

MISSION

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

SEARCH RETREATS

Know Your Destination, Find Your Path

Nearly seven years ago, in February 2012, Fr. Jorge Obregon, LC, brainstormed with a group of Regnum Christi young adults in Columbia to create a new kind of retreat. They wanted a retreat that would inspire participants to transform their lives – and by doing so, change the world. Their ideal retreat would unite fun and formation, emotions and friendship, testimonies and experimental activities.

They named the retreat “Search” because, as Christians, it is essential to understand our end goal and purpose, but one must search each day to stay on the right path. Fr. Jorge directed the initial retreat using the story of the Prodigal Son as a structural theme – a feature that has continued through the years.

After the first retreat, a Legionary Priest working in Texas brought Fr. Jorge to San Antonio to direct two more Search retreats. Since then, there have been 114 Search retreats held in 16 cities with 6,752 young adult participants.



Fellowship at retreats is key to forming a family and finding new friends in the faith

The biggest difference between Search and other Regnum Christi retreats for young adults is that other young people (peer retreat leaders) do most of the “preaching.” When participants hear the retreat motto “**no one outside of Christ can give you true happiness**” from another young person, it tends to stick more. Second, retreat leaders have strong follow-up with the young people.

“Even though there is a very specific schedule,” said Fr. Jorge, “I always tell teens it is the Lord who does the work. The Lord will always send new disciples to people or communities that love God.” The outline of the Prodigal Son is valuable, but since a big part of the retreat is personal testimonies, each young person is encouraged to adapt the theme to their own personal experiences.

(continued on page 2)



Fr. Jorge, creator of Search Retreats, is always available to hear confession for retreat participants

SEARCH RETREATS *continued*

Fr. Jorge notes that young people often get intellectual content on retreats but want an “emotional bomb.” On this retreat, young people see that the Holy Spirit is working in them. Adults who helped have told him, “It’s like Parenting IOI, because we see how these kids are hurt by all the mistakes we, as parents, make.”

Retreat leaders prepare for months. A recent Search retreat in Houston with 88 young people participating had an additional 41 retreat leaders including 22 young adults, six older married couples, four Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi, and three Legionary priests.

Fr. Jorge advises those working with youth, “What’s important is our spiritual preparation, being centered on Christ. We are servers, not coordinators or bosses.”

One youth leader, Michelle Saluda, was surprised when a young woman sent her a long note saying that she could see Jesus in Michelle. “It made me realize” Michelle said, “that whenever you open your heart to Jesus, people don’t see you, but they see Jesus through you.”

The next Search retreats will be in Houston, Texas, for young professionals ages 22 to 30 (October 5-7) and in The Woodlands, Texas, for ages 18 to 24 (November 2-4).



- ① Fr. Jorge with a group of his junior staff
- ② Girls singing the retreat theme song
- ③ Performing skits adds joy and meaning to the retreats



Participants pose after retreat registration

OUR LIVES ARE CONNECTED Seminarian Graduates Now in Rome

Seminarians who have completed their Associates Degree at Cheshire are now in Rome to continue their education and formation. Br. John Sester was among the brothers who performed for the friends and family gathered to celebrate at a farewell barbecue held this summer. He took a moment to share words of gratitude on behalf of the departing seminarians:



Br. John Sester, LC

“I want to say a word to our neighbors and benefactors – people who have been close to us and have helped support us. Sometimes when it is hard to study and we’re banging our heads against the computer keyboard trying to finish assignments, we think of the people we are forming ourselves to help. We are forming ourselves to be better priests for tomorrow. You’re the ones who



These seminarians are now in Rome to finish their priestly training

are helping us now, and you’re the ones we are doing it for so we can serve you later. Our lives are now connected and although we’re going to Rome, and the distance is great, our God is greater. He unites us.”

Cheshire Welcomes

DEACON NATHAN TORREY



Deacon Nathan Torrey, LC

Just a few months ago, Brother Nathan became Deacon Nathan Torrey at a transitional diaconate ordination in Houston, Texas. He is now working as the Assistant Novice Instructor in Cheshire as well as helping with the Seminary Mass Association (our Mass program), to ensure intercession for our benefactor’s prayer intentions. Deacon Nathan will be ordained next May in Rome before returning to resume his role in Cheshire, Connecticut.

He is originally from Louisiana and his two younger brothers are also discerning vocations to the priesthood with Legionaries of Christ – Br. Nicholas Torrey (now studying in Rome) and Br. Andrew Torrey (doing his internship in Washington, DC).

For information about how to contact our Seminary Mass Association, please see the back cover. Or visit our Mass Association website at www.lccheshire.org/mass-enrollment to see all of our offerings.

