



# MISSION

Volume 5, Issue 1

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

## CONQUERED TO SERVE

*36 Legionaries Ordained in Rome*

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State for the Vatican, ordained 36 Legionaries of Christ to the priesthood on December 10th in the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome. In his homily, the Cardinal said that their vocations have a single origin: “the reality of being seekers of God, who have allowed themselves to be conquered by him ...” Adding that, “It is the Holy Spirit that, through the imposition of the hands and the anointing, makes you capable to serve as ministers of the Lord amongst the people of God.”

Fr. Eduardo Robles-Gil, LC, General Director of the Legionaries of Christ and the Regnum Christi Movement, presented the candidates for ordination. About 150 priests concelebrated the Mass. Deacon David Parker Sr., a permanent deacon from the United States, father of Fr. David Parker Jr. who was being ordained, assisted the Cardinal in the Mass. Father and son were ordained deacons during the same ceremony last year in Pulaski, Wisconsin.

Cardinal Parolin concluded his homily with these words: “I pray that your congregation may continue to walk down the pathway of renewal and evangelical authenticity, with courage and generosity ... for the greater glory of God, the service of the Church, and the salvation of the world. Amen.”

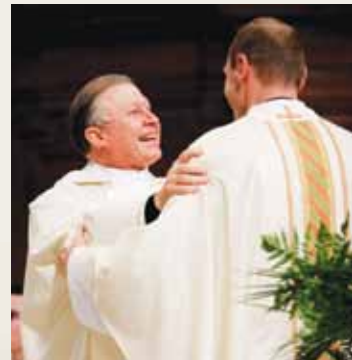
Fr. Eduardo Robles-Gil, LC, said, “We are full of gratitude to the families who with their prayers, presence and support have been so important during the journey of these young men so that they might arrive to the altar.”



American-born Fr. Brett Taira, LC joyfully hugs his dad after being ordained.



Fr. Ryan Richardson (right) kneels during his ordination Mass.



Fr. Eduardo Robles-Gil, our General Director, congratulates one of the newly ordained priests.



## INTRODUCING YOUR NEW AMERICAN PRIESTS

We are proud to introduce you to nine new Legionary priests who call the United States “home.” The nine priests include Fr. Peter Krezalek who “adopted” America as his home many years ago.

Six are currently working in the United States, two in Mexico, and one in Canada.

These short profiles give you a glimpse into their backgrounds and their joy in serving the Church.

For additional information and testimonials, visit our ordination website:

[www.regnumchristi.org/sites/ordenaciones2016/en](http://www.regnumchristi.org/sites/ordenaciones2016/en)



### Fr. Michael O'Connor, LC

Fr. Michael was born in Olympia Fields, Illinois, the second of five children. After high school, while serving as a volunteer with Mission Corps in Washington, D.C., his thoughts began to turn seriously to becoming a

Legionary priest. Fr. Michael, has been assigned as a formation instructor at Clearwater Academy in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He writes, “I pray every day for perseverance in this vocation and for each and every one of the souls that God will put in the path of my priestly ministry.”



### Fr. Aaron Loch, LC

Fr. Aaron, born in Buffalo, Minnesota, and is the second of eleven children. During his internship, he served in Legionary schools – first in St. Louis, Missouri, then Edgerton, Wisconsin, and finally in Rolling

Prairie, Indiana. Fr. Aaron has returned to Oaklawn Academy in Wisconsin where he is their chaplain. “As long as I am at Christ’s side,” says Fr. Aaron, “I am on the right path, the path of the cross, because that is where my Friend will always be.”



