



A Journey of Hope

Forming Apostles at the Novitiate and College of Humanities

Have you ever wondered about the daily life of seminarians preparing for the priesthood? Every day is a challenging journey of hope, following God's calling wherever it may lead. It is also a journey of hope for those supporting them prayerfully and financially. We all know how important it is to add more faithful priests to serve the Church in the years to come.

When a Legionary novice begins formation, he enters a new home, a religious community, much different from anything he's experienced before. In doing so, he understands his task is to become a new home himself, suitable for Jesus Christ. St. Paul might tell the incoming novices, the purpose of your formation is "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith . . . rooted and grounded in love." [Eph. 3:17]

Such a large undertaking requires a time-tested and disciplined process. Religious communities rely on the wisdom of the Church, along with their particular spiritual traditions and charisms, to produce well-formed priests. A four-fold program set forth at Vatican II in the "Decree on the Training of Priests" provides a comprehensive vision of priestly formation: Human, Spiritual, Intellectual and Apostolic. Among Legionaries and Regnum Christi members, this is known as "Integral Formation."

Human formation guides and supports maturity in personal standards, psychological development and social interaction. Spiritual formation fosters a personal prayer life and spiritual growth and gives an understanding and love of the liturgical life of the Church. Intellectual formation pursues academic excellence for each level of formation – novitiate, humanities, philosophy and theology – ensuring that the seminarians will be fully educated and well-rounded. Apostolic formation helps seminarians understand their apostolic mission, seeing Christ



Br. Sebastian Jasionkowski, Br. Ricardo Gurrola and Br. John Wilson on the steps of our seminary.

in those they will minister to and seeing Christ at work in themselves.

The Legion's charism shares a special affinity with the spiritual and pastoral aspects of formation. These have sometimes been referred to as "contemplative" and "evangelizing," a two-pronged approach found to be effective in forming apostles.

Novices

Novitiate is primarily a time to build a solid foundation in the interior life; this is the contemplative side of things. It is a time to build an individual relationship with Christ through classes and the religious life, as well as mentoring and spiritual direction. Each day novices have one hour of meditation, one half-hour of adoration, spiritual reading, two examinations of conscience, plus Mass and Rosary. Even during COVID-19, novices have been able to continue some apostolic work such as helping parishes by teaching CCD class and helping to organize Test Your Call vocational retreats. When the pandemic is over, they may continue helping to conduct door-to-door parish missions.

Humanists

Humanists (third and fourth year) continue all the disciplines of building their interior life, but take the contemplative to the next stage. Through a study of the history of culture, humanists learn how to apply their spiritual formation in accord with the Legion's charism—namely, forming Catholic apostles. They learn to work with others through small group dynamics, 8 to 12 seminarians who meet regularly for prayer, Bible study and various assigned projects (such as kitchen detail). They learn to take leadership positions and also to be a team player when others are leading. Thus, they come to understand how to interact effectively with many personality types.

As part of their development, humanists are exposed to a larger view of the Church and evangelization. Their

apostolic work includes giving talks about consecrated life at parishes, coordinating retreats in Cheshire for RC members, fathers and sons, and business leaders. Due to COVID-19, these events have been temporarily suspended. For the past several years, the humanists have also attended the March for Life in Washington and participated in Archdiocesan events for consecrated persons.

Living for Others

From the time they wake up until their final night prayers, our novices and humanists are learning to live in communion with their Lord and with their Legionary brothers. The first four years form the foundation of their lives as future priests, a life centered on living for others.

You can view a beautiful video describing Legionary life in Cheshire at: www.lcheshire.org/journey-of-hope

“The formation process of each one of the brothers is a journey of hope. Each one of them comes with his own personal history, his great virtues and the things he has to work on. Seeing the Holy Spirit work in each one is very impressive. It is wonderful for me to be able to accompany each one of them on their own personal journey of hope.” – Fr. Timothy Walsh LC, Rector of Legionaries of Christ Novitiate and College of Humanities

Meet Your Seminarians

Br. Joseph Rice LC – Chantilly, Virginia



Br. Joseph Rice LC

“Before joining the seminary I was worried that there would be no joy in my life if I joined the priesthood. But in prayer I read a passage from Matthew where Christ says, ‘Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you besides.’ And for me that has been my experience living here in Cheshire. I have become more of the man I want to be and formed a love for souls, a love for Christ, a love for

his kingdom and a desire for sanctity that I wouldn't have had anywhere else. For me being here has fulfilled all my desires and I know that without people praying for me at home, my family and all our benefactors who help us, none of this would have been possible. So I'm incredibly grateful.”



