



The

# JOY

of Catholic Living



Volume 4, Issue 1

A Publication of the Regnum Christi Movement and the Legionaries of Christ

## NEWLY ORDAINED FR. BRIAN HOELZEN, LC

“The single greatest desire within me is to use my priesthood to help others experience, in a powerful way, the sheer limitlessness of God’s love and mercy for each of us, his cherished sons and daughters. God loves us beyond our deepest longings for love, and my hope is that, if I am able in some small way to be a faithful instrument in his hands, it will also enable others to be a monument of his love to their own family and friends, and the light of faith will spread as a beacon of hope and meaning to every yearning heart.”



Fr. Brian, who grew up in Seattle, Washington will spend his first years of priesthood serving as a youth minister in Atlanta, Georgia. Here he receives the anointing of the hands at his ordination from Bishop Fernando Vergez.



## INSTRUMENTS OF SANCTIFICATION

*44 New Priests Receive a Gift for Others*

Cardinal Beniamino Stella, Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy, ordained 44 Legionaries of Christ priests in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome on December 12, 2015. In his homily, Cardinal Stella described the essential value of priests as “instruments of sanctification”, saying that “Christ consecrates you to Himself in order to give you as a gift to everyone.”

The cardinal emphasized that Holy Orders is not a reward for hard work, nor is it a graduation after years of preparation. By laying his hands on the heads of these Legionaries, they are sanctified for the purposed of sanctifying others. This gift “is made concrete in the celebration of the Eucharist, and in his availability for the sacrament of reconciliation.” An attitude of service based on “having Christ in his heart” is a priest’s most precious treasure.

In contrast to a Christ-centered personality, the cardinal warned the new priests against feeling their priesthood requires “an added ingredient” such as teaching in a university, or a presence on the internet, or working with itinerant peoples and tourism. This kind of thinking “puts our own interests and abilities at the center. Thus we relegate the priesthood to a secondary category; to the margins of our life

*(continued on page 2)*

**SPECIAL ORDINATION EDITION: 44 NEW LEGIONARY PRIESTS!**

## 44 NEW PRIESTS *(continued from front cover)*

... [and] the priesthood may become just a ‘pretext’ to devote oneself to other things.”

The General Director of the Legionaries, Fr. Eduardo Robles-Gil, LC, echoed the cardinal’s theme of service to others and expressed his gratitude to the Lord for these men from eleven different countries, saying, “We have great hope in these young priests as we continue our path of renovation and service to others. It gives us great joy to see larger groups of men from countries such as Brazil and Columbia arrive to the priesthood, as they have much to offer our congregation.”

The ordination Mass took place just four days after Pope Francis inaugurated the Year of Mercy. Cardinal Stella told the priests that mercy “is an essential part of the mission entrusted to you today” and asked them to “help the rivers of divine mercy flow into the darkest corners of people’s lives, into their most painful wounds.”

The closing words from the cardinal’s homily form a beautiful prayer for us to use to pray for our new priests:

“In this day of celebration and joy which we share, my most ardent desire for you is that, configured ever more to Christ the Good Shepherd, and under the protection of Mary, Mother of the Church and Queen of the Apostles, may you maintain the inner joy of this day throughout your entire life.

May you bring that joy to the most remote and difficult corners and fringes of humanity, confident that the Holy Spirit, who has chosen you to follow Jesus, to be with Him and to send you to proclaim the Kingdom, will bless your ministry while you wait to meet Him, always Him – Christ yesterday, today, and always – full of fruits, in the house of the Father. Amen”



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

*Three Priests ordained in 2014 serving in America*



### Fr. Andrew LaBudde, LC

Since my ordination in 2014, I have been working primarily as an assistant to the novice instructor at the Legion’s Novitiate in Cheshire, CT. My role is to help the novice instructor in guiding and accompanying those young men who aspire to profess the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience within the Legion. I act as a mentor by helping them through their difficulties, sharing their joys, and introducing them to the religious life.

I also teach classes in Christology, Catechism and the Liturgy. The classes allow me to pass on knowledge acquired over the past thirteen years of my formation.

One final role is that of spiritual director and confessor for brothers in their 3rd and 4th year of Legionary life. The early years of Legionary formation are heavily focused on forming a real and personal relationship with Jesus and the role of spiritual director is key in helping the brothers to do this.