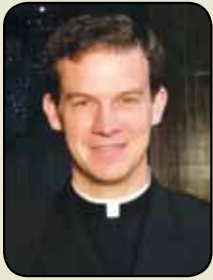
### Fr. Andrew Joseph Kolenda, LC

Born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Fr. Andrew and his family “met” the Legionaries when he was about 12 years old. When he learned about their school for boys in grades 7-12, he was excited to visit and eventually enrolled. “I don’t remember a time when I did not want to be a priest” says Fr. Andrew. “I am looking forward to helping people by bringing them the grace of the sacraments, bringing them to a real encounter with Christ that can change their lives.” Fr. Andrew has been assigned as Vice Rector at Sacred Heart Apostolic School in Rolling Prairie, Indiana.



### Fr. Daniel Rolczynski, LC

Fr. Daniel is from Richfield, Minnesota, and upon graduating from high school he volunteered a year with Regnum Christi Mission Corps. After joining the Legionaries of Christ, his apostolic internship was spent promoting vocations in the greater New York City region. He is currently working with youth in Mexico City. “Gratitude is all I have in my heart as I go forward to my new assignment,” Fr. Daniel writes. “Thank you for so many prayers, for so much love. Thanks to all who have been living expressions of God’s presence in my life. Please continue to pray for us.”



### Fr. Andrew Gronotte, LC

Born and raised in Kentucky, Fr. Andrew is the oldest of three siblings. His apostolic internship was spent in Washington, DC, working with youth. Now, as a Legionary priest, he is working again with youth in the Washington area. Fr. Andrew says of his priesthood, “Christ gave me His Heart and in that Heart, He gave me the priesthood, the Legion, the mission, and most important of all, Himself. For me to be a priest is exactly this, God choosing to be united to me in His priesthood.”



### Fr. David Parker, LC

Fr. David was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and began his first year of novitiate in Cheshire, CT, followed by a second year in Mexico. Regarding his inspiration to become a priest, Fr. David says, “It was on January 1st, 2003 that our Lord gave me the grace to say yes as I looked into the eyes of St. John Paul II. With a powerful gaze, this man who could barely stand, gave me the courage to give everything to our Lord, just as he had done all his life.” Fr. David is currently working with youth in Monterrey, Mexico.



### Fr. Ryan Richardson, LC

Born and raised in New Orleans, Fr. Ryan graduated from Loyola University New Orleans. After graduation, he volunteered for COMPASS, a national network of Catholic college students, before joining the Legionaries of Christ. Fr. Ryan currently works with college age students and young adults in the Diocese of Dallas, Texas. He writes, “His goodness to me has given great joy and has led me on a path unimaginable. He . . . has asked me to be an instrument of his love and mercy in the world.”



### Fr. Peter Krezalek, LC

Fr. Peter was born and raised in Poland before moving to Chicago and earning a degree in Computer Science and an MBA. At the age of 39, at Chicago’s O’Hare airport, he saw a Legionary priest praying his breviary, oblivious to the crowd around him. Fr. Peter says, “It was such a powerful testimony of fidelity and authenticity . . . [and I realized] that I wanted to live my life just like that: faithful, authentic, humble, and charitable.” Fr. Peter has been assigned to work with young people and adults in the Chicago area.



### Fr. Brett Taira, LC

Fr. Brett was born in Santa Barbara, California, and raised Buddhist before converting to Catholicism in college. He received a B.A. in Electrical Engineering from Rice University in Houston and then joined the Legionaries of Christ. He did his apostolic internship in Chicago, working with Conquest clubs and serving as formation instructor at Everest Academy in Lemont and East Lake Academy in Lake Forest, Illinois. Fr. Brett has been assigned to work with young people and adults in Chicago.

# CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH PRAYER



What is the relationship between politics and my spiritual life? We've just inaugurated a new president and perhaps we can learn some lessons from the latest election.