Our Saturday Mass is streamed live from the main chapel at 7:30AM.

Join Us Virtually for the Mass and Rosary

The seminary has begun live-streaming the Saturday morning Mass at 7:30am Eastern Time and the Rosary on Tuesday evenings at 6pm Eastern Time at on the Legionaries of Christ Facebook page. The brothers and fathers are excited to spend this time with you!

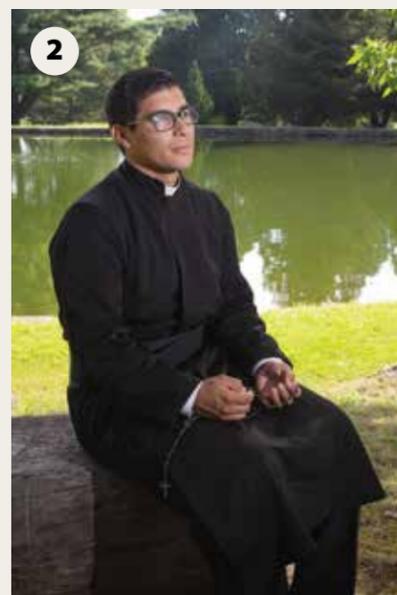


Photo Descriptions

1. After Mass, Christ in the Eucharist remains on the altar and the brothers spend time in prayer and adoration throughout the day. **2.** The grounds at our novitiate and college provide an ideal atmosphere for discerning God's call to the priesthood. **3.** Excellent indoor and outdoor facilities are available for recreation, including a gymnasium, exercise equipment, basketball and tennis courts, and soccer fields. Saturdays are usually days for a community hike. **4.** The formation of a Legionary priest takes 11 to 14 years. Each man receives extensive education in Classics, Philosophy and Theology, earning several academic degrees. **5.** Legionary seminarians spend time each week making sure that our house is neat and clean. **6.** Each morning, the seminarians gather for Mass, which is celebrated by one of the Legionary priests in the community. **7.** The seminarians are always eager to help out in their local communities and to bring the light of hope to those they meet. **8.** Part of the novices' training includes Latin Chant. Fr. Andreas teaches chant three times a week for the first two years. **9.** Devotion to Mary is an important aspect of Legionary spirituality. There are indoor statues of Mary, as well as in the courtyard and on the Blessed Virgin Mary Memorial Walkway.

True or False Holiness

Am I Genuinely Pursuing Holiness?

“I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven. You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, ‘You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, ‘Raqa,’ will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ will be liable to fiery Gehenna.” Matthew 5:20-23

1. Subjective Impressions: How much righteousness would it take to surpass that of the scribes and Pharisees? Not much, we suspect. Theirs was holiness in appearance only, which is to say no holiness. And what would one discover on the “inside” of such a soul? Plenty of self-deception; plenty of self-indulgent complacency in a subjective impression of holiness; a repugnant holier-than-thou demeanor. To avoid being like the Pharisees we must always be ready to examine ourselves, before Christ and with an acute awareness of our limitations. Do I live my life engaged in a genuine pursuit of holiness or in a genuine pursuit of my own vanity and self-glorification?

