

Thy Kingdom Come!

**RULE OF LIFE
OF THE LAY FAITHFUL ASSOCIATED
TO THE REGNUM CHRISTI FEDERATION**

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of the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation
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PART ONE

THE LAY MEMBERS OF REGNUM CHRISTI

Chapter 1.

Identity and life of the lay members of Regnum Christi

Identity of the lay member of Regnum Christi

1. §1. The lay members of Regnum Christi are Catholics who, without assuming the evangelical counsels by a sacred bond, personally embrace a vocation from God to live their baptismal commitments in the midst of temporal realities according to the charism of Regnum Christi, the fundamental traits of which are described in numbers six to thirty of the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation and in this Rule of Life.

§2. These faithful join Regnum Christi by individual association to the Federation, and are admitted by the section directors, according to the norms of the Statutes of the Federation and this Rule of Life.

§3. They contribute their secular nature and their apostolic action, through which they extend Christ's presence in the world and transform human realities, especially in their family, professional, and social lives, in accordance with the Gospel (see Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation 5 §4).

Elements proper to the way of life of lay members of Regnum Christi

2. Regnum Christi proposes a Christianity that is active and enthusiastic in love, and a way of life that helps members live their baptismal commitments and fulfill the mission of being Christian leaven in the world. Lay members of Regnum Christi develop this way of life in their spiritual life, formation, apostolate, personal accompaniment and team life.

Article 1. Spiritual life

Approach to the spiritual life

3. Lay members of Regnum Christi understand the spiritual life as a progressive development of the Trinitarian life within them, which leads to configuration with Christ. Therefore, they live it as a dynamic relationship of love with God, nourished by the sacraments, the Word of God, the liturgy, prayer, and the exercise of the moral and theological virtues. Their spiritual life permeates and harmonizes all aspects of their life

Secular spirituality

4. Conscious of the gift of divine filiation in Christ that they received in baptism,

lay members of Regnum Christi live their condition as priest, prophet and king in the midst of temporal realities, aspiring to make the Kingdom of God present in this world so it becomes a worthy home for the children of God in which all things contribute to giving him glory.

Spiritual practices

5. The spiritual practices recommended to lay members of Regnum Christi are means to help them grow in their relationship of love with Christ. With the help of their spiritual director, they gradually learn mental prayer and how to live the other practices recommended in the Prayer Book. As a privileged means to spiritual progress, it is recommended they participate yearly in spiritual exercises or a triduum of renewal.

Article 2. Formation

Formation

6. Lay members of Regnum Christi begin a journey of formation according to number 30 of the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation. This journey helps them to grow in human and Christian maturity according to their state in life, to collaborate effectively in the apostolate, and to illuminate and transform the realities of the world in Christ.

Personal responsibility and the institutional formation plan

7. §1. Lay members of Regnum Christi assume personal responsibility for their own formation.

§2. The competent Federation authority must establish a formation plan that offers them objectives, guidelines and means.

§3. Study circles and various courses are ordinary means of providing formation.

Training

8. The lay members of Regnum Christi assigned to take on responsibilities at the service of others should receive proper training, accompaniment and feedback.

Article 3. Apostolate

Being an apostle

9. Lay members of Regnum Christi ardently seek to establish and extend the

Kingdom of Christ among all people. They let themselves be permeated by Christ's charity towards humanity and bring their apostolic zeal to life through intimate contact with him. They long for Christ to conquer their own souls and the souls of all those around them. Impelled by the Holy Spirit and in the style of St. Paul, they endeavor to be supernatural in their aspirations, magnanimous of heart, audacious in self-giving, tenacious in the face of difficulties, and practical and effective in action. They seek to transform the world in Christ. Their motto is, "Christ our King. Thy Kingdom Come!" Therefore, the lay members of Regnum Christi:

