

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025 - June

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## DISCOVER YOUR NEXT STEP WITH US

### WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to the very first official newsletter of our community! Our goal, just like the network's mission, is ***to unlock the incredible potential within each of you***—the outstanding men and women who make up this family. Since I became an alumnus of the Legion, I've witnessed the remarkable impact of our shared formation, seeing it make waves in fields as diverse as business, nonprofits, the Church, politics, and the broader society.



Many have remarked that, if we can organize our efforts, the net(work) effect will yield exponential results, empowering us to make a profound contribution to the world. *What will that look like?* I can't say for sure, but I believe deeply in the potential we possess. In the few events we've held so far, I've already seen this potential unfold. ***Imagine if***

***thousands of other alumni were connected and available to support one another, both personally and professionally.***

We understand that not everyone may want to participate at this time, and if that's where you are, we respect your journey. But when you're ready, we're here, and always here for you to connect with/tap into.

In this newsletter, you'll find more on **the history** of this effort, **an update** on where things stand now, **a look ahead** at what's coming up, and **ways for you to get involved**.

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

Sincerely,  
Kristian Jalloway

## HISTORY

Since the beginning, men and women who were about to cross that bridge from consecrated life back into the big world have sought out help from others who went before them. This continues to happen, and yet many of us wish we had received more substantial help, and so we've looked for ways to *pay it forward*. We've also hoped that the religious institution would be more helpful in that process.

So, this initiative began in 2000 when Fr. Anthony Bailleres, a Legionary of Christ priest, recognized the need for support among men discerning their path out of formation. Teaming up with Thomas Cronquist, Lou Judd, and Ed Stong, they launched **Operation Splashdown** to assist with this critical transition. However, as time passed, the demands of work and life caused the effort to slow.

In 2012, inspired to create a more consistent approach, Kristian Jalloway, a Legionaries of Christ alumnus, stepped forward. With input from many former Legionaries and in collaboration with Fr. David Daly, LC, he established a mentoring program to guide men as they transitioned back to lay life.

By 2022, the idea of an alumni association reemerged, leading to the launch of **The Next Step Network**. This network was officially incorporated in Texas in 2023 and received IRS tax-exempt status in 2024 and is now poised to open the frontier of **relational networking, mutual support, and ongoing growth and collaboration** for alumni across the world.

## CURRENT STATUS

We now have a Board of Directors and an executive team actively contributing to this initiative:

- **Kristian Jalloway** – Executive Director and Board Member
- **Erik Bello** – Board Member
- **Vincent Higgins** – Board Member
- **Pete Dolan** – Board Member
- **Michael Gross** – Database and Executive Team Integrator
- **Fernando Adorno** – Treasurer
- **Michael Aoyama** – IT and Website Support
- **Christopher Scroggin and Rick Voor** – Fundraising
- **Carlos Macias** – International Networking

Our network operates through three main programs: **1:1 mentoring**, **Band of Brothers events** (such as gatherings in the Florida Keys and ski trips), and **international business networking**.

Below, you'll find highlights from some of our recent Band of Brothers events.

## **BAND OF BROTHERS EVENTS**

### **Ski Trip in Utah (2025)**

Building on a shared sense of fellowship and community, our group started participating in events intended to connect and engage us in some amazing places.

This past March, we met in Park City, UT for our second annual - and awesome - winter ski trip, with five guys from the United States and Mexico. We enjoyed the great snow, après ski, and sharing the “stories of our lives”. Here are some pictures that highlight the fun had by all, as well as the incredible natural setting:



## A Look Back at the 2024 Utah Experience



As Joe F. from Los Angeles, CA, shared:

*"The Next Step Network is a great initiative. I attended the March 2024 event in Park City, UT. I enjoyed connecting with old friends and making new ones. The schedule is fun and relaxing, and I found it really helpful to reflect on my years in the Legion. I would recommend it to any ex-LC who is seeking guidance for the next step, or who simply wants to enjoy some good times with people who've had similar experiences."*



## Dinner Get-Together in Virginia (2025)

We also celebrated with our inaugural LC community networking dinner, which took place on March 22, in Northern Virginia. It's worth mentioning the following participants who contributed to that evening's success:

- Vincent Mata
  - Sebastian Von Stauffenberg
  - Thomas Daly
  - Christopher Blackwell
- Ryan Carlin
  - Jonathan Brett
  - Sean Blanchette

In the words of Fr. John Pietropaoli, "There's a camaraderie that only those who have "served" together can share. These events offer an opportunity to remember that and be grateful for it; it seems to inspire everyone."

