



Volume 10, Issue 2
Summer 2022

The Official Newsletter of the Legionaries of Christ and Regnum Christi

Legionary Ordinations

37 New Priests for 2022

After two years in which the pandemic prevented the traditional priestly ordination Mass in Rome, 28 Legionaries were ordained in the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls on Saturday, May 7. Nine others chose to be ordained in their home countries, for a total of 37 priests! Thanks be to God for their faithfulness and the ongoing support of many friends and family through the years!

The new priests come from Argentina, Germany, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, South Korea, Italy, France, Mexico and the United States. Americans, including Fr. Dain Scherber, Fr. Eric Burkle, Fr. John VanDorpe, Fr. Robert Antonio, Fr. Adrian Lawrence, Fr. Tamson Nguyen, and Fr. Luke Rawick were ordained in Rome, while Deacon Robert Antonio will be ordained in Michigan City, Indiana, on July 30th – for a total of 8 new American priests.

Cardinal Guiseppe Bertello, who ordained the priests, has served as President of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State, President of the Governorate of Vatican City

State, and in several diplomatic posts for the Holy See spanning decades. He said in his homily that “our joy is, above all, an expression of joy and gratitude of the Church to the Lord for having called these young people to consecrate their lives to Him and that today he counts them among his ministers.”

The Cardinal also alluded to words from Pope Francis’s homily from the Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday: “that we must not allow ourselves to be bewitched by the temptation of triumphalism, of success, nor cage ourselves in the mentality of a simple official who does not maintain a gaze fixed on the Cross of Jesus.”

Among the 150 priests concelebrating the Mass was Fr. Savio Zanetta, LC, Rector of the Legion’s General Directorate theology community in Rome, who pointed out that this



Cardinal Guiseppe Bertello



celebration “is like a breath of fresh air in the midst of what we have experienced with the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the humanitarian crisis that all this has left. The ordinations are a visible way of how God wants to bring his word, consolation and mercy to many people through the new priests.”

Rector of the Legionaries of Christ International College in Rome, Fr. Christopher Brackett, LC, said: “We lack words to express what we live in each priestly ordination, the mystery, the gift, the generosity of those who are ordained, but also of their parents by placing the vocation of their children in God’s hands.”

Fr. John Connor, LC, General Director of the Legionaries of Christ said, “It fills me with hope to see our brothers reach this moment. I thank God and congratulate each of them, their relatives, their formators and I pray that the gift they receive today may become fruitful throughout their priestly ministry.”

The formative path of a Legionary covers about 12 years, in which each discerns if the priesthood is what God wants from one’s life. They are trained in Humanities, Philosophy, Theology and apostolic practices in various places to form a priest who makes Christ the center of his life to radiate him to souls.

The newly ordained priests will be sent out to exercise their “mission of forming apostles, Christian leaders at the service of the Church,” as explained in the Legion’s constitutions, which continues, “Legionaries make present the mystery of Christ gathering the Apostles around him, revealing to them the love of his heart, forming them and sending them out to collaborate with him in building up his Kingdom.”

Praise God for his bountiful goodness!





A Visit with Pope Francis

On Wednesday, May 11, just four days after their ordination, Pope Francis welcomed the newly ordained Legionary priests at a private audience.

Please keep our new priests, and all Legionary priests and seminarians in your prayers.

Have a Mass said for the newly ordained priests, or for someone you love. Visit www.LegionMasses.org today!



“ My vocation isn’t something that happened in my life, or something external added on to who I am. As I look back now, I see that everything that happened to me was leading up to me joining the Legionaries of Christ and following my call to the priesthood. ”

– Fr. John Van Dorpe



“ Following Christ is not easy, but one piece of advice I’ve tried to follow is this: don’t get lost in the day-to-day. Heaven is our goal, so always remember that and keep your ideals high. Christ asks us for everything, but he always gives us far more in return. ”

– Fr. Eric Burkle



“ I was attracted to the Legionaries by the way they related to Christ. I felt called to that same warm, real, palpable, personal relationship with Christ. I consider myself the happiest man alive as a beloved of the Lord and pray that I may be a holy, humble priest who listens and loves. ”

– Fr. Dain Scherber

North American Diaconate Ordinations

33 to be Ordained Transitional Deacons this Year

This year, 33 Legionaries will take another step on their journey toward the priesthood. The transitional diaconate is the final step of the formation process for a Legionary. This step typically lasts about one year. Among the 33 men who will be ordained deacons ordinations, five are from North America. Please keep them in your prayers as they take this very important step.