SUMMER CANDIDATES



Brothers Anthony Garza, Elijah McLellan, Aurelio Cervantes, Dominic Piron, and Raul Espinoza

This summer, about a dozen young men arrived in Cheshire for the Summer Candidacy program. Five came from Sacred Heart Apostolic School for young men considering a priestly vocation. The remainder came from other high schools or colleges. Fr. Edward Hopkins, LC, the national vocations director for the Legion, directs the candidacy program. He says the two main objectives of the program are taking a more formal step of discernment and getting an introduction to Legionary life, the priesthood, and the religious life. There are nearly 100 seminarians studying in Cheshire this fall. Please remember them in your prayers.

THE SCHOOL OF PRAYER

Jesus said to his disciples: “In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. This is how you are to pray: ‘Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.’ If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.” Matthew 6: 7-15



The Father is much more powerful than any temptation the devil can send against us.

This Gospel passage can be summed up in one word – trust. In teaching us how to pray, Christ asks us to abandon ourselves to our Father so that we can live in freedom to help establish his Kingdom.

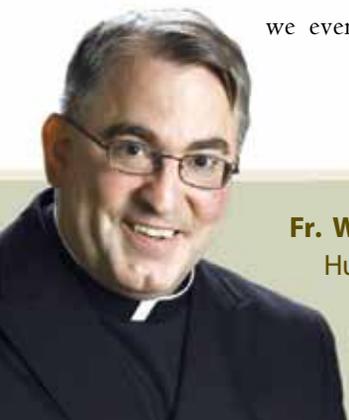
Absolute Trust in God’s Providence: “Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” Christ’s words are an inexhaustible source of consolation and hope, as they encourage us to turn constantly to our Father in prayer. But if our Father already knows our needs, why should we even present them to him in prayer? St.

Augustine assures us that while we pray, God is molding our heart and soul to receive the good things he desires to give us in answer to our prayers.

The Perfect Prayer: St. Augustine affirms that the Lord’s Prayer is so perfect that it sums up in a few words everything man needs to ask God for (cf. Sermon, 56). We are called to be apostles of God’s Kingdom, to spread love for Christ among our fellow men. Asking for God’s will to be done means that we seek to conform ourselves with his will in all of our thoughts and actions.

Our Spiritual and Human Needs: “Give us this day our daily bread.” Even though we work to earn our daily bread, it is still a gift from God. We ask only for what we need each day. The Church Fathers also see in this petition a request for the Eucharist, the Bread of Life. Christ then teaches us that when we ask God for forgiveness, we, too, must be willing to forgive others as we are forgiven by our Father.

A final prayer is to be freed from temptation that is beyond our strength, and to be delivered from evil — or the Evil One. The Father is much more powerful than any temptation the devil can send against us. With what confidence and trust does Christ ask us to conclude the “Our Father!”



Fr. Walter Schu was ordained in 1994. He taught for 21 years at the Legion’s Novitiate and College of Humanities in Cheshire, Connecticut. Fr. Schu also helped in the formation of Regnum Christi members and in various family apostolates, including Familia. He is author of *The Splendor of Love: John Paul II’s Vision for Marriage and Family* and is currently writing his doctoral thesis.

HELPING IN HAITI

Empowering the Poor in Christ's Name

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. There is widespread government corruption and instability, a severe lack of social infrastructure and access to higher education, and frequent natural disasters. A 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated the country in 2010, killing over 150,000 people. In 2016, Haiti was hit by Hurricane Matthew, which killed over 1,000 people. Life in Haiti is profoundly difficult. 59% of Haitians live under the poverty line and 66% of Haitian adults do not have formal jobs. Despite these obstacles, Haitians remain strong, resilient, and hopeful people.

Will Jude first volunteered in Haiti in 2015 while on a mission trip with Mission Youth, an apostolate of Regnum Christi. Since then, he has returned to the country many times. Will is committed to increasing opportunity for the poor and marginalized, and has helped develop a unique poverty-alleviation model that addresses the root causes of poverty in Haiti, rather than the symptoms. This philosophy focuses on equipping youth and young adults with the education and skills they need to provide for themselves, their future families, and become community leaders.

In 2017, Will accepted a volunteer position as the Executive Director of Just 4 Them, a nonprofit ministry that provides education and employment opportunities for youth and young adults in Haiti. Just 4 Them operates a primary school in Gressier and a college sponsorship program in Port-au-Prince.

Will returned to Port-au-Prince, Haiti in July of 2018 for a fourth consecutive summer. His 17-member mission team assisted the Missionaries of Charity at their wounds

clinic, home for the dying, and children's home. They also organized a six-day morning camp for children from the slums. Fr. Francisco Iñarritu, LC, served as the mission chaplain.

