

Introduction

1. The second part of the Extraordinary General Assembly of Regnum Christi was held from November 27 to December 5, 2018, in the city of Rome, continuing the work that was begun last April (2018). Its aims were the following:
 - Approve the text of the *Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation* that will be presented to the supreme governing bodies of each branch of Regnum Christi for ratification and subsequently be presented to the Holy See for approval.
 - Approve the *Rule of Life* of the lay faithful associated with the Regnum Christi Federation.
 - Offer guidelines for implementing the Federation and for assigning apostolic activity.
2. We lived these days in a deep atmosphere of prayer and with great confidence in God's action. We started out by looking for what would most help us implement the common mission, beginning from the identity of each vocation. There was a fair share of uncertainty and divergence of opinion but also "courage in speaking," "humility in listening;" it was an "ecclesial exercise in discernment."¹ Today we thank God that we were able to accomplish the goals we set out to achieve.

Development of the Assembly

3. On the first day of the Assembly, His Excellence Archbishop José Rodríguez Carballo O.F.M, secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, informed us that the Consecrated Women and the Lay Consecrated Men of Regnum Christi had been canonically established as Societies of Apostolic Life of Pontifical Right. It was significant that the decrees of approval were signed on November 25, the Solemnity of Christ the King.
4. The words with which Archbishop Rodríguez Carballo addressed the Assembly at the end of the Mass on that day resonated profoundly in all of us and summarized the spirit that guided the work of these weeks:

"Congratulations! May Regnum Christi continue working, if possible, even more strongly as a family united in Christ and in the same charism. Always count on each other and on the help of Mother Church who will certainly support you, as she has up until the present moment, in all times and circumstances ... None of you will be able to carry out the mission on your own; none of you ... This establishment of two societies of apostolic life will reach its fulfillment on the day you associate canonically as a federation, in other words, as a family. I will never tire of telling you 'Be united!' because the charism is one, although the ways of developing it and living it are diverse."

¹ See Pope Francis, *Address at the Opening of the Synod of Bishops on Young People*, October 3, 2018

5. On Wednesday the 28th, the delegates of the lay members joined the Assembly. With them we began the joint task of approving the first part of the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation, dealing with the identity, aims, spirit, and mission of the Regnum Christi Federation. The delegates reviewed the *Rule of Life* of the Lay Faithful Associated with the Regnum Christi Federation and the other sections of the Federation's statutes that referred to the participation of the laity in the governing bodies. In small groups and in plenary sessions, the delegates of the three consecrated vocations and the lay members shared their opinions on the governance of the Federation, the Territorial Directive College, and on how the works of apostolate and apostolic activities should be governed and run.
6. On Saturday, December 1, the General Assembly, with the deliberative vote of the lay members, approved the *Rule of Life* of the lay faithful associated with the Regnum Christi Federation. In the three following days, the consecrated branches analyzed themes related to the government and direction of the works of apostolate as well as the mechanisms needed to be able to implement the Federation in the different territories. Finally, on Wednesday the 5th, the delegates approved almost unanimously the text of the *Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation* to be submitted for ratification by each of the different vocations of the Regnum Christi Federation.

Fruits of the road traveled

7. The Statutes reflect real growth in Regnum Christi's self-understanding. As our general director, Father Eduardo Robles-Gil, told us at the beginning of the Assembly: "This is a step closer to ecclesial maturity. It is a moving forward toward greater ecclesial and charismatic fulfillment." In recent years our communion in the mission of Regnum Christi became more explicit. Some concrete signs of this that continue to unfold are the following: a renewed and shared expression of our spirituality and our principles of apostolic action, an appreciation for the various vocations, the canonical configuration of the federation, collegiality in its government, the experience of the autonomy of the consecrated branches, the greater participation of the laity in the governing bodies, and the locality as the primary place for living out the common mission.
8. The Statutes clearly outline the spiritual foundation of Regnum Christi. Its members seek to "give glory to God and make the Kingdom of God present in the hearts of men and in society" (SRCF 7) for their own sanctification and apostolic action. "Moved by the desire to make Christ's Kingdom present among us so as to renew society," (SRCF 31) we reaffirmed the great principles that guide our apostolic action (see SRCF 31-38).