- Br. Luke Gill, LC July 16, 2022
- Br. Matthew Bender, LC July 23, 2022
- Br. Peter Fagan, LC July 30, 2022
- Br. Thomas White, LC July 30, 2022
- Br. Andrew Blanchette, LC Aug 20, 2022

- Richmond, Virginia
- Steubenville, Ohio
- Michigan City, Michigan
- Michigan City, Michigan
- Ontario, Canada

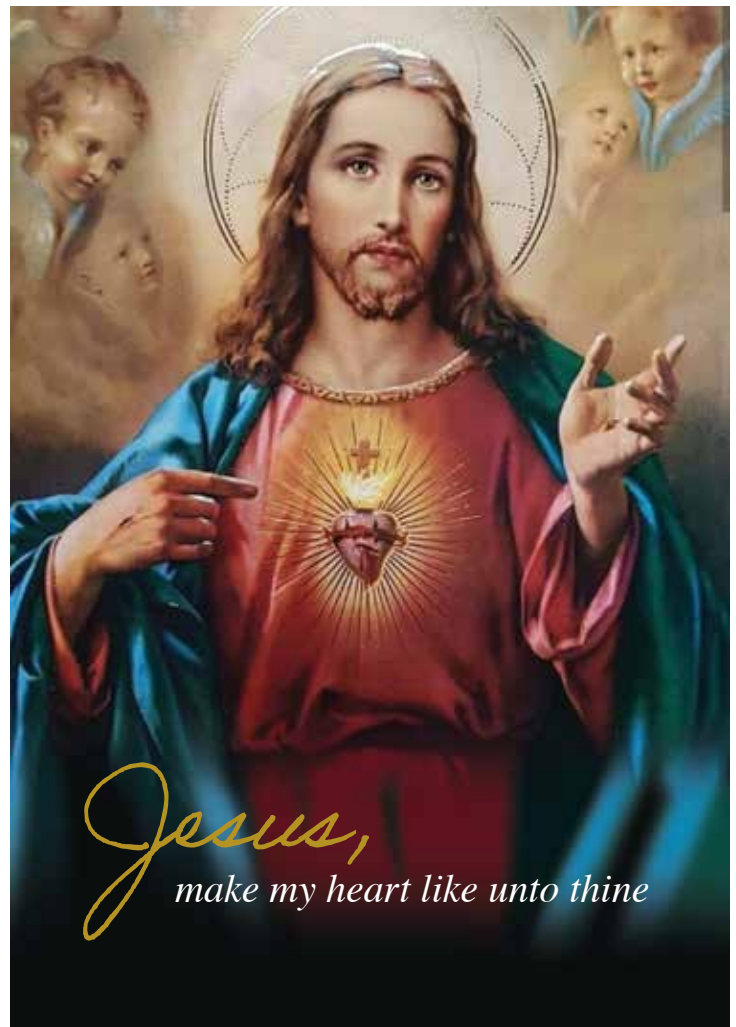
The Grumpy Catholics Guild

Becoming More Like Jesus, Little by Little

The Lord said: “Woe to you Pharisees! You pay tithes of mint and of rue and of every garden herb, but you pay no attention to judgment and to love for God. These you should have done, without overlooking the others. Woe to you Pharisees! You love the seat of honor in synagogues and greetings in marketplaces. Woe to you! You are like unseen graves over which people unknowingly walk.” Then one of the scholars of the law said to him in reply, “Teacher, by saying this you are insulting us too.” And he said, “Woe also to you scholars of the law! You impose on people burdens hard to carry, but you yourselves do not lift one finger to touch them.” *Luke 11:42-46*