Will credits his participation in Conquest (a catholic youth ministry program) as a youth and the longtime mentorship and friendship of Fr. Kermit Syren, LC, as essential parts of his faith formation. Fr. Kermit founded Camp Eagle's Cliff, a 10-day overnight Conquest camp in New Hampshire, in 1997. The camp emphasizes virtue formation and leadership development. Will began attending Camp Eagle's Cliff at the age of 9, eventually becoming a counselor, and then head counselor. He continues to take two weeks each summer to volunteer at the camp, and is now in the midst of his fifth year as camp director.

In September 2018, Will Jude became the Executive Director of Reiser Relief, a Catholic organization founded by Fr. Bernard Reiser. Reiser Relief empowers and engages the people of Haiti in Christ's name by partnering with religious communities of nuns to provide education, employment, and elder care opportunities to the poorest of the poor. Will views his new position with Reiser Relief as an opportunity to expand the work he started with Just 4 Them. He is eager to discover what God has planned for the future.

To contact Will or to learn more about Reiser Relief, visit: www.reiserrelief.org



Will Jude



ALWAYS HIGHER!

Honoring the Graduating Class of 2018



The 2018 graduating class of Pinecrest Academy

This year, 190 students from Regnum Christi schools graduated and are now preparing to join the next generation of Christian leaders. The school's motto *Semper Altius* (Always Higher) is an appropriate cheer for these promising young men and women.

Regnum Christi schools are Christ-centered educational communities focused on the integral formation of its students. They offer students an experience of joy that comes from encountering Christ and becoming apostles eager to exercise their Christian leadership with a spirit of mission.

The schools and number of graduates are:

- Clear Water Academy (Calgary, Canada) – 13 graduates.
- Everest Collegiate HS & Academy (Clarkson, Michigan) – 34 graduates.
- Pinecrest Academy (Cumming Georgia) – 69 graduates.
- Royalmont Academy (Mason, Ohio) – 9 graduates.
- The Highlands School (Dallas, Texas) – 32 graduates.
- Everest Academy Manila (Manila, Philippines) – 33 graduates.
(Celebrating its 10th anniversary, this was the first graduating class.)

While the majority of graduates at these six schools are entering colleges and universities this fall, several have deferred college to give a year of service to Church and missionary work through RC Mission Corps.

Joanna Odom, Administrator for RC Education, congratulated the graduates with these words: "Equipped with excellent academic preparation and their faith in Jesus Christ, these graduates set out to invest their God-given talents to better this world. May the Holy Spirit guide them in the next chapter of their lives!"



Our nine graduates from Royalmont Academy

Schedule of Events

Atlanta Area

Retreats, marriage prep and enrichment.

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

www.rcatlanta.org | 770-837-2798

Bethesda, Maryland – Retreat Center

Retreats, marriage prep and enrichment.

See website for dates and information.

www.ourladyofbethesda.org
301-365-0612

Connecticut Area

Legion of Christ Novitiate & College of Humanities

See events www.LCCcheshire.org | 203-271-0805

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 (retreats or events) 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 (resources) 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

On Line Spiritual Resources/Retreat Guides

www.rcspirituality.org

Study Circle Guides, Ask a Priest- Questions
contact@rcspirituality.org

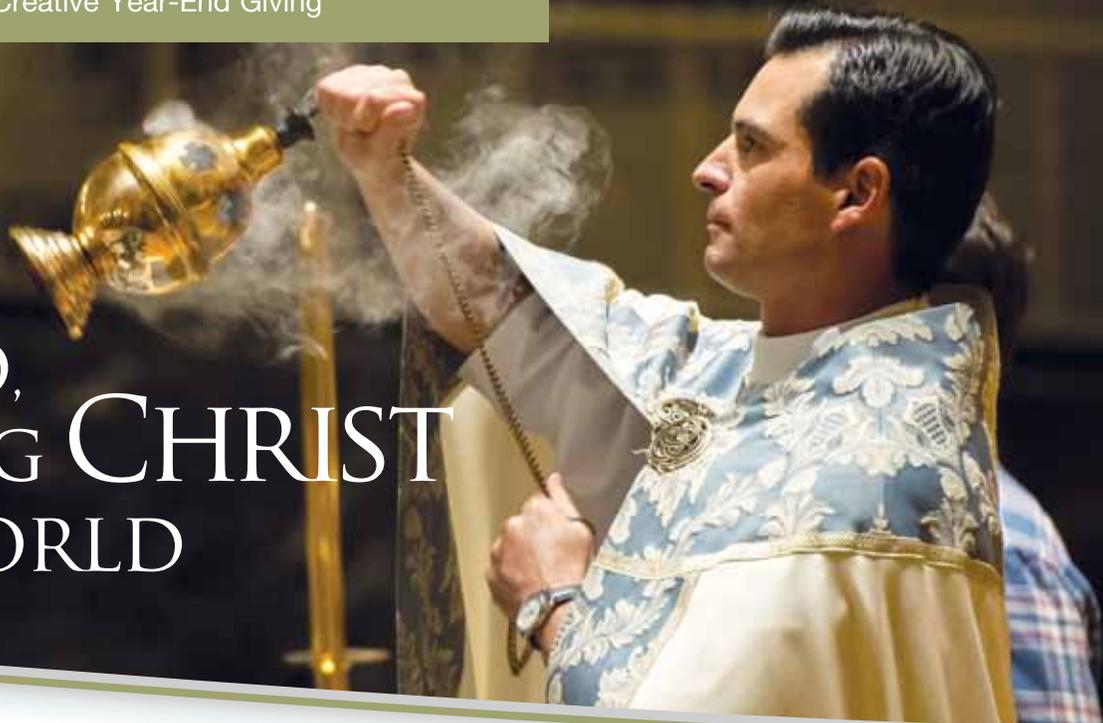
Mission Youth Missions – International Missions

