

# Discerning & Living the Mission Together

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**Guides for apostolic discernment**

Local phase: September 2022 - June 2023



REGNUM  
CHRISTI

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Follow the link to the guides for the eight areas of evangelization and the corresponding forms to fill out as a team. [www.rcgeneralconvention.org/local-phase-resources/](http://www.rcgeneralconvention.org/local-phase-resources/)

# Prayer in preparation for the 2024 General Convention



Jesus Christ, gathered in your name as a spiritual family and apostolic body, we place ourselves in your presence.

You have revealed to us the mystery of the love that burns in your apostolic Heart for all men and your desire to reign in our souls and in society.

We feel called to know the gift of Regnum Christi better, so that it will be fruitful in our lives and in the world.

We ask you to send out your Spirit, that he may be light to understand our charism with our minds and hearts, and that we may be always ready to respond to the needs of the Church and the world as apostles of your Kingdom.

Following Mary's example, we want to discover and welcome the action of your Spirit, accepting your plan with faith and singing your praise for the great works that you have done and continue to do.

Jesus Christ, You are the center of our lives. With renewed love, today we say to you, "Christ, our King, Thy Kingdom Come!"

# Introduction



You have in your hands a series of eight discussion guides with topics for Encounters with Christ as a team or community. These resources seek to help with apostolic discernment on concrete topics from our life and surroundings. We seek to listen, with all members of Regnum Christi, to the voice of the Lord who invites us to go out and respond to the different needs of the world and the Church from our charism.

Eight areas of the apostolic activity of Regnum Christi have been chosen, which are found in number 11 of the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation. These are:

1. The proclamation of the Faith and the New Evangelization
2. The Christian formation and education of children
3. The Christian formation and education of adolescents
4. The Christian formation and education of youth
5. The promotion of marriage and the family
6. Vocational culture and ministry
7. The evangelization of professional and cultural environments
8. Social justice and practice of the works of mercy

Each one of these discussion guides is meant to be used as an Encounter with Christ, in such a way that as a community we can go deeper into each topic and discern what the Lord is inviting us to do as a team, as a section, and as Regnum Christi. With these discussion guides, the topic that is proposed for discussion takes the place of the case study.

In addition to this material, we have the essay published on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart: The Encounter with Christ in the Life of Regnum Christi: Identity, Foundation, and Dynamic, which explains to us the deep meaning of the Encounter and each one of its parts. This activity, which occupies a central place in the life of the members of Regnum Christi, puts us in contact with the Word and orients the communal discernment of what the Lord expects of us as a team or community.

We offer you here a few practical tips on how to use these discussion guides:

## 1. With respect to the content of the discussion guides:

Choice of the topic: there are eight topics. Although the discussion guides are numbered in a specific order, not every team has to do all eight topics, nor in that order. Each team is invited to choose those topics that they feel called to contribute to, though it may not be an area that touches their reality or stage of life directly. Each topic should be done in at least one session of the Encounter with Christ, but it can also be done in two sessions if it is considered necessary. It is advisable to know the topic to be discussed beforehand, so as not to waste time choosing it during the Encounter, and in case it is possible to come prepared.

Limitation to one's own environment: discernment of the proposed topics has to be done by placing ourselves in the reality of our own concrete environment, so that we avoid generic reflections and information. Therefore, although each discussion guide includes a general introduction to the topic, the unfolding of the Encounter has to specify the real environment in which we live and move, since that is where we are called to respond. The introduction offers us a description of the topic for discussion, its scope, and what we seek in that Encounter.

Parts: the Encounter follows the ordinary outline of all Encounters with Christ. There is an opening prayer to place ourselves in the presence of God and ask the Holy Spirit for his guidance and light. Then there is the Gospel reflection, for which a passage is provided along with some alternative options. It is recommended that sufficient time be dedicated to the prayerful reading of the Gospel, since discernment is illuminated by it alone. After having encountered Christ through his Word, we turn to the communal discernment of what He expects of us. The discussion guide offers some questions that serve to orient the reflection, following the method of see, judge, and act.

Apostolic dynamism: the fruit of the Encounter with Christ takes shape in actions of conversion in our life and apostolate. In addition to the questions that the discussion guide poses, it is good to listen to see if there is any action that the Lord is inviting us to personally and as a team.