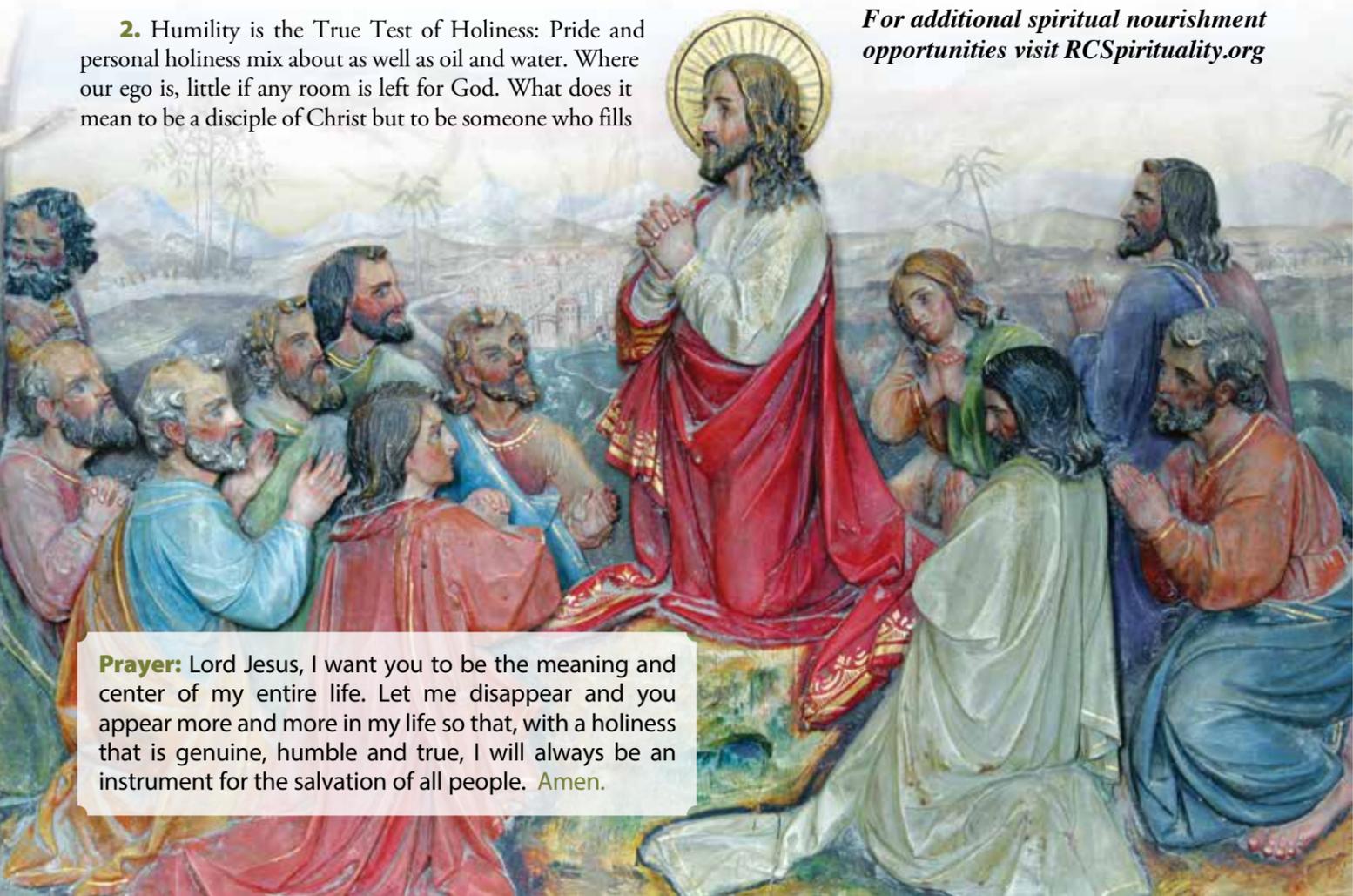
2. Humility is the True Test of Holiness: Pride and personal holiness mix about as well as oil and water. Where our ego is, little if any room is left for God. What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ but to be someone who fills

himself totally with God in order to bring him within the reach of everyone. But what union, grace or friendship with God can there be in a proud soul? What fervor, what degree of holiness? There is no possible compromise between God and a proud soul – either the soul would have to let go of itself, or God would have to stop being God.

3. Integrity is the Heart of the Matter: At the heart of genuine holiness is the virtue of integrity, a virtue rich in nuances and meaning. Integrity means being a person with only one face, a person who is the same on the inside and on the outside: “what you see is what you get.” Indeed, integrity is foundational for holiness, because it constitutes the very essence of personal honesty and sincerity, which are fundamental for the moral life and the seedbeds for a host of other virtues. In our pursuit of holiness, we should never tolerate the least hint of ambivalence in our motivations, or incongruity between our thoughts, judgments, choices and actions. There can be no holiness without integrity. In fact, there can be no genuine human happiness unless it lies on the bedrock virtue of integrity.