1. Falling into the Same Trap: Do we ever find ourselves rooting for Jesus in this Gospel passage? “Give it to ‘em hard, Lord! They deserve it!” We imagine ourselves there in the scene—our arms sternly crossed, our heads shaking in disapproval of those oh-so hypocritical Pharisees. Soon our thoughts turn to someone we know who “should also receive a good verbal lashing!” Even a priest or a bishop might be the subject of our mental reprimand. Yet we now find ourselves right in the shoes of the very Pharisees we so deplore: Our hearts are embittered and dry. Although we are able to condemn with the Lord, we do not love with the Lord. We forget that Christ would lay down his life for these Pharisees he is calling to conversion. Pointing the finger is easy, but a call to conversion can come only from a heart that loves.

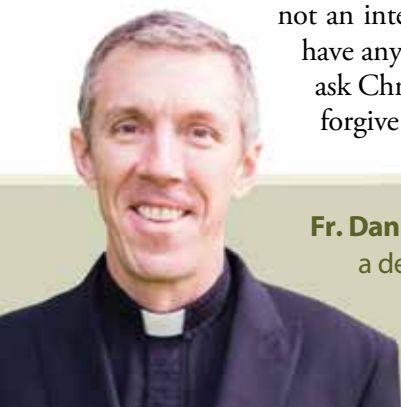
2. The Grumpy Catholics Guild: Is there anyone who can’t find at least one thing wrong in their parish or diocese? One thing is to see, pray for and help resolve these difficulties. Another matter is to dwell on them. That is what many of us find ourselves doing at times. This Gospel passage is the one exclusive lens through which they view everything. For the Rosary, we sometimes pray the “Vengeful Mysteries”: Jesus curses the fig tree, Jesus clears the temple, Jesus condemns the scribes and Pharisees. Might I be an anonymous member—or at least a supporter—of the Grumpy Catholic Guild? Christ used hard words, but they were only fruit of an intense love and longing for the scribes’ and Pharisees’ salvation, not an intense bitterness toward them. If I have any bitterness in my heart, I need to ask Christ for the grace to forgive and to forgive as Christ forgives.



3. Helping Hand: Our Lord knew how to bring souls along little by little, at their pace and to the extent they were capable. As Christians, we are called to help illuminate the consciences of those around us so that they might have a closer relationship with God. However, if illuminating their consciences is merely our euphemism for “throwing the book at them,” we need to stop and see if Christ’s words don’t apply to us as well: “You impose on people burdens hard to carry, but you yourselves do not lift one finger to touch them.”

Join Us in Prayer

Lord Jesus, at times I look at my heart and see that it is hard and bitter. Grant me a heart meek and humble like yours.



Fr. Daniel Ray grew up in a Methodist family and converted to Catholicism in college, where he earned a degree in Music. After graduation, he entered the Novitiate in Cheshire. As a priest, he served as president of The Highlands School from 2011 to 2019. His current assignment is as superior for the Legionary community in Rye, New York, and chaplain for the Lumen Institute in Manhattan.

“I Would Go Back in a Heartbeat”

RC Mission Corps

Regnum Christi (RC) Mission Corps is a program for young people called to give a year of their life to mission following high school. This year’s missionaries included 21 young men and women who spent the year (2021–2022) experiencing team life, in-depth spiritual formation and prayer life, full-time apostolic work, and the support of personal accompaniment.

One alumna, Ashley Huss, was introduced to some Mission Corps volunteers while she was in seventh grade. After meeting the missionaries, Ashley remembers telling her mom, “I want to be a missionary some day!” and it was a desire she never forgot.

Ashley joined the RC Mission Corps in Washington, DC, immediately after graduating from high school in 2014. The experience of being a missionary lived up to all her hopes and

expectations; in fact, she enjoyed her first year so much, she stayed on for a second year. “I loved and savored every moment of being a missionary,” says Ashley. “God was so good to me.”