## 2. Regarding methodology:

Time: it is recommended that the team leader help the team to reach the end of the process of discernment on each topic. Therefore, aware of the time at their disposal (that which is normally set aside for Encounters), they need to calculate the duration of each part and help to carry the conversation along. It is important to ensure that they get to all the different questions. The final question of each discussion guide helps to specify the formulation of what we have perceived to be the invitation of God in that specific area. As we mentioned above, a topic can be discussed in one or two sessions/moments of Encounter with Christ.

Secretary: in addition to the team leader, one person should be assigned to act as the secretary of each Encounter, since it is

important to keep track of what each team sees and proposes in order to discern it in the next step of the process. Therefore, there is a link at the end of each discussion guide where the notes of each Encounter are collected. It is not necessary to write down everything that is said, but only those things that are most interesting and best represent the topic that is being discerned, as well as the concrete resolutions.

# Proclamation of the Faith and the New Evangelization

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Discussion Guide 1



# Proclamation of the Faith and the New Evangelization

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The Gospel is the Good News, it is the proclamation of Jesus Christ who enters the history of humanity. This Good News has in itself a special power to call and convict, because it is the bearer of what it offers and proclaims: the possibility of a totally new life that is transformed by personal adhesion to the resurrected Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior of humanity.

All Christians have been called and invited to proclaim this Good News with our lives. Jesus Christ, who comes out to meet us and reveals the love of his heart to us, sends us to our brothers and sisters. It is a matter of proposing the truth of Jesus Christ who comes to establish his Kingdom with our actions and our words, in a convincing and attractive way.

Members of Regnum Christi, impelled by the personal experience of Christ's love, feel the interior urgency of making present his Kingdom, giving witness to what we have lived and experienced, and seeking to respond to the needs of the world and the Church.

We seek to be configured to Christ the Apostle, who transforms our gaze toward the world into the place of encounter between man and God, and between people. This is the gaze, from the heart of Christ, which allows us to understand and discern reality, in order to orient our life and our apostolic activity.

In this discussion guide we seek to reflect on our call to proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ, our approach to the world, our way of apostolic discernment, and our evangelizing action.



## 1. Opening prayer

We begin this activity with a prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to enlighten our understanding, move our wills, and enkindle our hearts.

It is appropriate to add a Hail Mary or other prayer to invoke the Blessed Virgin, a Glory Be, and the invocations proper to Regnum Christi which seal our prayer by pointing to the goal of all our life and actions – the glory of God.



## 2. Prayerful reading of the Word

We seek to encounter him in the Gospel in order to place ourselves in an attitude of listening, so that faith and charity will guide our reflections, order our values, and orient our discernment.

A passage of the Gospel is chosen. It could be from the previous or next Sunday, or another passage that is appropriate to the needs of the team.

For today's encounter, please choose one of the following Gospel passages:

Mark 16:9-15: The sending of the disciples

Alternative Gospels:

Mark 1:14-15: Jesus proclaimed the good news

Mark 3:13-19: He called them to be with him and sent them out to preach



## 3. Apostolic discernment of reality

After we have encountered Christ through his Word, we undertake a communal discernment of what he expects of us as a team or community in the circumstances of life in which we find ourselves. Consequently, we will observe the reality in which we are immersed with the desire to discover the best way to carry out our mission of evangelization within it. For today's encounter with Christ, using

the questions provided in this discussion guide, please reflect on: “Proclamation of the faith and the new evangelization”.

Follow the link to find all eight discussion guides and the corresponding forms to fill out as a team. [www.rcgeneralconvention.org/local-phase-resources/](http://www.rcgeneralconvention.org/local-phase-resources/)



### To see

We want to see the case as God sees it, learning to observe life with objectivity and depth, with reason and faith, discovering how God is present in it.

- How well do we know how to approach and interpret the world around us, our concrete surroundings, and how well do we let ourselves be challenged by it?
- How well do we know our faith and how to adapt it to the context in which we live and concrete situations?
- What opportunities for evangelization do we find around us?

### To judge

After we have become more aware of the presence of the wheat and the weeds in the case we have chosen (see Matthew 13:24-30), we want to discern how Jesus judges or interprets our presence, participation, or attitudes before this case, and, consequently, understand what he hopes for from us.

- Can we say that our discernment and our apostolic action are rooted in prayer and in our personal experience of the love of Christ? As Regnum Christi, what elements should we take into account in the apostolic discernment of reality? How can

we go out to meet people in our concrete circumstances, in order to evangelize more fruitfully?