1. ° seek to encounter Christ daily in prayer, and to witness to him in the various circumstances of life;
2. ° in living their lay vocation, they make it their first priority to live their family life and the duties of their state in life, enlightened by the Word of God and Church teaching;
3. ° seek to engage others in the concrete realities of their lives to proclaim the Gospel to them and invite them to participate in Christ's mission;
4. ° take on their responsibility as lay faithful to bring the light of the Gospel into the public, cultural, economic, political, academic and social arenas of life. They also seek to awaken the apostolic commitment of different kinds of leaders in the world, so they live their ethical and religious convictions more coherently.
5. ° start and participate in apostolic initiatives and works, according to their possibilities;
6. ° seek to participate in parish and diocesan life, contributing the Regnum Christi charism to the local Church;
7. ° desire to share with others the gift of God they have discovered in Regnum Christi. So they introduce and invite others to Regnum Christi, and accompany those who show an interest in getting to know it, or in participating in its spirituality and mission.

The importance of ECYD

10. Since the youth are fundamental for the future of the Church, Regnum Christi and society, lay members of Regnum Christi share the responsibility of ensuring that the young people who constitute ECYD receive proper attention and care.

Article 4. Personal accompaniment

Accompaniment

11. Accompaniment (see Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation 35 §1) is a responsibility shared by the lay member, who should seek it, and Regnum Christi, which should offer it. This accompaniment is realized especially in personal and sacramental attention, team life, and apostolic formation and follow-up.

Spiritual direction

12. Lay members of Regnum Christi seek regular spiritual direction as a traditional means offered by the Church for spiritual growth. Through it, they learn to discern God's will and to embrace it with love.

Dialogue with the team leader

13. Lay members of Regnum Christi are accompanied by their team leader, who through frequent dialogue helps them as a friend and brother or sister on their journey of personal and apostolic growth.

Article 5. Team life

The team

14. §1. Lay members of Regnum Christi ordinarily form part of a team. The team is the natural setting where their life in Regnum Christi grows and develops.

§2. A team is a group of members united in Christian fraternity to help each other on their journey of sanctification, in their formation and in their apostolic work, following the example of the first Christian communities.

§3. Teams, as communities of apostles, can be organized in various ways according to the concrete circumstances of each locality of the Federation.

The Encounter with Christ

15. The Encounter with Christ is the center of team life. In it, the lay members, as a community of faith, by the light of God's Word, examine their Christian life, discern what the Lord expects of them in evangelizing the reality of the world they live in, encourage each other in their following of Christ, and enkindle their apostolic zeal.

Chapter 2.

Association of lay members of Regnum Christi to the Federation

Spiritual significance of the act of association

16. The lay member, by associating to the Federation, consciously accepts their baptismal vocation to holiness and apostolate, and gives themselves to Christ so that he may reign in their heart and in society. In this way, they begin a journey of assimilating and living the spirit, communion and mission of Regnum Christi as described in the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation, especially through the five elements proper to the life of the lay member of Regnum Christi (see number 2).

The commitments

17. The lay member, by associating to the Federation, commits to:
1. ° grow in friendship with Christ, developing the life of grace through prayer and the sacraments;
 2. ° live the evangelical virtues of poverty, filial obedience, and purity in thought and action;
 3. ° fulfill the duties of their state of life with love and honesty, as a service to God and to others;
 4. ° apply themselves to their integral formation, and forge their Christian leadership;
 5. ° initiate and participate in apostolic initiatives;
 6. ° profess a faithful and active love for the Holy Church, the Pope, and the other bishops;
 7. ° generously offer their prayer, talents, time, and material goods to collaborate in the mission of Regnum Christi at the service of the Church.

Requirements

18. Any Catholic who is at least sixteen years old and who desires to live the spirit of Regnum Christi, use its means of sanctification, and collaborate in its apostolic action can be admitted into Regnum Christi if they are moved by the proper intentions and can take on the related commitments.