From the moment I wake up, until I go to bed at night, I’m serving and helping those entrusted to my care to enter into the Heart of Jesus. I was ordained a priest to be a servant and although it might be demanding at times, it is also a blessing beyond compare.



### Fr. David Barton, LC

As I celebrate my one-year anniversary as a priest, I am humbled by the ways our Lord has used me as his instrument. I spend my time doing youth work in Atlanta, GA, as a chaplain at Pinecrest Academy leading retreats and camps for boys. I am also heading the national “RC Mission Corps” program for young men who give a year of their lives as missionaries. It has been a year to deeply and profoundly live out my priesthood with the desire for young people to encounter Christ.

Boys dream big and want to do great things, but if they are not challenged to live as Christians when they’re young, they may never truly get to know our Lord. To be an instrument to help develop their friendship with Christ is not always an easy task. I’m amazed to see that when boys finally decide to step up

to the challenge of living their faith coherently and loving Christ in a manly way, they stop at nothing until they achieve their goal.

Working with young men has helped me to appreciate that even if all we do is plant the seed of faith, God listens to our prayers and can fill these young men with a desire to truly love and seek to do what is good.



### Fr. Benjamin O’Loughlin, LC

After my consecration in Rome, I traveled to Detroit to serve the students at Everest Academy. It was a great gift to be a spiritual father to those boys . . . to be there for them in the confessional, at the altar, and on the ski slopes and sports fields as well. To accompany them as they visited the tombs of the apostles in Rome and walked in the footsteps of Christ on their trip to the Holy Land. To give them back to their families in June, after nine months spent getting to know one another.

In July, I received a new mission as Regnum Christi youth work director for boys and young men in the greater Detroit area. That mission immediately saw me overseas in Haiti, accompanying Mission Youth missionaries from Detroit serving alongside the Missionaries of Charity. At the Port-au-Prince Home for the Dying, I administered my first anointing of the sick . . . and then I lost count anointing forehead after forehead and seeing Christ’s grace touch the hearts, souls and bodies of people I myself could barely communicate with.

This year I have three schools to chaplain instead of one, as well as mentoring, retreats, missions, and teaching morality classes. My priest hands have their first few calluses . . . they’ve been busy and won’t have time to rest anytime soon. And I wouldn’t have it any other way.

# See More...

Use a QR Code scanner, available as a free app for your smartphone or tablet to scan the Code to the right or go to <http://goo.gl/nQ8K3B>

See hundreds more photos of the new Legionary priests, ordinations, and even their first Masses.

**Enjoy seeing the fruits of your generous support!**



## A PEACE APART

Jesus seems to revel in irony. In two of every three years, the Gospel reading for the solemnity of Christ the King involves a passage from the Passion, when Our Lord is either on the cross or being interrogated like a common criminal.

At first glance these passages don't seem fitting for a feast that celebrates Jesus' kingship over the universe. But they are: They emphasize that Christ's idea of power and kingship is not the same as the world's.



That message has special significance as we just finished a year when the tide against Christian values continued to gain strength, be it in the atrocities committed by a self-styled caliphate or in the stranger-than-fiction rulings issued by Western courts.

Amid this vise-grip of fanaticism and secularism, the Church endures. Providentially, the Church doesn't survive on the wiles of its human members but rather on the power of a Savior who promised, "I am with you always" (MATTHEW 28:20). What he does ask of us, along with our fidelity, is that we contribute effort and creativity. We have a duty to look for new ways to present the Gospel to the world.

Pope Francis suggested as much in a speech to German bishops last November in Rome. After giving a brief overview of the Church's somber state in Germany (low Mass attendance, scant use of confession, etc.), the Holy Father said, "Certainly it is not possible to reconstruct from the wreckage the 'good old days' that were yesterday." His suggestion: "Let ourselves be inspired by the life of the first Christians."

What were the first Christians like? In a word, they were countercultural. They bucked the tide of paganism and sterile religious legalism in order to live a robust faith, rooted in prayer, the sacraments, charity for neighbor, and genuine love for country. Paganism didn't dissuade them, and barbarism didn't stop them. They dealt with the world as it was. Christians raised families, built what they could, lived and passed on the faith -- and laid the foundations for a Christendom that would pepper the world with schools, hospitals and cathedrals, all the while keeping a worldview focused on Christ.

