



# MISSION

Volume 5, Issue 3

The Official Newsletter of the Legionaries of Christ and the Regnum Christi Movement

## A JOYFUL RETURN

St Bridget's Church in Cheshire was a place of joyful reunion, when four Legionaries returned to this parish to be received as transitional deacons – the last step before their ordinations as priests this December. This is the same altar where these Americans took their first religious vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience many years ago as novices.

In the presence of friends, family, seminarians, and dozens of Legionary priests, the Reverend Leonard Blair, Archbishop of Hartford, Connecticut, consecrated these men: John Klein, David Spillane, Andrew Tarleton, and Adam Zettel. In addressing the new deacons, the Archbishop quoted from a 1987 address by

*Continued on page 2*



Four American Legionaries returned to Cheshire to be ordained Deacons by Hartford Archbishop Leonard Blair. (Left to Right) Dcn. Adam Zettle, Dcn. John Klein, Dcn. David Spillane, and Dcn. Andrew Tarleton



## A MASS TO REMEMBER

*Corpus Christi with Pope Francis*

It was on his birthday, and just five days after his Diaconate ordination in Rome, that Deacon Michael Baggot received confirmation that he would serve as a Deacon for the Pope during the Corpus Christi Mass. His precise role was unknown. During a preparation for the Mass, he was surprised to learn that he was to be the principle Deacon to the Pope - carrying the Pope's chalice to the altar, preparing the altar, and accompanying the Pope who will bless the altar with incense. Then he would stand shoulder to shoulder with the pope to elevate the chalice as he raised the paten to the glory of God.

The Pope's homily that day was a reflection on the word "memory." Not only do we hear the words of Jesus: "Do this in memory of me", but the Pope said "be mindful, never forgetting who it is who loves us and whom we are called to love in return."

Deacon Michael, who will be ordained with 32 other Legionaries in December, is still overwhelmed when he thinks of the "unforgettable experience of exercising my Diaconate service simultaneously for Jesus Christ and His Vicar."

## A JOYFUL RETURN *Continued from page 1*

St. Pope John Paul II to deacons in Detroit, Michigan, regarding three areas of ministry associated with the diaconate: word, altar, and charity.

*Depending on the circumstances, one or another of these may receive particular emphasis in an individual deacon's work, but these three ministries are inseparably joined together as one in the service of God's redemptive plan. This is so because the word of God inevitably leads us to the Eucharistic worship of God at the altar; in turn, this worship leads us to a new way of living which expresses itself in acts of charity.*

Following the ordination, the new deacons were greeted outside and posed for pictures of this special occasion. Families and friends were invited back to the seminary to enjoy cake and celebrate with the deacons.

Reflecting on this day, Deacon John Klein wrote:

*Standing there after the ceremony and being congratulated by so many people I felt so blessed yet so frail and limited. I have a great desire to be Jesus' hands and feet to this world yet I know so acutely my imperfections and weaknesses. How can I lead others in the faith? How can I preach and instruct them? How can I bring the sacraments to them, especially the Eucharist? In response I felt Jesus telling me not to be afraid and I could hear him anew calling me by name to follow him and assuring me that it was He who would support and inspire me to complete his work.*



Deacon Adam Zettel with high school friend, Sister Cara Marie of the Sisters of Life