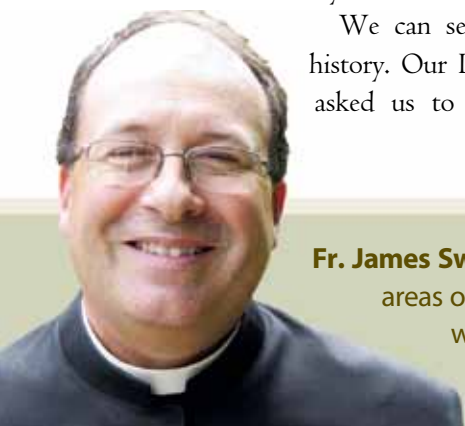
In politics, important things are often at stake. It may be that some outcomes will be negative, but as Christians, we should always remember that first of all we are in God's hands. No matter what administration is in office, our trust in God and in his loving mercy should always be greater.

This should be a principle of our lives: Politics is not as important as religion. When we make it as important or more important than religion, we are moving away from God. People who pay more attention to politics than to their relationship with God are on the wrong track. Politics has its importance. We should all participate and make the best choices we can according to our conscience, but when all is said and done, humble prayer to God for the good of our country is much more important. I will have a greater influence through my prayers than through any level of participation I may have in the political process. So, if I am concerned about the political situation of my country, the first thing I should do is pray.

We can see the importance of this in history. Our Lady of Fatima appeared and asked us to pray for the conversion of

Russia. Within a few years of her appearances, Russia was taken over by communism – a political system that puts the importance of the state over the importance of the individual. It also viewed religion as an evil, something that enslaved people. By the 1970s, it appeared that it would take over the world. But then something strange happened – a few people came into power in different countries and the actions of these people caused communism – this great, world-conquering system – to collapse within a few months in the fall of 1989. Were these different leaders working together? Hardly. What guided them into power, into positions where they could play a role in the collapse of the communist world?

To some it would seem that it was merely chance – but as Christians we can see that it is much more likely that the prayers of those who listened to Our Lady of Fatima changed the world. There are other examples from the 20th century – like the avoidance of communist takeovers of different countries through prayer campaigns by the Catholics in those countries, but the important thing to remember is that our prayers are much more effective than we can imagine. Do I want to transform the world, making it a better place? Then I should pray. As King Arthur says in Tennyson's 'Morte D'Arthur', "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."



**Fr. James Swanson, LC** was ordained a priest in 1994. Since then he has worked in the French-speaking areas of Canada with young people and in our seminary there as a professor. He also spent 12 years working at our retreat center in Washington DC as a retreat master and spiritual director. Since 2013, he fulfills that same role in Atlanta.

# CATHOLIC WORLDVIEW FELLOWSHIP

*Envisioning a Culture of Faith for the Future*



Newly ordained Fr. Ryan Richardson is the Executive Director for Catholic Worldview Fellowship.

“Culture” is the operative word in this accelerated for-credit course. That’s because, as the famous Catholic historian, Christopher Dawson points out, the basis of culture is religion (which is a “cult” in the non-pejorative sense of “a system of

What intelligent Catholic college student wouldn’t love to study their faith in the context of the cultural foundations of the modern world? And what better place to begin that course of study than from a fourteenth-century castle in Germany for three weeks – followed by an exciting week in Rome? Up to thirty students will have that opportunity this summer by enrolling in the newly established Catholic World Fellowship (CWF).

participate in workshops, travel to historic cultural sites, as well as personal study in ethics, history, philosophy, and theology. Beginning with the medieval foundations of Western culture, students trace the impact of the Church and her social doctrine in shaping cultural change.

Students will also study the ideas of the anthropological philosopher Fr. Romano Guardini. To get an idea of Guardini’s importance, he is regarded by both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis as a major influence in their worldviews. For example, Guardini’s book, *The End of the Modern World*, is cited eight times in Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation, *Laudato Si*.

One of the primary course instructors, Br. Gabriel Wendt, LC, has written a book on the thought of Guardini, *Existence and Destiny*. Br. Gabriel teaches philosophy at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum and is working on his doctoral thesis on Guardini. The other course instructor is Fr. John Bartunek, LC, who earned his B.A in history from Stanford University in addition to more advance degrees. Fr. John is a theology professor at Regina Apostolorum and a best-selling author.