Belonging to other ecclesial realities

19. §1. Those who belong to another ecclesial reality and wish to associate to the Federation should assess with the section director whether the commitments are

compatible with those previously acquired in the other ecclesial reality.

§2. Those who have assumed the evangelical counsels by a sacred bond in another spiritual family are not to be admitted to association to the Federation.

Process

20. §1. The decision to request association to the Federation must be the fruit of proper discernment and a free response to the call of God.

§2. Admission is the responsibility of the section director, and can be granted in response to a written request by the person interested in associating, with the recommendation of the team leader or another member, after a period of participation in the life of Regnum Christi long enough to ensure that both the person and the section director have come to know each other sufficiently.

§3. Association takes place, ordinarily after a spiritual triduum, through a formal act or ceremony as established in the Rites of Regnum Christi, which must express what is established in numbers 16 and 17 of this Rule of Life. The association is registered in an official record.

§4. Lay members make an annual devotional renewal of the commitments they acquired at their association (see number 17).

§5. Members of the federated institutions who leave that institution and wish to continue belonging to Regnum Christi must request that the section director register them among the lay members of Regnum Christi.

Departure

21. §1. After having reflected before God about their decision, any lay member is free to disassociate from the Federation by informing the section director in writing.

§2. Due to the voluntary and disinterested nature of the personal commitment, those who disassociate from the Federation in any manner have no right to demand anything for any service done in it.

Ipsa facto loss of membership

22. §1. Those who assume the evangelical counsels through a sacred bond in another spiritual family cease *ipso facto* to be associated to the Regnum Christi Federation.

§2. Those who publicly abandon the Catholic faith cease *ipso facto* to be associated to the Regnum Christi Federation.

Dismissal and the causes for it

23. §1. Section directors can dismiss a lay member from the Federation for a just

cause if it is considered necessary, having first heard the opinion of the team leader, and with the consent of their council. Before deciding on the dismissal, section directors should consult with the team or group leader, as applicable, and with the consent of their council, should admonish the member in writing, warning of the possibility of dismissal and communicating the reason. The admonition should indicate a timeframe for the eventual amendment of the member. The person concerned has the right to defend themselves before their section director. After the deadline established in the admonition and having given the member the opportunity to defend themselves, section directors, if they consider the dismissal necessary and with the consent of their council, must communicate the dismissal in writing to the person concerned, which is to be done with justice, prudence and charity.

§2. The dismissed lay member may appeal to the territorial directive college.

§3. Publicly and obstinately holding ideas or habits contrary to the faith and discipline of the Church must be considered a cause for dismissal.

Chapter 3.

Particular modes of self-giving for lay members of Regnum Christi

Article 1. The promise of self-giving

24. §1. Some lay members feel called by God to take on a special commitment of self-giving and availability to the Lord in order to promote the life and mission of Regnum Christi. In response, they undertake the journey of prayer and formation that Regnum Christi proposes to them, and they commit to active involvement in Regnum Christi with their prayers, talents, time and material goods.

§2. Those who accept this call offer valuable support to the sections and their apostolates through their prayer, self-giving and availability.

§3. The lay member of Regnum Christi and the section director agree on the concrete ways of living out this self-giving and availability according to the member's personal circumstances and Regnum Christi's needs.

§4. It is the responsibility of the lay member of Regnum Christi to harmonize this commitment with the duties proper to their state in life, aided by their spiritual director.

25. §1. This special commitment is assumed through a formal promise of self-giving made in the presence of the section director and some members, according to the Rites of Regnum Christi.

§2. An official record of the promise must be drawn up and signed.

§3. The first time the promise is made, it is for one year. It can be renewed

annually. After five renewals, if the Regnum Christi lay member so wishes and the section director deems it appropriate, the promise can be renewed for life.

§4. The section directors should ensure that members who have made the promise of self-giving are assured of the accompaniment they need to live their commitment.

§5. The competent authority of the Federation must establish a plan of formation that offers objectives, guidelines and means to the members who have made the promise.