For additional spiritual nourishment opportunities visit [RCSpirituality.org](https://rcspirituality.org)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I want you to be the meaning and center of my entire life. Let me disappear and you appear more and more in my life so that, with a holiness that is genuine, humble and true, I will always be an instrument for the salvation of all people. Amen.



The Ministry of Mentoring Young Adults

Walking with Women on Secular College Campuses



Siobhan O'Connor

Back in 2017, Siobhan O'Connor, a Consecrated Woman of Regnum Christi, was finishing her assignment as the high school campus minister at Pincrest Academy, a preK-12 Regnum Christi school in Cumming, Georgia. Throughout those years, one thing was becoming increasingly apparent: Catholic high school graduates were having a hard time transitioning to secular college life. With many of her former students sharing their difficulties, Siobhan felt a clear call from the Holy Spirit to reach out to those struggling graduates.

What started out as casually visiting with students on college campuses, offering spiritual direction or meeting for long chats over coffee quickly turned into an outreach that spanned eight colleges across four states. By the fall of 2020, Siobhan had met with about 200 Catholic college students seeking guidance on how to live a life of faith on a secular college campus. “While giving children a firm foundation is extremely important, it is critical to not leave them hanging when they enter college or the workforce, because everything is changing for them,” says Siobhan.

Partnering with campus leaders was also very important. “A huge part of this ministry is all the networking with those who already serve Catholic students on each campus,” she observes. Over the past three years, Siobhan has met with the campus ministers, chaplains and FOCUS missionaries at colleges across Georgia, and in Alabama, Florida and North Carolina, coordinating with them to help provide retreats, spiritual guidance and activities for Catholic students seeking formation and fellowship with like-minded young adults. “It ended up being great teamwork and a beautiful experience of the Church.”

One example of teamwork was the weekend retreats and spiritual exercises that Siobhan would host with Legionary priests, RC members and other consecrated women. She has also preached spiritual exercises with a diocesan priest from the University of Georgia. “Those weekends, hosting between 15 to 20 women or mixed audiences were powerful reminders

that young people need and appreciate a time of silence to connect with the Lord. I will never forget their comments and observations about how fruitful the silence was, their need to disconnect from social media and the way their prayer lives opened up in a short amount of time.”

Siobhan is currently finishing up a three-year certificate in Spiritual Direction with the Oblates of the Virgin Mary in Boston, a course that she feels has been incredibly fruitful and helpful, both in her ministry of mentoring young adults and in her own faith life. In fact, she believes that one of the key instruments in the apostolic mission of forming and mentoring young adults is spiritual direction.

Looking back at her past ministry with young adults and campus evangelization, Siobhan is grateful for the fruits it has borne over the years. “I learned so much from each encounter, mission, spiritual direction, vocation fair, talk or presentation I ever gave,” says Siobhan.

A great resource for those ministering to Catholic young adults can be found in the free RC Formation Pathway Toolkit, found at rcspirituality.org. Here, you’ll find valuable resources on a variety of topics, including pornography awareness, dating and marriage, vocation discernment and links to great Catholic websites, book studies, retreats, podcasts, music and much more.



Called to Create

Visual Arts at the Service of the Church

Artist and art educator Laura Kline always had a vision of combining her God-given creative talents with her Catholic faith. Whether as a school art teacher or as the activities director for a senior residential center in her home town of Louisville, Kentucky, Laura sought to explore how the visual arts can inform faith, and vice versa.

In 2000, a new way to merge art and faith began taking shape. During the inauguration ceremony to join Regnum Christi, of which Laura was a part, Fr. Matthew Von Smoorenburg LC, encouraged the new members to place their natural gifts at the service of the Church.

Later, with the encouragement and approval of Fr. Eamon Kelly LC, Laura began what would become **Called to Create**, an apostolate for Catholic visual artists who desire to live their vocation to art as a response to God's invitation to discover and share the beauty they find in creation.

"The purpose of the apostolate is to bring artists to see their role as evangelizers in society and to help the Church in any way possible, through the arts," says Laura.

Spiritual support and formation is vitally important. For this reason, Called to Create members join together in small groups for a monthly meeting that combines prayerful reflection, community and creativity.

Other activities initiated by the chapters have included hosting field trips to museums and cathedrals, workshops for adults and sponsoring student artist exhibits. The apostolate also works with youth in its "Junior League," where budding artists are paired with an adult mentor.