See website for dates:

www.missionyouth.com | 855-556-6872
missionyouth@missionnetwork.com

Helping Hands Medical Missions

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



THIS YEAR-END, HELP BRING CHRIST TO THE WORLD

CREATIVE IDEAS FOR YEAR END PLANNING

With the end of 2018 fast approaching, now is a good time to consider some creative ideas for year-end giving.

There are a few ways, other than giving out right cash, that have some other benefits for you, while helping our mission. Other than cash, which is always welcome to fund annual scholarships for our seminarians, you might find one of these better suits your needs:

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

These special gifts also help the Legion well into the future, beyond the year they are received.

Some reasons to consider one of these special gifts:

- Gifts of appreciated securities are deductible at their full

value and are not subject to capital gains tax. Sometimes this allows for a gift greater than might be possible with cash alone. This gift still works with the new tax law changes.

- Charitable Gift Annuities offer you dependable, fixed payments for the rest of your life while providing a tax deduction now. New higher rates went into effect on 7/1/18.
- A Qualified Charitable Distribution (for those who turned age 70-1/2 in 2018 or who are older) benefits you even if you don't itemize on your tax return. If your gift is made by 12/31/2018 it will satisfy your minimum required distribution for this year.

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

Request for More Information

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, *A Brief Overview of Charitable Planning*, to assist in considering other options

NAME (please print): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE #: _____ E-MAIL: _____



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limits and regulations established by the IRS.

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www.legionvocations.org | vocation@legionaries.org

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(800) 532-7478
Andy.Bamber@legionofchrist.org

GIFTS IN KIND

Phil Liquori
(203) 530-8778
Phil.Liquori@sbcglobal.net

Our Mission

We work as Jesus did. We reveal his love, form apostles and send them out to help build the Kingdom of Christ. We help awaken the individual and the family to their mission in life and in the Church.

Who We Are

We are an apostolic movement of evangelization comprised of four vocations – Legionaries of Christ, Consecrated Women, Lay Consecrated Men and Lay Members – called to help people discover Christ's love and build His Kingdom.

What We Do

Regnum Christi has a Christ-centered spirituality that is lived together in communion with all members, in union with the whole Church, and through a mission to build the kingdom of Christ.

ON OUR MASTHEAD

Br. Andrew Mathias, LC
Br. Diego Ross, LC

Missionaries in Action | Serving Those Less Fortunate

HELPING REFUGES

Lay Consecrated Man, Kevin Ramirez

Kevin Ramirez, a Lay Consecrated Man of Regnum Christi, has always had a desire to help the needy. Before he consecrated himself to Christ, he started an apostolate for the homeless in Costa Rica. Later, at university in Mexico, he volunteered in several social action projects. In each needy person he sees “the humble, poor and merciful Christ who asks us for our service.”

Today, living in Italy, Kevin is the coordinator of EuroSol, which brings together organizations from eight countries of the European Union to propose concrete solutions to the plight of immigrants. A recent EuroSol conference brought 127 people from more than 20 countries to understand the tragic situation of refugees trying to escape conflicts, persecutions, and poverty, among other situations.

Kevin recently spent a week with refugees, mostly Africans, in a reception center in Southern Italy. More than 1,500 immigrants lived there in a ghetto without even basic services. They told him heartbreaking stories about traveling seven days crammed in boats on the Mediterranean without food. More than a quarter of the passengers died.

These immigrants have left their families and yearn to be



Kevin in Germany

able to help them. They sometimes pick crops all day for unjust wages, suffering just a few hours away from Rome. Kevin and other volunteers help by offering Italian lessons, bicycle repairs, advice on immigration – and by just showing kindness.

Their goal is to alleviate suffering and promote human rights and human dignity. Kevin's work is strengthened by his vocation as a Lay Consecrated Man – a vocation he describes as “being a professionally competitive and cheerful person, with an exclusive love for Christ.”

Please pray for Kevin and all his efforts to treat refugees with human dignity.

“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.regnumchristi.org