Requirements for making the promise

26. §1. Any lay member may make the promise of self-giving if they are at least eighteen years old, moved by the proper intentions, have lived in Regnum Christi long enough to be known by the section director, and have properly discerned with the help of their spiritual director.

§2. This promise of availability should be made in a spirit of generosity and humility in the service of the Kingdom of Christ and with the desire to contribute to the progress of Regnum Christi.

Admission

27. Admission to make the promise is the competence of the section director, after hearing the opinion of their council, in response to a written request from the member.

Dispensation

28. §1. After mature discernment and with the help of their spiritual director, a lay member of Regnum Christi may ask the section director to dispense them from this promise.

§2. The section director gives the lay member this dispensation in writing and registers it in the section archive.

Temporary provision:

The lay members of Regnum Christi who are “second degree members” according to previous regulations, who have remained as such for at least five years, and who have the authorization of the section director, may make the promise of self-giving for life without having to follow the provisions of number 25 §3 of this Rule of Life.

Article 2. Regnum Christi missionaries

Regnum Christi missionaries

29. Regnum Christi missionaries are lay members of Regnum Christi who voluntarily donate one or more years of their life in full-time apostolic service to the Church in Regnum Christi, according to their proper rule of life.

Chapter 4. Structures and functions at the service of the life of lay members of Regnum Christi

Teams

30.§1. A team is ordinarily composed of members of the same sex and stage of life, bound together by friendship, like-mindedness or common interests. There can also be teams of married couples, directed by one of the couples.

§2. A team is directed by a team leader. The section director appoints the team leader for a term of one to three years with the possibility of renewal, after hearing the opinions of their council and of the team members.

§3. The team leader has the mission of directing and encouraging the life of the team and accompanying each member on their journey of sanctification, their process of formation, and their growth as an apostle.

§4. The number of members on a team should favor adequate accompaniment, friendship among the members, and the active participation of all the team members.

Groups

31. §1. The section director can organize the teams into groups when it is appropriate for reasons associated with formation or apostolate, or when the number of teams makes it necessary.

§2. Groups are led by group leaders who are appointed by the section director, taking into consideration the opinion of the team leaders. They are appointed for a term of up to three years with the possibility of renewal.

Sections

32. §1. A section is a grouping of teams and groups that fosters prayer life and integral formation, the family spirit of Regnum Christi, the invitation and welcoming of new members, accompaniment, apostolic action and a healthy economy.

§2. There are ordinarily six sections: men, women, young men, young women, ECYD boys, and ECYD girls.

§3. It is the competence of the territorial directive college of the Federation, after receiving the proposal of the local director, to create or suppress a section in a locality for the purpose of promoting the common mission, personal attention, and efficient organization.

The section director

33. §1. At the head of every section there is a section director who is appointed by the territorial directive college of the Federation after consulting the local director, as stipulated in number 52 §2 of the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation. They are appointed for a three-year term with the possibility of renewal, or exceptionally, for a one-year or two-year term.

§2. The section director must be a lay member of Regnum Christi who has been associated for at least three years, or a member of a federated institution with experience of working in sections.

§3. The section director's mission is to foster the goals mentioned in number 32 §1 of this Rule of Life.

The section director's council

34. §1. The section director has a council which is formed by at least four lay members of Regnum Christi.

§2. The section director proposes four lay members of Regnum Christi to the local director, who appoints them as members of the council for the same term as the section director. Their term can be renewed.

§3. The section director is aided by the council in making decisions, and asks for their consent or opinion as established in this Rule of Life or in secondary codes.

The section chaplain

35. §1. The section usually has a chaplain appointed by the territorial directive college of Regnum Christi.

§2. The section chaplain fosters and promotes the liturgical and sacramental life of the section and collaborates in the spiritual formation of the lay members, while respecting the section director's authority.