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Perhaps the **great challenge** of this age will be **to live as the first Christians** – politically and socially marginalized, but **loyal to a Person** who gives us what the world cannot

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As a big election year unfolds, it is a good moment to recall that the deep solutions needed by society won't be found at the ballot box. Votes produce presidents but not redeemers. Our success as Christians won't be measured by "our candidate" winning office. Success in a real sense will depend on how well we live the Gospel in the face of cultural and moral decay all around us. And to the degree the world rejects us, we imitate Our Lord.

Perhaps the great challenge of this age will be to live as the first Christians – politically and socially marginalized, but loyal to a Person who gives us what the world cannot: real serenity, meaning, redemption. Such a recalibration of our hopes and desires toward Christ will bring a peace the world can never take away.

## DIVORCED. CATHOLIC. NOW WHAT?

*Divorced Catholic Ministries Offers Healing and Hope*

Vince Frese experienced a very painful divorce in 2000. Being a life-long Catholic, he turned to his local parish for support and guidance. Other than a compassionate priest who said that he would pray for him, he found very little.

That experience led Vince to create a ministry in 2005 to provide spiritual, educational, and social offerings for the divorced or separated in the parish community. Based on that success, he founded Divorced Catholic Ministries, co-authoring the book, *Divorced. Catholic. Now What?*, and creating *Recovering from Divorce*, a 13-week program to promote healing and recovery using the teaching of the Catholic faith.

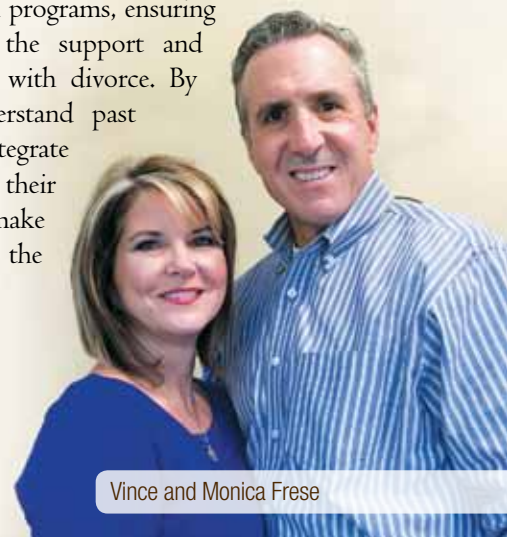
“Going through the *Recovering from Divorce* Program literally transformed me from despair to hope by the blessings of our Catholic faith.” - Stefanie

In 2007, after his annulment, Vince married Monica, who had also experienced the pain of divorce and the healing benefits of an annulment. Since then, Vince and Monica, who are Regnum Christi members, have expanded their efforts to reach as many divorced Catholics as possible. Two new books have

recently been released: *Prayers for Divorced Catholics*, written by Monica, and *Daily Inspirations for Divorced Catholics*, written by Vince.

The ministry provides resources over the Internet to Catholics in all dioceses. This helps to bridge the gap in the availability of parish-based programs, ensuring that all Catholics have the support and resources needed to deal with divorce. By helping participants understand past mistakes and more fully integrate their Catholic faith into their lives, they are able to make better choices and break the cycle of divorce.

For more information, visit [www.divorcedcatholic.com](http://www.divorcedcatholic.com) or contact Vince and Monica at [info@divorcedcatholic.com](mailto:info@divorcedcatholic.com).



Vince and Monica Frese

## THREE TO GET MARRIED, THREE TO STAY MARRIED & TWENTY-FOUR HOUR MARRIAGE RETREATS

The Legion of Christ and Regnum Christi seek to help couples at every stage of their needs – for engaged couples, newly married, as well as established marriages.

**Three To Get Married** – A marriage preparation weekend for couples discerning marriage. Married couples, professional counselors, and a Legionary priest present the spiritual, emotional, psychological, and cultural dimensions of Catholic marriage and family life.

**Three to Stay Married** – Young married couples (0-8 years) get together with a mentor couple to pray, share and learn. An important resource for young couples looking for guidance and someone to talk to about issues and concerns.