Students spend three weeks at Schloss Wissen, Germany, followed by one week in Rome.

beliefs”). For a Catholic to understand modern culture requires looking at the world from the perspective of faith.

The CWF curriculum especially focuses on the role of leaders during an evolving culture. Students attend lectures,

before them: “To change culture takes true leaders; to evangelize culture takes apostles.”

To learn more visit [www.catholicworldview.com](http://www.catholicworldview.com)

The CWF leadership team includes four women – two consecrated women of Regnum Christi and two experts in leadership formation. The other team members in addition to the two main instructors, are also Legionaries – one serves as the director of the CWF Rome office and the other is newly ordained Fr. Ryan Richardson, LC, who is the CWF Executive Director.

Students who return from this summer’s course will be in a position to help transform our culture with values, leading people in society to their true fulfillment. These words from the CWF website sum up the important mission

## HOLINESS IS FOR EVERYONE – EVEN KIDS

By day, John Monette is the business manager for the Legion’s novitiate and college in Cheshire, Connecticut. His wife, Marieta, is a stay-at-home mom. And, with young boys to raise, they are very busy parents. But in their “spare time” they have managed to create a new children’s book published by Liguori Publications: *Mother Teresa, a Life of Love*.



John wrote the text for the 64-page book, while Marieta drew the color illustrations. One important theme for children is that Mother Teresa’s life of holiness, prayer, and service, was practiced from a very young age. Parents and educators can use suggestions found in the back of the book to reinforce their children’s growth in faith and virtue.

His master’s degrees in philosophy and business administration, may not suggest John’s success as a children’s book writer. But in addition to those degrees, John was once a Legionary novice (1989-1991) before discerning that God was calling him elsewhere. Marieta has a master’s degree in early childhood education and was a teacher for several years. Their combined skills and backgrounds have proven very effective in reaching children with a powerful Christian message.

Their first book for Liguori Publications, *Francis, the Pope for Kids*, is a finalist in the Association of Catholic Publishers Excellence in Publishing Awards. They are working on a third book on the Rosary to be released later this year.

The Monette’s books are available from many Catholic bookstores and internet distributors, as well as Amazon.

### Available Now!

*John and Marieta’s new book is available now, in Catholic bookstores and online at amazon.com and bn.com*



## Schedule of Events

### Atlanta Area

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

See website (resources/Atlanta) for dates and information.

www.rcatlanta.org Contact Beth Keller  
770-837-2798 | news@rcatlanta.org

### Bethesda, Maryland – Retreat Center

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

See website for dates and information.

www.ourladyofbethesda.org  
Contact Patty Hodgson re: retreats  
301-365-0612 | info@ourladyofbethesda.org  
or Jane Newstedt re: marriage preparation  
301-365-0612 | jnewstedt@bethesdacfd.org

### Connecticut Area

#### **Legion of Christ College of Humanities**

News/Events/Lectures/Activities

www.LCCheshire.org

### Dallas Area

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

See website (events) for dates and information.

www.dfw-rc.org

### Greater Charlotte Area

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

See web site (services) for dates and information.

www.rcgreatercharlotte.com

### Greater Ohio Valley Area

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

See web site (events) for dates and information.

www.rcohiovalley.org

### Houston Area

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

See website (calendar) for dates and information.

www.thykingdomcome.us

### New York/New Jersey/Connecticut Area

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

See website (events) for dates and information.