### Florida Keys Gathering (2023)

Not to be outdone by those who prefer a slightly warmer experience, we also hosted an Alumni Reunion in the Florida Keys in August 2023:



And in 2022, it was hosted a **Get Together in Austin, TX:**



## WHAT'S COMING NEXT

Summer Gathering in Acapulco, Mexico - Wed – Sun, Aug. 20-24



Use this code or follow this [link](#) for further details, including items like cost, room & board, and how to reserve your spot:



We are currently working with the women's groups to help them launch similar small group experiences.



**Diana Hardy**  
Women's Groups

Diana is a therapist, wife, and mother who lives in the Dallas area. She mentors women in this particular stage of transition as well as in their success in life, whatever that means for each person.

*When we bring our formation and minds together, what could we achieve? Only the Holy Spirit knows, but we recognize that many of you have powerful ideas, and we want to create a framework to help bring them to life.*

## IN PERSON: ERIK BELLO



When I left the Legion in 2000 I was laser focused on becoming an actor. I had never been one, never done it but I knew I wanted to tell stories with my life. I truly believe that thru art and telling stories we can help the world and society. Over the past 25 years i have learned a lot, made a million mistakes and love this career more than ever. I have been lucky enough to be in some great films and shows. Now I am also adding my own stories. The first one is truly a core part of me, the Origin Story of the Papal Swiss Guards. I have loved this story ever since I was a little boy and read about it in history class. Their story as a unique defensive force fascinates me and strikes the deepest chords of my soul. We just got back from Rome where we had some great meetings and set up the initial contracts. Here is a little bit about it and where I will be posting our progress, I greatly appreciate anyone who wants to help out, this is a massive project! [www.HelvetianTheLastStand.com](http://www.HelvetianTheLastStand.com)



I met my wife 14 years ago and it was honestly one of those days that is just frozen in time. I remember everything about it. She made me chase her for 3 years and this year we celebrate 11 years married and 4 kids. Honestly being a husband and father has been the most amazing adventure I have ever been on.. adventure in every sense of the word! We have been lucky enough to shoot several family commercials. Our daily routine is always very real controlled chaos, we have several businesses, auditions as they come in, school, sports and family life. We have learned to adapt and pivot with whatever life throws at us, and honestly that has been one of the best lessons I have learned, stay light on your feet, trust your instincts, listen and pivot with whatever is in front of you to achieve your goals, AND listen to your wife....



If I were to give any advice on how to move forward and keep moving forward.. find your purpose, find your passion, find what makes you come alive. We all need purpose. And there is the phrase stay humble and stay hungry. Such an important mindset. We can always learn from others or situations. And stay hungry, always push forward, always try to be better and go deeper. It is tough but again all great things in life are worth the effort. They are earned, not given.



Most days know I am working on my Swiss Guards film and auditioning, then it is playing baseball and soccer with the kids in the backyard. 3v3 or 5v1... Time is never our friend and there is never enough time in the day to do everything we want to do. But my personal favorite thing to do, when I can, is go to a long distance shooting range. Long distance accuracy is fascinating to me and I LOVE a challenge. To make the best shot I have to calm my body, calm my breathing, calm my mind and focus on the target. It is about bringing my entire being into harmony to make that shot. A good life lesson as well, we are our best when we are in harmony.

I hope that everyone finds their adventure cause life is so much more meaningful with one! I am sure I will cross paths with some of you again soon, and if I don't ... I look forward to sharing my movie about the Swiss Guards Origin story in 2027!

## CONTACT INFORMATION

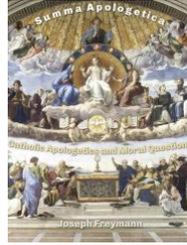
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- Web: [thenextstepnetwork.com](http://thenextstepnetwork.com)
- Email: [info@thenextstepnetwork.com](mailto:info@thenextstepnetwork.com)
- Meeting with Kristian: [Sign up here](#)
- To coordinate cohort gatherings by generation and to share more since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

[The Next Step Network Intake Form](#)

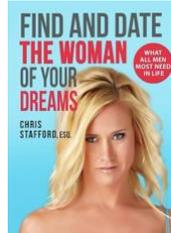
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## PUBLICATIONS FROM OUR ALUMNI



### **Summa Apologetica: Catholic Apologetics and Moral Questions by Joseph Freymann**

*Summa Apologetica* is for adults and mature teens. It is specifically designed for a year-long course in Catholic Apologetics at the late high-school or early-college level. The book contains 162 questions and answers on Catholicism, Christianity, and faith in general.



### **Find and Date the Woman of Your Dreams: What All Men Most Need in Life by Chris Stafford**

Admittedly, although this first part is somewhat superficial, it does work! Women do appreciate and reward the men who put in the effort to discover and embrace these steps. Some of it would not be so secret if men were just better at listening to women in ways most men simply do not know how to do.

## 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](#).
- **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](mailto:info@thenextstepnetwork.com).