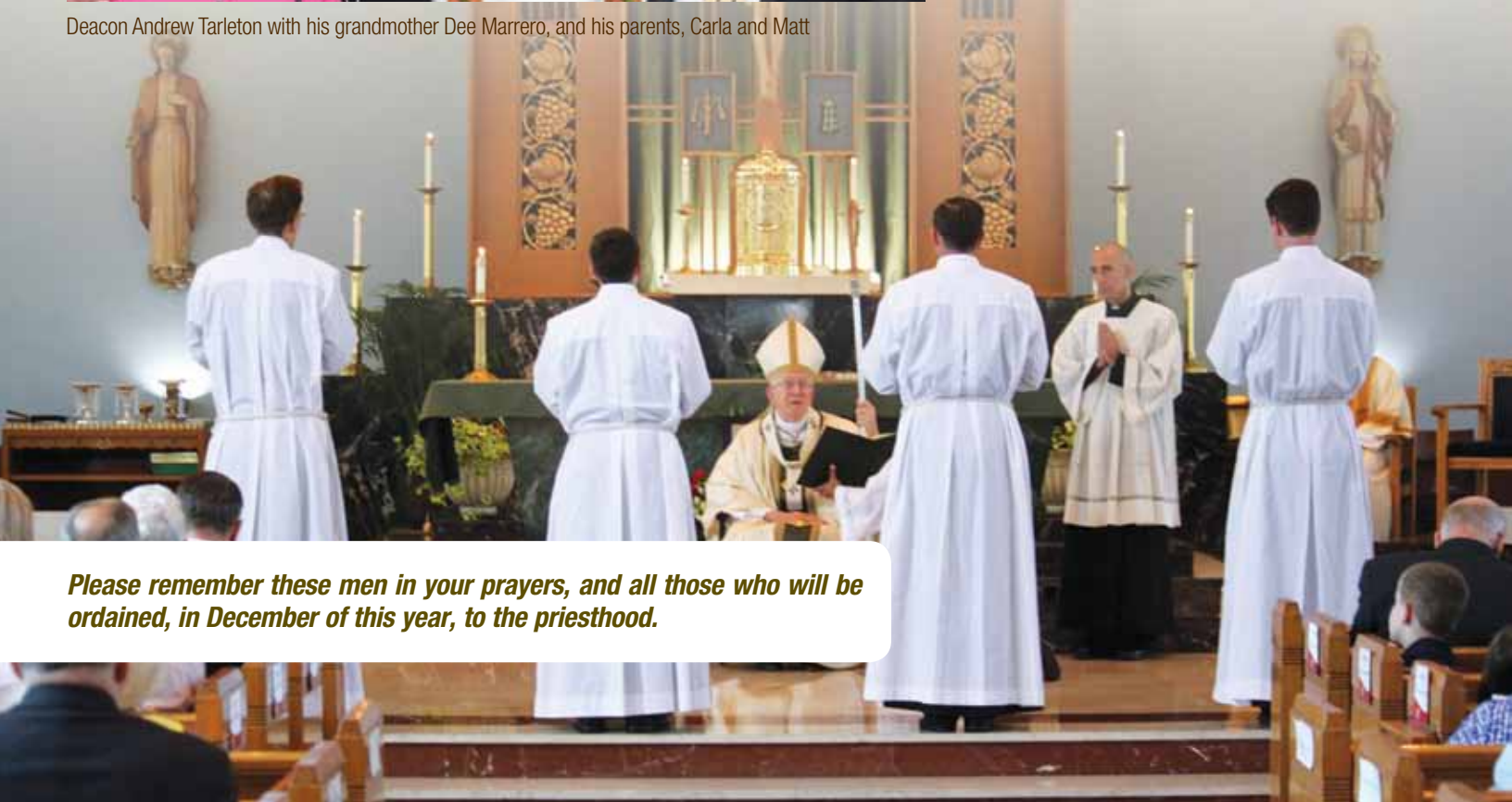
Deacon John Klein with his parents, Anne and John



Deacon Andrew Tarleton with his grandmother Dee Marrero, and his parents, Carla and Matt



David Spillane with his parents, Rosemary and Joseph



***Please remember these men in your prayers, and all those who will be ordained, in December of this year, to the priesthood.***

## SUMMER ACTIVITIES IN CHESHIRE

After our seminarians finish their second semester exams, it's time to gear up for summer activities. On a sunny summer day our young men might be cooling off in the man-made pond, maintaining the lawns and gardens, or other summer work projects. There are special hikes in the beautiful mountains of New Hampshire and this year they attended the July diaconate ordination of four Legionaries.



Our rector, Fr. Kevin Meehan

During the diaconate ordinations, the seminarians were able to welcome back their "old" rector, Fr. David Daly, who began his new appointment this year in Atlanta as a Territorial Counselor for the Legion in North America. Meanwhile, Fr. Kevin Meehan, our new rector, has returned from Atlanta to his New England roots. Not only was Fr. Kevin a novice in Connecticut in 1981, but he was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts.