www.regnumchristinyctnj.org  
914-244-3685 | info@RegnumChristinyctnj.org

### Missions

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

See website for dates:

www.missionyouthmissions.com

Contact | 855-556-6872

missionyouth@missionyouthmissions.com

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

www.rcspirituality.org

Study Circle Guides, Ask a Priest- Questions

Contact info; contact@rcspirituality.org

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

See website (join) for dates: www.hhmm.org

Contact 972-253-1800 | mission@hhmm.org

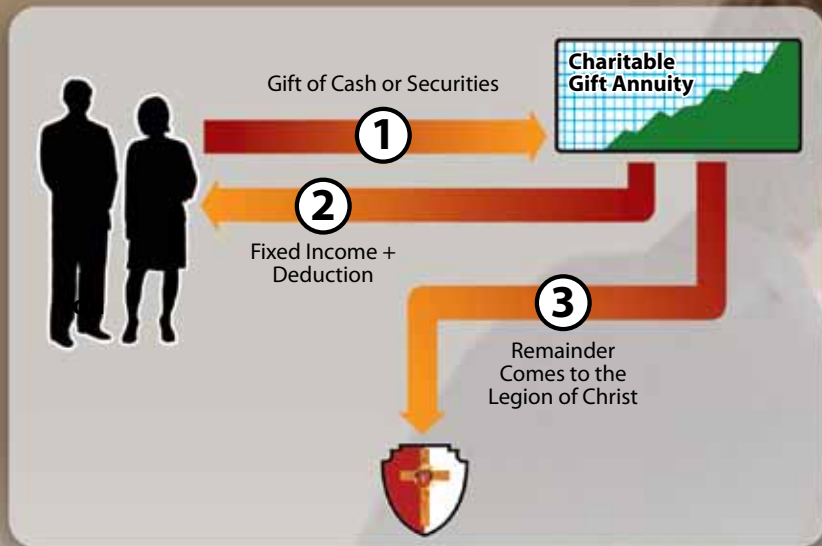
# HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

36 new Legionary priests for Christ. The fruit of your charitable giving!

A charitable gift annuity is one of the best ways to give and receive at the same time. Your Charitable Gift Annuity helps fund the formation of our seminarians – the Legionary priests for the future, right here in the USA. At the same time, you receive a dependable, fixed payment for the rest of your life.

The Legion of Christ has been offering Charitable Gift Annuities for over 25 years in a financially responsible way. We follow the rate recommendations of the American Council of Gift Annuities, assuring that our obligation to you will always be met. Plan today...change the future!

## Here's how it works...



### 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, 2017

**For more information:** Call Andy Bamber at (203) 376-3854, email him at [andy.bamber@legionofchrist.org](mailto:andy.bamber@legionofchrist.org), or fill out the form below to request more details, and mail it to the address at the bottom of the form.

## 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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**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. Gregory Metz, LC, from Macon, GA, and Br. Diego Ornelas, LC. Both young men are studying for the priesthood at our seminary in Cheshire, Connecticut.

Missionaries in Action | Serving Christ in Haiti

A SCHOOL AND A WELL

Mission Youth volunteers have been working regularly in Haiti since their devastating earthquake in 2010. Paola Treviño directed the initial work there, succeeded by Katelyn Moroney, two Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi. With the added assistance of Fr. Michael Mitchell, LC, a Catholic school 20 miles east of the capital, Port-au-Prince, has recently been built.

“The challenges facing these families to educate their children in rural Haiti are daunting,” said director Katelyn Moroney. “This school offers their children a vital opportunity for education in the faith and Christian values that will sustain them for the arduous challenges they will face.”

Fr. Wathner Aupont, the local priest, serves this small village along with seven others. Together with Fr. Wathner, it was decided that the village needed a well. Currently, the people must walk down a mountain to gather water at a spring and then back up the steep mountain. Consequently, hygiene and sanitation are difficult to maintain.

Moreover, it is the job of the youngest children in the village to carry water up the mountain. With a well in the village, the children can stop working all day and attend school!



Fr. Michael Mitchell, LC, with Haiti villagers, on the foundation of their new school.

The price of the well is \$7,725 and, when this newsletter went to press, more funds were needed. The school and the well are two examples of the important missionary work undertaken by Mission Youth and Legionary priests to serve the poorest of the poor.

To make a tax deductible donation for the well project, or for more information about Mission Youth, please contact them through their website: [www.missionyouthmissions.com](http://www.missionyouthmissions.com)

“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)