Fr. John Bullock LC, came on board as their spiritual director and retreat master in 2012. The apostolate now has four active chapters across Kentucky and Ohio, which gather annually for a retreat.

For info: search on Facebook or email calledtcreatelouisville@gmail.com



Laura Kline
Founder, Called to Create

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Please be sure to call ahead to make sure your event has not been postponed

Atlanta Area

Retreats, marriage prep and enrichment

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

www.rcatlanta.org | 770-837-2798

Washington, D.C. Area – OLB 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 at www.LCCheshire.org | 203-271-0805

Dallas Area

Retreats, marriage prep and enrichment

See website (events) for dates and information.

www.dfw-rc.org

North Carolina Area

Retreats, spiritual exercises and enrichment

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

www.rcnorthcarolina.org

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

Online spiritual resources/retreat guides

www.rcspirituality.org

Study Circle Guides, Ask a Priest - Q&A

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

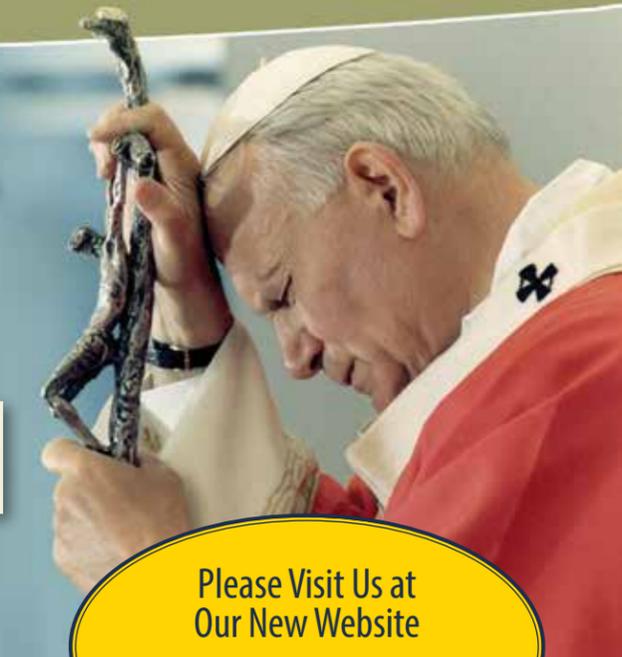
972-253-1800 | mission@hhmm.org

"The communion of persons means existing in a mutual 'for,' in a relationship of mutual gift."

– Pope Saint John Paul II

The Spirit of Mutual Giving

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The Legion uses your gift to support its mission, then returns it to your heirs.



PlannedLiving.org

Supporting the Legionaries of Christ



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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 composed 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. Héctor Baca – Fairfax, Virginia

Br. Andrés Gómez – Veracruz, Mexico

Missionaries in Action | Witnesses In a Secular World

RC Mission Corps in the Year of COVID-19

For the past twenty years, more than 900 young men and women have entered RC Mission Corps, a program for young adults to dedicate a year of service to the Church. After a month of formation and training in the summer, volunteers are assigned, in groups of three or four, to serve (alongside Regnum Christi members) local parishes, schools, youth groups and families. Their missionary year ends the following June.

Lisa Small, a Consecrated Woman of Regnum Christi, was one of the program's earliest youth missionaries. Today,

she is Formation Director for young women in Mission Corps in North America. She says, "My missionary year completely changed my life, allowed me to learn so much about myself and launched me to impact the lives of so many young people I served."

Fr. Jaime Lorenzo LC, is Formation Director for young men in the program. He estimates that each year about 18 men and 18 women enter the program in North America. The men generally live in communities with Legionary priests, while women live with Consecrated Women or Regnum Christi families.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2019–2020 program was suspended and the missionaries were sent home three months early. One such missionary, Lizzy Conklin, returned home to Atlanta and began working at a lab preparing COVID-19 test kits to send out to hospitals. As she puts it, "God never leaves us missionless."

This year, because of COVID-19, only seven men and nine women entered the program and were assigned to six communities. Hopefully, many more missionaries will be trained this summer and enter into a mission that will change their lives forever.

To find out more about RC Mission Corps, visit <https://rcmissioncorps.org>.

