



REGNUM CHRISTI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Thy Kingdom Come!

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Rome, December 7, 2018

To the Lay Members of Regnum Christi, Legionaries of Christ, Consecrated Women and Lay Consecrated Men of Regnum Christi

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Introduction

1. The second session of the Regnum Christi General Assembly has come to an end. We wanted to share with the lay members who elected us, as well as with the three consecrated vocations, the experiences, reflections, requests and conclusions that came up during these days. We celebrated some important milestones: the *Rule of Life* of the Lay Faithful Associated with the Regnum Christi Federation was approved; a final version of the *Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation* was agreed upon by the assembly and sent to the Holy See for approval; and—a source of special gratitude and joy—the Consecrated Women and the Lay Consecrated Men of Regnum Christi were canonically established as societies of apostolic life.

The History of the Process

Aware that this is a historical moment that can shed light upon and promote the life and mission of Regnum Christi, we want to set in writing a “memoir of the heart.”

2. We have always understood Regnum Christi as a gift from God that helps us to grow in intimacy with Christ in his Church. Living out this particular charism, protecting it, and engaging in its apostolic mission have given our vocation as baptized Christians full meaning. We have been wounded by our history and we have often experienced our own limitations and weakness. However, we feel the words our Lord spoke to Saint Paul also speak to us: “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor 12:7); we have experienced that when we are weak, God is strong in us (see 2 Cor 12:10). God, his love and his mercy have entered into our very weakness, healing us and reviving our apostolic zeal.
3. In June 2013, at the request of the Church, we began the process of renewal of the Lay Members of Regnum Christi. Cardinal Velasio de Paolis, CS, the pontifical delegate at the time, who has since passed away, gathered together 38 lay members in Rome to begin a journey of understanding their own identity



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with greater depth. After these meetings came a process of formation and discernment lasting two years that involved 10,882 lay people connected to the localities, sections, and works of apostolate. The three consecrated vocations accompanied us in this process. Territorial conventions in 2015 and 2016 led up to the May 2016 International Convention, where the lay members made two particularly important decisions: First, we decided not to form an association of our own but rather associate individually with Regnum Christi as a whole. Secondly, we expressed our desire to be involved in the planning and decision-making processes at all levels of the Regnum Christi government. Both decisions reflect a deeper understanding of our responsibility as lay people and a clear awareness of the unity and communion that exists between the lay members and the consecrated vocations. In this way we confirmed that we are full members of Regnum Christi and co-responsible for its life and mission. In 2017 we participated in the joint territorial assemblies to prepare for the Joint General Assembly. That assembly was held in two sessions, in April and November 2018, and we took part in them both.

Aspects of the General Assembly of special relevance to the lay members

4. The *Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation*, which will be sent for approval to the Holy See, contain two parts. The first deals with the “Identity, aims, spirit, and mission of the Regnum Christi Federation.” It contains a section on the “spiritual foundations” of the charism, where the foundational principles of the Federation shared by the lay members and the three consecrated vocations are outlined, as well as “principles of apostolic action” and “guidelines and norms for apostolic action.” These numbers reflect what unites us and shed light on our spiritual communion and our common apostolic mission. The first part of the Statutes allows us to exercise our co-responsibility in protecting, understanding more deeply, and radiating the charism. The second part of the Statutes includes the section on the “organization, authority, and administration of the Regnum Christi Federation.” It grants the lay members a consultative vote at all levels of Federation government and a deliberative vote in aspects related to our own rule and other secondary codes related to our life in Regnum Christi.
5. The *Rule of Life* of the Lay Faithful Associated with the Regnum Christi Federation, approved at the second session of the General Assembly by the deliberative vote of the lay member delegates and the delegates from the three consecrated vocations, contains the norms that define the way in which the lay members live out the charism. This rule recognizes, protects, and promotes the identity and lifestyle of the lay members of Regnum Christi in its five elements: spiritual life, formation, apostolate, personal accompaniment, and team life. It is a normative framework that allows us to present clearly and concisely the lifestyle of the lay members of Regnum Christi, “a Christian way of life that is active and enthusiastic in love, a lifestyle that helps people to live out their baptismal commitments and fulfill the mission of being Christian yeast in the world” (see no. 2).

Challenges and goals



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6. Jesuit Father Gianfranco Ghirlanda, the pontifical assistant, explained to us that Regnum Christi was historically “de facto” an entity with four distinct vocations, each of which, in its own way, received and participated in a common charism. However, there is currently no canonical configuration in the Church capable of expressing and recognizing this type of entity. Because of the good it represents for our spiritual family, we accept the form of a federation with enthusiasm and hope. At the same time, we know it is not capable of fully reflecting the way in which we actually form part of and participate in the common charismatic reality, as evidenced by the very path taken from 2013 until today and in the life of many of our sections and apostolates.
7. We have to continue delving deeper into the identity and mission of the lay member of Regnum Christi as yeast in the world, salt of the earth, presence of Christ in the midst of society. The approved documents give us the space to live out our vocation, the freedom to act, and a dynamism capable of proposing and creating bold apostolic initiatives. We also want to contribute to the sustainability of the apostolic works, the consecrated vocations, and the Federation as a whole. We seek to penetrate culture and society by transforming all temporal realities into Christ.

