

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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DISCOVER YOUR NEXT STEP WITH US

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Ladies and Gents,

I recently watched Lobo de Dios on HBO, the docuseries about the life of Maciel, and realized that the mission of this Network is not only important, but urgent as well. Don't watch it if you might be triggered, but we need to be there for men and women who are leaving that lifestyle, and we have advocated for our members,



resulting in changes to the way both the Legion and the Vatican handle many of these cases, but we need to do more. We can also contribute to various partnerships to pool our talent and have a massive impact on the world.

See what we're doing with Erik Bello and his film project below as an example. Many donors have poured hundreds of millions of dollars into our formation, but it takes much less to give a little structure to this network and see what we can all come up with. We are very much in the start-up phase, so we rely on those who see the need and families and friends to get this going. Soon we'll start applying for grants and then begin major gift fundraising, but I would ask you to consider a small financial gift to help another man or woman receive the coaching and support they need when they realize their calling is not to religious or consecrated life. We recently implemented Zeffy ([donate link](#)) as our platform, which has zero fees so it all goes directly to the mission.

Below you can see more about what is coming up, but expect more networking, regional get-togethers and dinners, small affinity groups, and of course the now traditional summer beach and winter ski trips. All of this requires real work to organize and so we'll probably introduce paid membership down the road, giving

you access to all these events and groups. But for now, we rely on you and your donation, whatever size that might be.

Thank you and please reach out to let us how we can serve you better.

God bless you, your loved ones, and those you serve.

Sincerely,
Kristian Jaloway



IN-PERSON CONNECTIONS: VINCENT HIGGINS

When people ask Vincent Higgins how a life of prayer and background in physics, philosophy and theology lead to robotics and AI, he smiles and says it taught him to build for people first. With studies in physics in the US, religious studies in Spain, philosophy and theology in Rome, to technology and AI in Houston, his path has been a life of change and personal growth — with lots of bumps and scratches along the way.

Today Vincent serves as CEO of RuggedEdge AI, a Houston-based industrial AI company focused on connected work, edge computing, and operational safety. Before launching RuggedEdge, he led Honeywell's digital transformation efforts as a global director, experiences that sharpened his conviction that AI belongs on the front lines—reliably, safely, and close to the work.

Security and civic responsibility run alongside his focus on safety and reliability at the edge. Vincent is currently part of the FBI Citizens Academy, Class of 2025—an in-depth FBI training program that brings civic leaders behind the scenes on topics like cybercrime, critical incident response, and public-private collaboration.

Raised in a strong Catholic family—his brother is a Catholic priest pastoring in the Bronx, and his sister is raising eight children whom she homeschools—Vincent entered the Legion of Christ in 1991 and remained through 2008. His formation took him from Salamanca to Rome, with internships as a superior in Cheshire, CT; Detroit, MI; and Orange, CT. He later served six years as Territorial Secretary, was appointed superior in Dallas, and spent time working in Jerusalem, where a period of discernment matured his decision to bring his formation into the world of enterprise technology.

The transition was less a pivot than a translation. Vincent founded two startups, then joined Honeywell, taking the discipline, leadership, and pastoral instincts of community life and applying them to digital transformation at industrial scale. Those roles—and now RuggedEdge AI—regularly put him on stages around the world to speak on AI, robotics, and the connected worker. He's addressed AI conferences internationally and hosts conversations on safety and operations; this year, he is slated to speak in Rome at the Vatican on robotics and embodied AI.

Grounded in faith and family, Vincent is married, with four children and two grandchildren. He credits his years in formation and ministry with shaping a leadership style that blends intellectual rigor with a practical love for people.

[LinkedIn profile](#)

BAND OF BROTHERS EVENTS

Summer Gathering in Acapulco, Mexico (August 2025)

Continuing our growing tradition of bonding through travel, we recently met in Acapulco, Mexico. This adventure included brotherhood and related fun 5-star home right on the beach! It took place at a 5-star home inside a golf community and had a private beach, a gym, cooks, and much more.



Here is what Kyle Dardis had to share about these trips:

"The trip was great. Hard to put it all in an email. Being with the "Brothers" brought back a ton of memories. It was cathartic for some in the group and overall, a learning experience. There should be more opportunities for events like this. It's probably akin to old war buddies getting together. The bonds and friendships are unique.

Stellar job by Kristian putting it together and at a great location. Hope to join the group in the future. The friendship and camaraderie may be the best avenue to help former LCs heal or simply remember the blessings of those formative, valuable years (and perhaps unify the past with the present)."