Throughout those two years, Ashley grew in her awareness of God working in her life. She established a consistent prayer life and developed a thirst for a deeper and more integrated spiritual life. By spending time in daily prayer, adoration and spiritual reading, as well as by experiencing the accompaniment and friendship of the Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi, Ashley developed a zealous faith that she was eager to share.

Her participation as an RC Missionary led Ashley to discern a call to youth ministry. Immediately after serving as a missionary in Washington, Ashley was hired as a full-time Youth Minister in 2016 and has been working in parish life ever since. While working in the parish, Ashley earned her degree in Theology from Holy Apostles College, and recently became a full-time seventh and eighth grade teacher at a Catholic school in Napa, California, where she teaches theology, pre-algebra and science. She also continues to coordinate the weekly youth group at her parish.

“As a missionary, I loved working with the teens in the youth groups we participated in, and teaching Confirmation. My love for catechesis and leading teens to Christ continues to be molded and shaped as I find God’s will for my life. I wouldn’t trade the time I spent as a missionary for anything, and I would go back in a heartbeat!”

Lisa Small, a Consecrated Woman of Regnum Christi and one of the National Directors of RC Mission Corps (along with Fr. Jamie Lorenzo, LC) says that Ashley’s experience is what she hopes for all the RC missionaries: “to become the saints that God is calling them to be in their vocation and state of life, to get to know themselves better, to live the fullness of the Regnum Christi charism and to share that with others.”

To read more about Lisa’s experience with RC Mission Corps, or to learn more about the RC Mission Corps program, visit their website at rcmissioncorps.org.



Reclaiming Love: Connecting the Head and the Heart

By Father Martin Connor, LC

Our most important mission in life is to love well. There are a lot of different ideas in society today about what it means to love. What does real love look like? How do we live authentic love in our lives? Reclaiming Love is a book that presents a convincing pathway to educate ourselves in love as a total gift of self. Our very happiness depends on this love. This book is for everyone: single, dating, engaged, married, priest—whomever and wherever you are. Reclaiming Love offers an excellent pathway to gather friends and talk “substance” about life. Perfect for any small group or book study.

Paperback and e-book available on Amazon



Love, Form, Serve

Helping International Diocesan Priests

The Pontifical International College Maria Mater Ecclesiae, founded in 1991, is a priestly formation center that was born in Rome as a Legionary response to the directives of Pope John Paul II to help prepare future diocesan priests. Legionary priests have operated the college as rector, professors and spiritual directors for more than 30 years.

The college is open to diocesan seminarians and priests who, in the opinion of their bishop, may in the future form ministers of the Church. The seminarians from many different cultures unite around Christ and the pope with a single common faith to prepare themselves for future ministry.

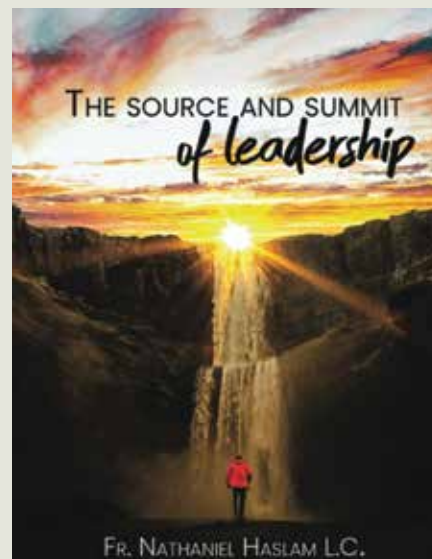
The college motto, “Love, form and serve,” reflects the attitudes every priest must have in his pastoral work, which he can learn from Mary’s example. In the same way that she loved and educated her son Jesus Christ, the college asks the intercession of Mary to instill these attitudes in the hearts of every student, so they will be good pastors in the service of the universal Catholic Church.