To the General Committee of Regnum Christi and to the future government of the Regnum Christi Federation

8. For their leadership during the process, we want to thank Father Eduardo Robles-Gil, LC, Gloria Rodríguez and Jorge López; the Regnum Christi General Committee; Father Sylvester Heereman, LC, and the members of the various commissions that worked on drafting the statutes and the rules. They are a prophetic sign that renewal is possible: “See how they love one another!” They have been faithful to the Holy Spirit and the guidelines set out by the Church and have listened to the needs of Regnum Christi, and in doing so have taught us by their testimony and dedication.
9. We ask the General Committee and the future General Directive College of the Regnum Christi Federation to help us, with the direct participation of the lay members through the General Plenary **Assembly**, to provide the means to more deeply understand and raise awareness of the lay vocation in Regnum Christi, of our specific identity, and of our mission to make present the Kingdom of Christ among people.
10. We also ask for concrete guidelines so work can begin on the manuals, documents related to the charism, and secondary codes that will help us understand and develop the Statutes, the *Rule of Life*, the spirituality, and the mission of Regnum Christi. The three consecrated vocations and the lay members should all be involved in this process.

To the consecrated vocations



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11. During these past years marked by suffering, purification, and renewal, we have contemplated and recognized in the consecrated vocations God's love and his plan of salvation for us. This has revived our apostolic drive.
12. We thank the Legionaries of Christ for your priestly consecration, one of the most powerful signs of the active presence of the Kingdom of Christ in the world, as well as for your selfless dedication to the integral formation of apostles, your work in the promotion of vocations to the consecrated vocations and of lay members of Regnum Christi, and for your guidance, support and accompaniment. Your direction, proposals, work, subsidiarity, and solidarity made our renewal process as lay people possible. We ask you to continue to inspire and accompany us on our journey, bearing witness to the transformative presence of Christ in your lives as men of deep prayer and action. We also ask you to continue your own process of renewal and of delving deeper into your specific responsibility in Regnum Christi, in dialogue with the lay members and the other consecrated vocations.
13. We thank the Consecrated Women for your testimony of fidelity to Regnum Christi, your demanding love, how you have gone deeper and achieved greater clarity concerning your own identity, your spiritual and apostolic renewal and the maternal support and encouragement we have received from you on our own journey. We ask that you continue to be a prophetic sign of renewal for all of Regnum Christi and that you maintain and promote your lay consecration by being present among the lay members of Regnum Christi.
14. We thank the Lay Consecrated Men for their professional and spiritual contribution to the strengthening of Regnum Christi all these years. We thank them for their formation and preparation which made it possible to accompany the other consecrated vocations and the lay members in the process of renewal, and for being close to us, as brothers. We ask you to protect and promote your vocation with joy and confidence by being present among the lay members of Regnum Christi, being a sign of consecration in the midst of the world without being of the world.

Conclusion

15. The path of these last years has been one of renewal. We realized it was vitally necessary to delve deeper into our identity as Regnum Christi lay members, to better understand what the Church and the consecrated vocations expect of us at this time, and to grow in our commitment to Christ and his Church, so that he might reign in our hearts and inspire us to transform the world.
16. Over the past years we have spent time together and met often, and were surprised to discover the diversity and richness of the "lay" expression of our charism. We have learned to grow in trust, openness, acceptance, and a recognition of the value of our diverse approaches, inspired by the same spirit.
17. We thank God for the love and mercy we have experienced in the guidance the Church has given us through Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Pope Francis,



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Cardinal Velasio de Paolis, C.S., and Father Gianfranco Ghirlanda, S.I.; for the accompaniment and guidance we received from the three consecrated vocations; for the encouragement, work, and prayer of our fellow lay members of Regnum Christi.

18. We express our personal commitment to:

- a) assist the consecrated vocations in the development of their vocation and mission from our particular vocation as lay people;
- b) maintain contact among the delegates of the lay members of Regnum Christi to share goals and apostolic initiatives among the territories;
- c) share with our brothers and sisters the joy of our renewal and accompany them in the study and assimilation of the *Statutes* and the *Rule of Life*;
- d) form ourselves in the areas of our specific vocation and in the spirituality of the Kingdom, and promote this type of formation among all the lay members;
- e) contribute to the renewal of the spiritual life and apostolic activity in the sections, teams, and works of apostolate of Regnum Christi;
- f) and participate with renewed love in the common apostolic mission of Regnum Christi.

19. We are aware that the fruits of the General Assembly are just one step on our journey of renewal and sanctification. It is a time for celebration, but also for working toward the future. We contemplate the Kingdom and thirst for it to become even more present. Advent teaches us about the spiritual tension between “already here” and “not yet,” and in this time we pray with renewed enthusiasm: “Christ our King, Thy Kingdom Come!”