After the honeymoon, reality starts to set in as couples encounter needs and want to find the correct way to solve things. Ana and I currently have nine couples coming to our house and we pray for the couples as we try and bring them closer to Christ. ~ Bob Richards

**24 Hour Marriage Getaway** – A marriage retreat led by a Legionary priest to help you reflect, refocus, and rejuvenate your marriage. Use this 24 hours to press “reset” on your marriage.

When we do not make time for each other – tension and distrust set in – and these are what create cracks in the marriage and family foundation. If you get the marriage going in the right direction, then the family will follow. Anything worthwhile takes investment and marriage is the #1 life-long investment of most people. ~ Fr. Martin Connor, LC

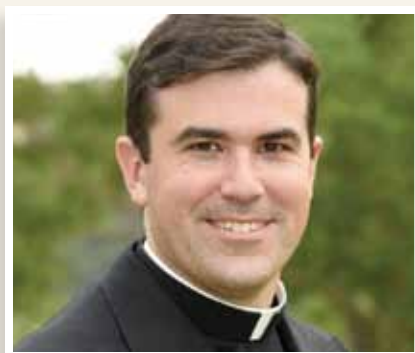


Twenty-five couples attended a recent Marriage Getaway.

## FULFILLED IN CHRIST: THE SACRAMENTS

*A Guide to Symbols and Types in the Bible and Tradition*

Fr. Devin Rosa, LC, is the author of a new book which presents the beauty of our seven sacraments as expressed throughout the history of the Church. Drawing on a method of interpretation called “typology”, Fr. Devin categorized about 100 symbols and types of the sacraments as seen through Scripture, the Church Fathers, the Catechism, and liturgy. It is a reference book but, as Fr. Rosa emphasizes, it can be used by “any Catholic to grow deeper in faith – one topic or symbol at a time.”



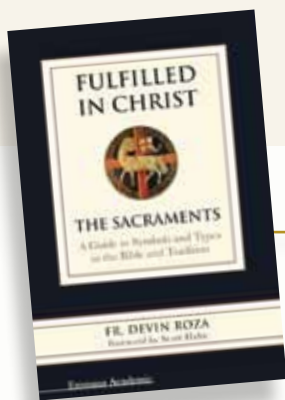
Fr. Devin Rosa, LC

A native of Omaha, Nebraska, Fr. Devin is a visiting professor at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum in Rome. He is currently working on a doctorate in Sacred Scriptures and already has ideas for future books. A similar book on Mary and the Church (how Mary is a symbol and prefiguration of the Church) as well as multiple volumes on the symbols and prefigurations of Christ are possibilities.

When asked what led to him becoming a Legionary priest Fr. Devin said, “I was attracted to their youthful spirit . . . to go out and win souls for Christ.” In explaining to his students and readers how all things are fulfilled in Christ, Fr. Devin is fulfilling his vocation of attracting souls to our Lord.

*“Fr. Devin Rosa brings us face-to-face with the overarching aspect of God’s plan of salvation: for history and for each individual soul.”*

– from the forward by Scott Hahn



### Available Now!

*Fr. Devin’s book is available now in bookstores or online at amazon.com*

*Emmaus Academic  
355 pages, \$44.95*

## Schedule of Events

### Atlanta Area

#### **Retreats for men and women, marriage preparation and enrichment**

See website (resources) for dates and information  
www.rcatlanta.org Contact Beth Keller  
770-837-2798 | news@rcatlanta.org

### Bethesda, Maryland – Retreat Center

#### **Retreats for men and women, marriage preparation and enrichment**

See website for dates and information  
www.ourladyofbethesda.org  
Contact Melanie Baker re: retreats  
301-365-0612 | info@ourladyofbethesda.org  
or Jane Newstedt re: marriage preparation  
301-365-0612 | jnewstedt@bethesdacfd.org

### Houston Area

#### **Retreats for men and women; spiritual exercises and enrichment**

See website for dates and information  
www.thykingdomcome.us/calendar

### NY Tri-State Area

#### **Retreats for men and women, marriage preparation and enrichment**

See website for dates:  
www.regnumchristinyctnj.org  
Contact Pamela Brown:  
914-244-3685 | info@regnumchristinyctnj.org