- To what degree do you think Regnum Christi in your locality is responding to the needs of people in this field of evangelization?



## To act

This is the moment to choose what actions of conversion and apostolate we are called to in light of what we have discerned that Christ is asking of us. We seek to respond to the invitation from the Lord that we received through the Gospel judgement with our own evangelizing initiative. In this way, we aspire to transform reality with the criteria of the Gospel.

The members suggest possible actions to carry out with regard to themselves, with the goal of their own conversion, and with regard to the reality affected by the case, with the goal of evangelization. In response to the call experienced in the “to judge” element:

- As a team, how can we collaborate with God in his work of making present the Kingdom in this field of evangelization?



## 4. Closing prayer

The Encounter with Christ concludes with a prayer of thanksgiving by one or several members.

The prayer closes with the two invocations to Christ the King and the Virgin Mary proper to Regnum Christi.



# Christian Formation and the Education of Children

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“The witness of Christian life given by parents in the family comes to children with tenderness and parental respect. Children thus perceive and joyously live the closeness of God and of Jesus made manifest by their parents in such a way that this first Christian experience frequently leaves decisive traces which last throughout life. This childhood religious awakening which takes place in the family is irreplaceable.” (Cfr. General Directory for Catechesis, n. 226, 2020).

The child perceives, absorbs, explores, examines, becomes self-aware through experiences. They have a great capacity for wonder, for openness to mystery, for grasping supernatural realities in their interior (the presence of their Guardian Angel, of the Blessed Virgin...). They live the joy of encountering God with simple and spontaneous acts and signs in front of beautiful images which reflect the tenderness of the Blessed Virgin, of St. Joseph, and of the Child Jesus. They gradually form an internal image of God and enjoy a personal relationship with Him and the Blessed Virgin, and they experience their protection.

As they traverse this stage they need to expand their experiences of the faith; have a close relationship with Jesus as a friend; know that they are an important and active part of the world, of history, and of a group; live rightly the awakening of their conscience; and have the opportunity to channel their sensitivity to the needs of others, especially when their concept of justice is born in this stage of life.

“The catechetical process in infancy is eminently educational. It seeks to develop those human resources which provide an anthropological basis for the life of faith, a sense of trust, of freedom, of self-giving, of invocation and of joyful participation.

Central aspects of the formation of children are training in prayer and introduction to Sacred Scripture. As a child of God, in virtue of the gift of Baptism, the child is proclaimed by Christ to be a privileged member of the Kingdom of God.” Mk 10:14. (Cfr. General Directory for Catechesis, n. 177-178, 2020)

In this topic we seek to reflect on our call as a Christian community to pay attention to the evangelization of children in the Christian education of the family, Catechesis, and religious education in schools, each one with its own character, which is especially delicate today.



## 1. Opening prayer

We begin this activity with a prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to enlighten our understanding, move our wills, and enkindle our hearts.

It is appropriate to add a Hail Mary or other prayer to invoke the Blessed Virgin, a Glory Be, and the invocations proper to Regnum Christi which seal our prayer by pointing to the goal of all our life and actions – the glory of God.



## 2. Prayerful reading of the Word

We seek to encounter him in the Gospel in order to place ourselves in an attitude of listening, so that faith and charity will guide our reflections, order our values, and orient our discernment.

A passage of the Gospel is chosen. It could be from the previous or next Sunday, or another passage that is appropriate to the needs of the team.

For today’s encounter, please choose one of the following Gospel passages:

Mark 10: 13-16: Let the little children come to me.

Alternative Gospel:

Matthew 18: 1-5: Become like children



### 3. Apostolic discernment of reality

After we have encountered Christ through his Word, we undertake a communal discernment of what he expects of us as a team or community in the circumstances of life in which we find ourselves. Consequently, we will observe the reality in which we are immersed with the desire to discover the best way to carry out our mission of evangelization within it. For today's encounter with Christ, using the questions provided in this discussion guide, please reflect on: "Christian formation and the education of children".

Follow the link to find all eight discussion guides and the corresponding forms to fill out as a team.  
[www.rcgeneralconvention.org/local-phase-resources/](http://www.rcgeneralconvention.org/local-phase-resources/)



#### To see

We want to see the case as God sees it, learning to observe life with objectivity and depth, with reason and faith, discovering how God is present in it.

- How important do you think Christian formation from childhood is?
- What are the challenges regarding the Christian education of children?



