter on the anniversary of the Decree of Praise, "We are not called to understand the Lord's plans in all their details. Jesus calls us to love God and our neighbor and to obey the Father's will, when Providence reveals it to us."

Please keep everyone associated with the apostolic schools in your prayers, and know that you are always in mine.

Yours sincerely in Christ,



Fr. John Connor, LC

Cc. Fr. Eduardo Robles Gil, general director