Among the summer activities was the annual blessing of the bricks and pavers on the Blessed Virgin Mary Memorial Walkway. It is a time for welcoming many of our donors and for saying goodbye to our seminarians who will continue their studies at our Rome seminary.

Summertime is also the time to welcome our prospective new novices who spend two months of Summer Candidacy. The candidates encounter Christ through daily prayer, Rosary, adoration, Mass, Scripture reading, and the sacraments. They also experience community life within the Legion and learn about our spirituality and mission. Other courses include the

study of the Spanish language and recent Papal documents. The daily schedule also leaves time for sports and work.

Of course, there are also our usual summer work projects for our novices and humanists. This year the men installed ceiling tiles, continued the replacement of old windows, and resealed the roof.

The summer ends on the high note of our Professions Ceremony held at St. Bridget's Church on September 2nd. And by the time you receive this newsletter, our Summer Candidates will have been received into the latest class of novices and our fall classes will begin.

Fr. Meehan has this message on the Cheshire website ([www.LCCheshire.org](http://www.LCCheshire.org)): "I ask you for your prayers that we might be faithful to our mission and always attentive to what the Lord is asking of us. Know that all our seminarians are praying for you and if you have any special intentions, please send them our way."

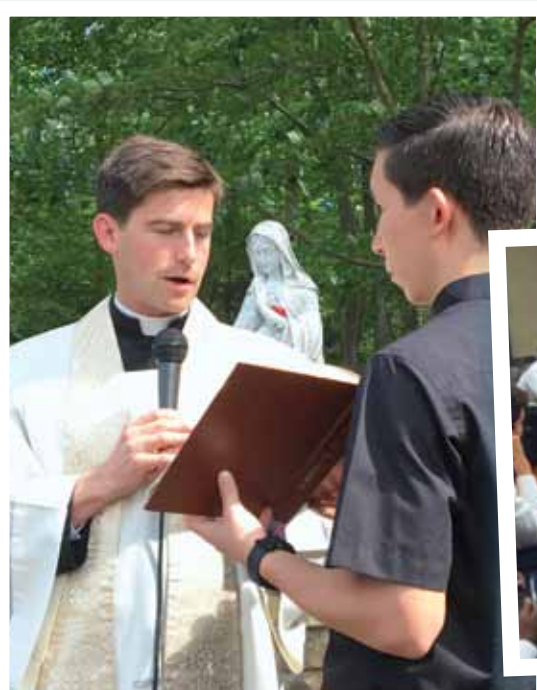


◀ Br. Josué Montiel preps the roof for sealing

Br. Grant Tavarez works to lower the ceilings to conserve heat in the dormitory ▼



◀ 2017 Summer Candidates in the Mission Room



◀ Fr. Simon Devereux, with Br. Maximilian Nguyen, on the Blessed Virgin Mary Memorial Walkway



# CHRIST WANTED MORE

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Rom 8:18)

I grew up in a small town in the Lone Star State and was very young when I heard God's call, about 12. I didn't hesitate to follow his calling.

After visiting the apostolic school twice in Monterrey, Mexico, I made the choice to enter the following year. There was one problem; I didn't know how to speak, read or write in Spanish and barely understood it. I know, it sounds insane to join a school not knowing the language or culture, but

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I learned to trust in God and in my Legionary brothers who supported me and gave me courage. One thing I knew for sure, Christ was at my side no matter what.

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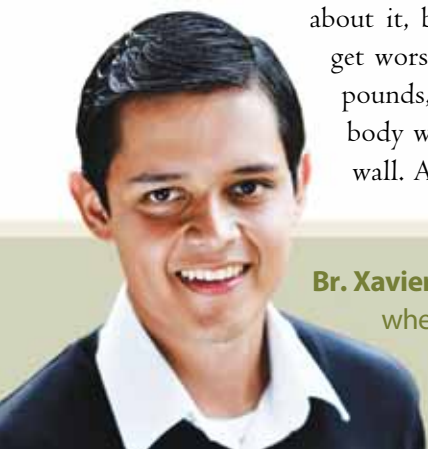
God's ways are not our ways. After six months of wrestling with the Mexican culture and language, I finally got the hang of things and was able to enjoy the next six years of my life in Mexico. In 2014, I joined the novitiate in Cheshire. I was so excited to start a new stage in my life, to take a step closer to the priesthood. I had no clue what God had in store for me.