### Greater Charlotte Area

#### **Retreats for men and women; spiritual exercises and enrichment**

See web site (services) for dates and information  
www.rcgreatercharlotte.com  
Contact: Info@RCGreaterCharlotte.org

### Missions

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

See website for dates:  
www.missionyouthmissions.com  
Contact | 855-556-6872  
missionyouth@missionyouthmissions.com

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

See website for dates: www.hhmm.org  
Contact 972-253-1800 | mission@hhmm.org

#### **Holy Land Pilgrimage**

March 11-19, 2016  
Fr. Simon Devereux & Fr. Daniel Brandenburg  
Contact: Minerva Dibildox  
minerva@elitetravelct.com  
Phone: 203-271-0623

**On Line Spiritual Resources / Retreat Guides  
Study Circle Guides, Ask a Priest- Questions**  
www.rcspirituality.org

# THANK YOU FOR OUR 44 NEW PRIESTS!

*This great blessing is due, in no small measure, to your support of the seminarians in their years of formation.*

One way to continue providing for the future generations of priests is through a charitable gift annuity. At the same time, it helps secure your financial future. Here is how it works...



### Here is what YOU receive when creating a Charitable Gift Annuity:

- **Guaranteed Life Income** at an attractive rate of return.
- **Charitable Deduction.** A significant income tax deduction for your gift.
- **Tax-Free Payments.** A large portion of each payment is tax-free.
- **Capital Gains Tax Savings.** When funding the Charitable Gift Annuity with appreciated stocks or mutual funds, you will reduce capital gains taxes.

### Example Rate Chart:

Age	Rate	Age	Rate
66	4.8%	80	6.8%
70	5.1%	85	7.8%
75	5.8%	90+	9.0%

Rates as of January 1, 2016

Through the Legion of Christ, you can establish a Charitable Gift Annuity for yourself or a loved one that will pay a fixed income stream for life. And it has the added benefit of supporting future seminarians and priests at the same time. **Return the short reply form below** to receive a no-obligation proposal showing what a CGA would specifically do for you, for your spouse, or a loved one.

**Request for More Information**

*Plan today... Change the future!*

Please send me a FREE, no-obligation proposal which outlines the many benefits of a Charitable Gift Annuity.

- ✓ My date of birth (or the date of birth of the person I want to receive a lifetime income): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
  - ✓ Date of birth of a second person who would continue receiving income (if I so desire): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
  - ✓ Amount I am considering as a Charitable Gift Annuity: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (if you are not sure, we will base our proposal on a hypothetical amount of \$10,000)
- Funding in Cash       Funding by Stock Transfer

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

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



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*Our masthead: Fr. Rodolfo Agudelo, LC at his ordination Mass*

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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.

Lights of the World | Serving Christ in Africa

**HELP, HOPE, & HOME**

*A Mission for Cameroon*

Mike Drapeau is the father of seven children, an ex-naval officer, a rugby enthusiast, a marketing consultant, and a member of the Regnum Christi Movement from Georgia. Fr. Eugen Nkardzedze is a priest in the village of Nkar, Cameroon, on the west coast of Africa. Together with the entire village of Nkar, they are leading the "Help Hope and Home" project to permanently impact the educational, medical and spiritual needs of the local people.

The mission will take place June 10-24, 2016, and has 4 goals:

1. **Humanitarian** (build a new school and provide other materials). The current school in Nkar built in the 1930s is crumbling. The mission will restore and finish the building and provide supplies.
2. **Medical** (complete the outpatient center and bring doctors/nurses to Nkar for training/care). The mission hopes to bring about 12 missionary doctors, nurses, pharmacists, EMTs and dentists as well as medicine and medical equipment.



Mike Drapeau with Fr. Eugen and Fr. Elvis from Nkar, Cameroon

3. **Human** (build a rugby field with goal posts). About 17 lay volunteer missionaries will build a rugby field, to promote healthy recreation and community, and equip local teams to hold a rugby tournament.
4. **Spiritual** (pilgrimages, meditations, reflections, and the sacraments) Missionaries will stay at the pastoral center on the site of the bishop's residence to serve the villagers.

*For more information about this missionary project, contact Mike at [mike.drapeau@salesbenchmarkindex.com](mailto:mike.drapeau@salesbenchmarkindex.com).*

"Lights of the World" 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)