WHAT'S COMING NEXT

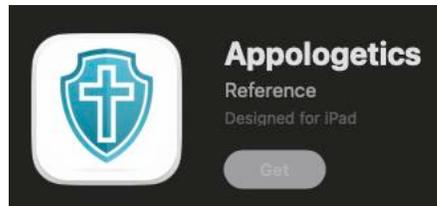


Pagosa Springs, Colorado, January 17-20, 2026 (MLK weekend). Come ski with us at Wolf Creek, which has the most snow in Colorado! RSVP [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS & TO DO'S FROM OUR ALUMNI

[APOLOGETICS \(IPHONE APP\)](#) [APOLOGETICS \(ANDROID APP\)](#)

BY JOSEPH FREYMAN



This is a great tool for quick reference or in-depth study. The app contains a list of questions and answers sorted into the following categories: Natural Apologetics, Christian Apologetics, Catholic Apologetics, Historical Apologetics, Moral Apologetics, and General Questions. At the top is a search bar for entering keywords, allowing easy access to questions and answers. At the bottom is a language tab, since the app will start as bilingual (English and Spanish). More languages may be added to future versions.

DISSERTATION FROM ANTONIO LEMOS

The Theological Foundations of the Right to Stay in Catholic Social Teaching (download [here](#))

For further reading click [here](#)

JOHN YEP SHARES FINAL HEARTFELT SALUTE TO A BROTHER IN ARMS AND BELOVED FRIEND CHARLIE KIRK

John Yep, president of Catholics For Catholics shared an [emotive final salute](#) to Charlie Kirk, founder of TPUSA.



ERIK BELLO – HELVETIAN FILM

This past year, Erik had the privilege of working on two very different yet equally exciting projects that showcase the range of his craft. He appears in an upcoming comedy directed by acclaimed filmmaker Nicholas Stoller, starring alongside William Ferrel and Zac Efron. The unforgettable scene was filled with so much laughter on set it was nearly impossible to keep a straight face. The film is set to be released next year. Following that, Erik takes on a darker, more commanding role as the lead detective in a gripping new horror feature, also scheduled for release in the coming year. Together, these projects highlight his versatility and passion for storytelling across genres.

Looking ahead, Erik is proud to announce his partnership with The Next Step Network on a bold and ambitious historical action epic centered on the Swiss Guards. For more than 520 years, these men have stood as the protectors of the Church, dedicating years of their lives in service before returning home to begin again. The [Helvetian film](#) will offer a visceral, cinematic retelling of their battles and sacrifices, while also pulling back the curtain on the untold realities of their lives once the halberds are set down. In addition to honoring their legacy, the project will establish a fund—sourced directly from the film—to support former Guards as they transition back into civilian life, while also inspiring and recruiting the next generation. Erik’s vision is clear: to create for the Swiss Guards what Top Gun created for the U.S.



CONTACT INFORMATION

- Web: thenextstepnetwork.com
 - Email: info@thenextstepnetwork.com
 - Meeting with Kristian: [Sign up here](#)
 - To coordinate cohort gatherings by generation and to share more since you left the Legion visit:
[The Next Step Network Intake Form](#)
-

Navy—a cultural phenomenon that captures the imagination of the world while honoring real heroes. With The Next Step Network as a partner, this film will not only entertain but also preserve and uplift the story of the Swiss Guards for generations to come.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Patricia Donahue Dolan

Please pray for Patricia's eternal rest and entire family that lost their mother and aunt, especially Pete, who was a Legionary many years and has been a huge contributor to our network. You can offer your condolences, prayers, or a gesture [here](#).

Daniel Welter

Click [here](#) to learn more about Daniel's journey with bone cancer, and [here](#) to extend additional support as you are able.

CALL TO ACTION

- **Share the Newsletter** - Forward this to someone who could be a future member or potential donor.
- **Let's Connect** – Whichever stage you are in, we are here to assist you on the journey. Connect with us [here](#).
- **Support Our Cause** - We operate without membership dues (you've already given years of your life to the Church). However, recurring donations are vital for covering technology costs and, eventually, supporting scholarships for smaller events. Donate [here](#) or through [Zeffy](#).
- **Get Involved** - We need volunteers for mentoring in specific life or career areas, fundraising and networking, organizing international groups, planning local or regional events, and supporting RC women's groups. If you're interested, let's schedule a time to discuss your involvement. Please email us at info@thenextstepnetwork.com.