The first 10 months of novitiate were awesome. I didn't have to worry about anything except my relationship with Christ. I made new friends, had great experiences, went on hikes and missions and fulfilled my duties. I thought I had it all; what else could I ask for? Christ, on the other hand wanted more from me, a lot more. He didn't want another good novice, He wanted a holy novice who was willing to give it all. Coming to the end of my first year of novitiate, I got a small back pain. At first, I didn't think much about it, but it continued and started to get worse. Within a month, I lost forty pounds, I couldn't eat, most of my body was sore and I was as pale as the wall. After visiting several doctors and

each of them telling me something different, they finally sent me to the hospital for a whole week. They did hundreds of tests and at last, they figured it out, I had cancer. I was too weak to continue living at the novitiate, so my mom quit her job, came up from Texas and took care of me for an entire year while I received treatment and recovered my health.



During that year, I learned to trust in God and in my Legionary brothers who supported me and gave me courage. I went through many challenges, but one thing I knew for sure, Christ was at my side no matter what. When I would begin to sink like Peter did when he walked on water, Christ would immediately reach out and grab me, and little by little, my trust in God grew stronger. At last in mid-July, I was finally able to return to the novitiate and continue my path to the priesthood.



**Br. Xavier Alfaro, LC** continues his path toward the priesthood at our seminary in Cheshire, Connecticut where he is currently a second-year humanist. At the conclusion of his time in Cheshire, Br. Xavier will receive his Associate of Arts Degree.

# PINECREST GRADS IMPACT THE WORLD

*Pinecrest Academy Celebrates the Tenth Anniversary of Its First Graduates*

Pinecrest Academy, a Regnum Christi directed Catholic pre-K through 12 school, began 24 years ago. A decade has passed since their first senior class graduated. Pinecrest is one of 5 Regnum Christi directed schools in the United States. In his July end-of-year update, **Fr. Daniel Brandenburg, LC**, the Executive Director of RC Education, reported a 3.1 increase in student enrollment among the schools. RC Education ([rceducation.org](http://rceducation.org)) provides leadership, support, and services to the Regnum Christi schools.



Pinecrest Academy, located in Cumming, Georgia, has over 825 students with a graduating class of 73 this year. The school's mission statement declares, "We prepare our students to become committed Christian leaders, eager to transform a global society."

Here are a few outstanding Pinecrest alumni:

After her graduation in May, the class Salutatorian, **Danielle Madda**, will be one of the latest of over 30 Pinecrest graduates to participate in the RC Mission Corps program over the last 10 years. After her Mission Corps year, Danielle will attend the Georgia Institute of Technology, where she was awarded a full scholarship, an honor earned by less than 1% of their students.



Second Lieutenant **Erik Hegeman** ('12) graduated from The U.S. Military Academy - West Point in 2016 and has completed his first year of Medical School at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. Here he receives his white coat on the day he recited the Hippocratic Oath, with his wife Kaitlyn (Mathis) Hegeman ('12)



**Nico Quintana** ('09), **Jonathan Oshinski** ('10) and **Sarah Stubbs** ('12) are all alumni who are now Pinecrest teachers, forming the next generation of leaders. Jonathan teaches Middle School Physical Education and coaches Middle School Boys Basketball and Baseball. Nico Quintana teaches 4th Grade and serves as Assistant Coach while Sarah Stubbs teaches 3rd Grade and coaches volleyball.

**Michael Metz** ('08), was ordained a deacon on May 27, 2017, in the Diocese of Atlanta. He is shown here as a seminarian with Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory. "I was planning on serving as an Army infantry officer, but I felt the Lord calling me to the priesthood while on a training exercise," said Deacon Metz. "I changed to the Chaplain Corp and delayed my active duty service to enter seminary. I found that my talents, gifts and desires met with the needs and desires of the Church, which is to be a Catholic Military Chaplain."



**Fr. David Steffy, LC**, serves as the school's President, and three other Legionary priests serve as chaplains to serve the entire school community, especially in making the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist available on a regular basis. Many Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi also serve as an essential part of the campus ministry.