9. The approval of the Regnum Christi Federation provides a more solid canonical configuration than the one contained in the Statutes of 2004. It is also more in keeping with the make-up of its charismatic reality. A collegial form of government gives expression to the spirit of communion and a complementarity that, while respecting the autonomy of the federated entities, is at the service of the common mission. To better express the importance that each of the vocations has, we decided that two lay people will attend the sessions of the directive colleges of the Regnum Christi Federation at both the general and territorial levels (see SRCF 75 and 91). We likewise affirmed that not only the principle of proportionality but also that of representativeness should be taken into account in the composition of the governing bodies of the Federation so that each of the vocations is able to contribute (see SRCF 56).

10. We appreciate in a special way how important the work at the local level is for Regnum Christi to grow and work well (see SRCF 105-111). The mystery of communion and participation in the common mission are primarily lived out at the level of the locality and the sections. It is in the teams that members help each other on their path of personal sanctification and apostolate, in the spirit of the early Christian communities. Although these teams are usually composed of people of the same sex and close to each other in age, formation and interests, the *Rule of Life* of the lay faithful associated with Regnum Christi foresees the possibility of teams made up of married couples.

Looking forward

11. The way in which the Regnum Christi Federation is constituted implies that three legal entities are federated (Legionaries of Christ, the Society of Apostolic Life of the Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi, and the Society of Apostolic Life of the Lay Consecrated Men of Regnum Christi) and the lay members are individually associated with the aforementioned federation. The current solution recognizes the fact that the lay members are co-responsible for the charism and gives them the opportunity to participate at all levels of government. At the same time we are aware there is still a way to go to allow them to be more fully embedded into the Federation. In this sense, we underline the words Jesuit Father Gianfranco Ghirlanda, the pontifical assistant, addressed to the Assembly: “The path we are taking is the path of seeking the juridical configuration that best protects both the autonomy of each branch and the unity of Regnum Christi. This has meant, and continues to mean, trusting in God, who leads us even with legal formulas, limited as they are in their ability to express spiritual realities; nevertheless ... they are necessary to keep the charism alive over time.”

12. Through dialogue and listening to each other, we have been able to reach agreements between the consecrated branches that guarantee the development and

growth of the institutions and apostolates of Regnum Christi, at the service of the Church, leaving room for the particular circumstances of each territory. All of us Regnum Christi members will continue working together in the common mission under the principles that have been defined in the Statutes, for the good of those who participate in our works and benefit from them.

Acknowledgements

13. Reaching the decision to become a federation was the result of a long process of discernment coupled with the authority of the Church. We thank Pope Francis for the accompaniment and guidance he has provided by generously giving us Father Gianfranco Ghirlanda S.I. We also thank the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Cardinal Velasio De Paolis C.S.
14. We also want to thank Father Eduardo Robles-Gil, LC, (whom we accompany in mourning the passing of his mother during the Assembly), Gloria Rodríguez and Jorge López, together with their respective councils, as well as Francisco Gámez and all Regnum Christi members, friends, and those who work with us and who have supported us with their prayers and witness throughout this process. In particular, we appreciate the message sent to us by the members of the second degree third level.
15. This Advent, accompanied by Mary, the Mother of hope, we want to be a Regnum Christi that goes out, bringing the joy of the Gospel to every corner of the earth and collaborating in the evangelizing mission of the Church.² As a Christian community blessed by the mercy of the Lord, we want to live the “*parrhesia*” of holiness that consists in “boldness, an impulse to evangelize and to leave a mark on the world.”³ We ask the Holy Spirit to help us not to be paralyzed by fear nor to get used to walking within safe limits.
16. The Lord calls us to look to the future with confidence. He asks us to “put out into the deep” so that Regnum Christi, in this new stage of its history, can “allow hope to flourish,” “draw forth prophesies ... bind up wounds [and] weave together relationships,”⁴ supported by the promise of Christ: “I am with you always, until the end of the age.”⁵

² see *Evangelii Gaudium*, 20

³ see *Gaudete et Exultate*, 129

⁴ see Pope Francis, *Address at the Opening of the Synod of Bishops on Young People*, October 3, 2018

⁵ Matthew 28:20