Formators

36. §1. “Formators” are lay members or members of the federated institutions who collaborate in the direction of the section and the formation of its members. They are principally dedicated to spiritual direction, preaching, offering formative activities, directing teams or groups, or directing apostolic activities.

§2. They are directed by the section director in their ordinary responsibilities. The section director must ensure that they receive proper training and accompaniment in carrying out their function.

Chapter 5.

Participation of the lay members of Regnum Christi in the governing bodies of the Federation

Participation and co-responsibility of the lay members of Regnum Christi

37. Given the specific vocation of the lay members to fully live the charism and participate co-responsibly in the life and mission of Regnum Christi, the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation establish that the lay members must participate in the direction of the Federation and in defining their own way of living the charism. This Rule of Life establishes the concrete way of exercising this participation.

Article 1. Elections and participation in the general and territorial conventions

Complementary norm for the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation 68

38. The delegates of the lay members of Regnum Christi for the general convention are elected by and from among the delegates of the lay members for the territorial conventions. The number of seats given to the lay members in the general convention is defined by the regulations of the general convention.

Complementary norm for the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation 59

39. §1 In order to carry out the consultation presented in number 59 §2 of the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation, in the general convention the delegates of the lay members of Regnum Christi make up a college in order to express their opinion.

§2 In the approval or modification of their own Rule of Life by the general convention, the lay members, together with the members of the federated branches, participate with a deliberative vote (see Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation 59 §3). This same method is followed for the approval or modification of other normative documents that deal specifically with the life of the lay members of Regnum Christi.

Complementary norm for the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation 71

40. The delegates of the lay members of Regnum Christi for the territorial convention are elected by and from among the lay members in the territory, according to the specific regulations approved by the territorial directive college of Regnum Christi, having listened to the opinion of the territorial plenary council.

Article 2. Election and collaboration of the lay members of Regnum Christi with the general and territorial directive colleges of Regnum Christi

Complementary norm for the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation 89 §2

41 §1. The general plenary council is assisted by six lay members elected by and from among the delegates of the lay members in the general convention.

§2. If one of them later renounces this responsibility, the general directive college appoints a substitute, having listened to the other lay assistants of the general plenary council.

Temporary provision

For the time frame between the approval of the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation by the Holy See and the upcoming general convention, the general directive college will be responsible for appointing the lay members who assist the general directive college and the lay members who assist the general plenary council.

Complementary norm for the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation 76 §3

42. §1. The two lay members who assist the general directive college are appointed by the general directive college from among the six lay members who assist the general plenary council.

Complementary norm for the General Regulations of the Regnum Christi Federation XX

43. The lay members who assist the territorial directive college are appointed by the college itself, after a timely consultation with the local directors, for a three-year term, renewable once.

Complementary norm for the General Regulations of the Regnum Christi Federation XX

44. In addition to the two lay members who assist the territorial directive college, one or more other lay members are also summoned to the territorial plenary

council by the territorial directive college itself, after a timely consultation with the local directors.

Conflict of interest

45. When the lay members of Regnum Christi who assist the general or territorial directive colleges and their respective plenary councils have a conflict of interest with the matters under discussion, they should abstain; or, as needed, they may be recused by the directive college.

Expenses for those who assist the directive college

46. The Federation should cover the expenses associated with the exercise of the service of those who assist the general and territorial directive colleges.

PART TWO
DIOCESAN PRIESTS, DEACONS AND SEMINARIANS OF
REGNUM CHRISTI

Identity of the diocesan priests, deacons and seminarians of Regnum Christi

47 §1. Diocesan priests, deacons and seminarians of Regnum Christi are diocesan clergy and seminarians who personally accept the call to live their priestly vocation according to the Regnum Christi charism.

§2. Diocesan priests, deacons and seminarians of Regnum Christi associate individually to the Federation, according to this Rule of Life.

§3. They participate in the spirituality, the means of sanctification, and the spiritual and apostolic resources that Regnum Christi offers.