## POETIC EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE

Those living the life of a religious – a seminarian or a priest – may not consider the part that poetry can play in their life. Not just reading poetry, but possibly being a poet themselves. One of the strengths of poetry is to express the inexpressible, an important skill for any priest. Think of the great priest-poets of the past such as Gerard Manley Hopkins or St. John of the Cross, or the poetical impact of the Psalms or the Song of Songs.



Br. Dain Scherber, LC

Br. Dain Scherber, author of *God's Poetic Path: Our Journey Home to His Embrace*, didn't begin writing his poems to share with others. They were often written on scraps of paper as a response to his time in Eucharistic Adoration.

In a recent interview he said, "I felt that Jesus wanted me to share because he gives us these experiences to bring his love into the world . . . So, I started to share some of the poems with family and friends in case they found the prayers helpful. It isn't me. I'm a country bumpkin on the road to the priesthood. It's the power of his love that impacts people."

Another Legionary, Fr. Bruce Wren, has written *Poetry Matters*, a short book exploring the importance of poetry for human formation. Its purpose is two-fold: first, to explain the importance of poetry for integral formation and the reasons behind it and, second, to include examples of good poetry written by Regnum Christi members.

Fr. Wren's simple introduction, along with Br. Scherber's poetry collection, can be useful in appreciating the power of poetry and incorporating it into our hearts and minds. Poetry can help us to acquire a "rich and balanced personality, full of human virtues and values," says Fr. Wren, "which will serve as a solid base for the supernatural action of grace."



Fr. Bruce Wren, LC



**Both Books are Available from Amazon.com**

## Schedule of Events

### Atlanta Area

#### **Retreats, marriage prep and enrichment.**

See website (events or services) for dates and information.

[www.rcatlanta.org](http://www.rcatlanta.org) | 770-837-2798

### Bethesda, Maryland – Retreat Center

#### **Retreats, marriage prep and enrichment.**

See website for dates and information.

[www.ourladyofbethesda.org](http://www.ourladyofbethesda.org)  
301-365-0612

### Connecticut Area

#### **Legion of Christ Novitiate & College of Humanities**

See events [www.LCCsheshire.org](http://www.LCCsheshire.org) | 203-271-0805

### Dallas Area

#### **Retreats, marriage prep and enrichment.**

See website (events) for dates and information.

[www.dfw-rc.org](http://www.dfw-rc.org)

### Greater Charlotte Area

#### **Retreats, spiritual exercises and enrichment.**

See web site (retreats or events) for dates and information.

[www.rcgreatercharlotte.com](http://www.rcgreatercharlotte.com)

### Greater Ohio Valley Area

#### **Retreats, spiritual exercises and enrichment.**

See web site (events) for dates and information.

[www.rcohiovalley.org](http://www.rcohiovalley.org)

### Houston Area

#### **Retreats, spiritual exercises and enrichment.**

See website (resources) for dates and information.

[www.thykingdomcome.us](http://www.thykingdomcome.us)

### New York/New Jersey/Connecticut Area

#### **Retreats, marriage prep and enrichment**

See website (events) for dates and information.

[www.regnumchristinyctnj.org](http://www.regnumchristinyctnj.org)  
914-244-3685 | [info@RegnumChristinyctnj.org](mailto:info@RegnumChristinyctnj.org)

### Missions

#### **On Line Spiritual Resources/Retreat Guides**

[www.rcspirituality.org](http://www.rcspirituality.org)

Study Circle Guides, Ask a Priest- Questions  
[contact@rcspirituality.org](mailto:contact@rcspirituality.org)

#### **Mission Youth Missions – International Missions**

See website for dates:

[www.missionyouth.com](http://www.missionyouth.com) | 855-556-6872  
[missionyouth@missionnetwork.com](mailto:missionyouth@missionnetwork.com)

#### **Helping Hands Medical Missions**

See website (join) for dates: [www.hhmm.org](http://www.hhmm.org)  
972-253-1800 | [mission@hhmm.org](mailto:mission@hhmm.org)



## PROVIDING FOR YOUR FUTURE...AND THEIRS

With the end of 2017 fast approaching, now is the perfect time for you to consider charitable giving opportunities that will give you an extra tax benefit this year.