The Source and Summit of Leadership

By Father Nathaniel Haslam, LC

How do you become a leader? What could you expect a leader to do? Should they be held responsible when things go wrong? What is leadership? When we think of leadership, we often think of others and their responsibilities. This book is about reflecting and recognizing



that you are called to lead. If something needs to change for the better, you are part of the solution. Understanding true leadership must go beyond empirical science that deals only with material processes but cannot give us insights into our transcendent nature and purpose. This book combines the best of secular, human wisdom with insights from the Judeo-Christian tradition.

Paperback and e-book available on Amazon

“Encourage each other...while it's still today.” Hebrews 3:13

If you had time to write just one letter to family and friends, what would you say?

We've certainly seen and felt our share this past year, haven't we? As we ponder and pray on all those mysteries of life and death, we ought to also consider everything we want to say, to everyone.

Don't wait...say it now. We're told the story of a Legion friend who recently sat with a favorite uncle, talking as they usually did about anything and everything mundane. The next day, the uncle was suddenly gone, and our friend is troubled now by how he never told his uncle how much that kind man had changed his nephew's life.

Don't wait...say it now. Mitch Albom, author of the bestseller *Tuesdays with Morrie*, tells the story of his friend Morrie who, bearing a deadly disease, organized a “living funeral” months before his passing. As Albom writes: “His family and friends all attended, each one rising to speak lovingly of Morrie. He got to hear every word. At the end, Morrie got to stand up and tell them how much he loved them as well.”

Don't wait...say it now. But how? More and more people are choosing to write legacy letters to their family and friends. A legacy letter is something separate from your will, and is intended to affirm your faith, state your values, tell your stories, impart your wisdom, and to count your blessings for family, friends and future generations..

The cost of writing a legacy letter is zero... though its value is priceless. The legacy letter is a wonderful gift to leave to your family at the end of your life. It's a gift that blesses you, now, in the midst of your own life.

Getting started Here are some ideas from people like you to get you started thinking about your legacy letter...

- One thing I've learned from my faith is...
- One thing I'm most grateful for is...
- What's given me the greatest joy in life is...
- One thing I'm proud of is...
- I want a great-great grandchild I'll never meet to know this about me...
- Looking back on it all, the best advice I could give is...

As a dear friend of the Legion of Christ, we'd be happy to assist you (without cost or obligation, of course) in creating this priceless gift for your family, your friends and for future generations.

Please visit our online legacy letter resource (found below) or, if you prefer, please feel free to email or call the Director of our Office of Planned Living for a personal no-cost conversation as our gift to you.



 **PlannedLiving.org/LegacyLetters**
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. Alejandro Medina, LC – Yucatán, Mexico

Br. Gabriel da Silva, LC – Paraná, Brazil

Missionaries in Action | Witnesses In a Secular World

Holy Week Missions By Hannah Dickerson



Mission Youth is an apostolate of Regnum Christi where participants encounter Christ in a profound, real and life-changing way. Missionaries can join in local, day-long missions throughout the year as well as in longer international and domestic mission trips. But the biggest missions of the year are the Holy Week Missions.

The Holy Week Mission in Philadelphia this past April is a testament to the fact that lives can be changed, and a once lukewarm zeal can be set ablaze. I know because I was there as a teenage missionary.

We went out on the streets bringing the message of the Gospel to everyone. In every single person—rich or poor, old or young—we saw a need for the love of Christ. We saw their need because we first felt that need in our own hearts.

Some of our activities included gathering prayer intentions from people we encountered and nailing the intentions to a cross, reenacting live Stations

of the Cross on Good Friday, praying outside a local abortion mill, and ending each day with a holy hour of adoration.

During the mission, teens and young adults absorb testimonies shared by the priests, seminarians, consecrated women and other missionaries. There is an air of trust and vulnerability, all born from the small, personal decision of a missionary to be open to Christ's saving message of love.

Regnum Christi focuses on forming and sending out apostles, enabling the world to be set on fire for the Lord. There are few places that this is better seen than when that fire is enkindled in missionary hearts during Holy Week. To learn more, or to support our missionary activities, visit www.missionyouthphilly.com