There are a few ways, other than giving cash, that have benefits for you, while helping to support the Legionaries' mission. While cash is always welcome to fund annual scholarships for our seminarians, you might find that your needs can be better met by one or more of the following options:

- Gifts of Securities
- Creating a Charitable Gift Annuity
- Qualified Charitable Distribution from your traditional IRA

These special gifts also help provide for needs of our Legionaries well into the future, beyond the year they are received.

Consider how making one of these special gifts can benefit you.

- Gifts of appreciated securities are deductible at their full value and avoid capital gains tax. Such a gift often allows for a gift greater than might be possible with cash alone.
- Charitable Gift Annuities offer you a dependable, fixed payment for the rest of your life while providing a tax deduction now.

- Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), for those who turned age 70½ in 2017 or are older, offers a way to benefit even if you don't itemize on your tax return. A gift made by 12/31/2017 will satisfy your minimum required distribution for this year.

These gifts may afford special tax advantages for you. If you are interested in making a planned gift, please contact Andy Bamber, Director of Planned Giving. Andy can provide you with any information or assistance you require.



The vestment that a deacon wears is called a dalmatic. The newly ordained deacons are vesting for the first time.

### Making A Special Gift

*Plan today... Change the future!*

**YES! I would like to consider making a special gift. Please contact me to discuss some gift options.**

- Appreciated stock     Charitable Gift Annuity     Qualified Charitable Distribution

**Please send me your new brochure to consider other options *A Brief Overview of Charitable Planning***

NAME (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_



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LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST

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*Phil Liquori*

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**Who We Are**

The Legionaries of Christ, the consecrated men and women and all Regnum Christi members are a spiritual family who love Jesus Christ and, therefore, what He loves: His Church and souls. We commit to live out our baptismal call to holiness and to engage in apostolic action.

**What We Do**

Committed to establishing the Kingdom of Christ in every person and in society, we seek to evangelize culture, building a civilization of justice and love.

We form apostles by bringing God's love to them, inspiring them to fall in love with Jesus Christ especially through prayer and the sacramental life, helping them come to know better the truths of the Catholic faith and inviting them to participate actively in the evangelization of culture and society. We awaken people to their mission in life and in the Church. We seek to serve all people and the whole Church, working as Jesus Christ did who formed a group of apostles and then sent them out to the whole world.

*Our masthead:* Br. John Sester, LC, and Br. Emmanuel Flores, LC. Both young men are studying for the priesthood at our seminary in Cheshire, Connecticut.

Missionaries in Action | Serving Those Less Fortunate

HOPE AND THE HOMELESS

When Paul and Kerrie Rivard moved their family to Atlanta 10 years ago, they faced their first Christmas away from family. So they decided to reach out to others who were "homeless" in situations much less comfortable than their own.

At that time, Dave Sloan organized an annual Christmas Eve outreach for the homeless in downtown Atlanta. The Rivard family came to help serve food, give gifts, and brighten their lives.

"We met the most incredible people," said Kerrie, "Truly poor, but with hope that wouldn't break. Grateful for what they had when they had next to nothing."

Since then, Dave Sloan has expanded this annual event to a ministry called Love & Serve. Once a month the ministry distributes coats, blankets, shoes, socks, gloves and water to about fifty or so homeless people in downtown Atlanta's Hurt Park. The Rivards join other Regnum Christi families, Legionary priests, and consecrated women on a regular basis.

"We gather, pray, and practice a ministry of presence, listening to people, smiling with them, sharing with them and praying with them," said Kerrie. "We try to keep things positive, but it isn't easy. Hurt Park can be a pretty gloomy place."



Fr. Juan Guerra, LC and Love & Serve volunteer Giovanni Abreu spending time with a homeless gentleman in Atlanta, Georgia.

The homeless often share their stories, and those who minister with Love & Serve, including many young people, learn important lessons from their lives. The Rivard's six children (ages 8 to 20) have grown up learning the importance of affirming a sense of dignity and humanity.

"They have really given our children an incredible gift over these past ten years," said Kerrie, "one that Paul and I could never have given them alone."

"Missionaries in Action" features inspirational people who give of themselves to build the Kingdom of God. For more stories and information about living an active faith, see our website at [www.legionariesofchrist.org](http://www.legionariesofchrist.org)