#### To judge

After we have become more aware of the presence of the wheat and the weeds in the case we have chosen (see Matthew 13:24-30), we want to discern how Jesus judges or interprets our presence, participation, or attitudes before this case, and, consequently, understand what he hopes for from us.



- What kind of formation and accompaniment do you think is necessary so that parents have the tools to transmit the faith to their children according to their age and interior world?
- How can we make the most of this stage of life to make Christ known and transmit the faith both to children and their families?
- What responses are needed to meet them?
- How can we respond, as Regnum Christi, to evangelize in this area?
- To what degree do you think that Regnum Christi in your locality is responding to the needs of people in this field of evangelization?



## To act

This is the moment to choose what actions of conversion and apostolate we are called to in light of what we have discerned that Christ is asking of us. We seek to respond to the invitation from the Lord that we received through the Gospel judgement with our own evangelizing initiative. In this way, we aspire to transform reality with the criteria of the Gospel.

The members suggest possible actions to carry out with regard to themselves, with the goal of their own conversion, and with regard to the reality affected by the case, with the goal of evangelization. In response to the call experienced in the “to judge” element:

- As a team, how can we collaborate with God in his work of making present the Kingdom in this area of evangelization?



#### 4. Closing prayer

The Encounter with Christ concludes with a prayer of thanksgiving by one or several members.

The prayer closes with the two invocations to Christ the King and the Virgin Mary proper to Regnum Christi.

# Christian Formation and Education of Adolescents

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Discussion Guide 3

# Christian Formation and Education of Adolescents

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Jesus Christ, God incarnate, passed through every stage of life that we ourselves live: infancy, adolescence, youth, and adulthood. However, we have very few passages in the Gospels about his adolescence that tell us about his life in those years. The Gospel of Luke affirms that when Jesus was twelve he lived in Nazareth, obedient to his parents, and grew in wisdom, stature, and grace before God and men (Luke 2:52). This brief description speaks to us of how he lived this time which is crucial in the life of a person.

Adolescence is the stage of life in which one begins to decide who we want to be and how we want to live, which constitutes an important moment with regards to evangelization. As an existential time that is characterized by an intensity of desires and experiences, it is necessary to teach adolescents to channel all the strength of their questions and longings. The values of their infancy are no longer sufficient, because they need greater understanding and depth in order to be able to choose them freely. In this sense, they also need a new and more personal experience of Christ and of the Church in order to persevere on this path. In general, when adolescents have had this experience, even if they fall away later in life, they cannot deny the truth of what they lived and they return more easily.

For this reason, the evangelization of people in this stage of life is key for the establishment of the Kingdom of God in society. It is necessary to accompany adolescents in order to help them know Christ the Friend who touches their real lives, and to find in him the real answers to their deepest questions.

Regnum Christi regards adolescents not only as recipients of the charism, but also as protagonists who bring their own richness and dynamism to the Church and the world.



## 1. Opening prayer

We begin this activity with a prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to enlighten our understanding, move our wills, and enkindle our hearts.

It is appropriate to add a Hail Mary or other prayer to invoke the Blessed Virgin, a Glory Be, and the invocations proper to Regnum Christi which seal our prayer by pointing to the goal of all our life and actions – the glory of God.



## 2. Prayerful reading of the Gospel

We seek to encounter him in the Gospel in order to place ourselves in an attitude of listening, so that faith and charity will guide our reflections, order our values, and orient our discernment.

A passage of the Gospel is chosen. It could be from the previous or next Sunday, or another passage that is appropriate to the needs of the team.

For today's encounter, please choose one of the following Gospel passages:

Matthew 13: 1-9: Parable of the sower

Alternative reading:

Luke 24: 13-35: The disciples of Emmaus



## 3. Apostolic discernment of reality

After we have encountered Christ through his Word, we undertake a communal discernment of what he expects of us as a team or community in the circumstances of life in which we find ourselves. Consequently, we will observe the reality in which we are immersed with the desire to discover the best way to carry out our mission of evangelization within it. For today's encounter with Christ, using

the questions provided in this discussion guide, please reflect on: “Christian formation and education of adolescents”.

Follow the link to find all eight discussion guides and the corresponding forms to fill out as a team.  
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### To see

We want to see the case as God sees it, learning to observe life with objectivity and depth, with reason and faith, discovering how God is present in it.

- How important is Christian formation during adolescence? Why?
- What are the current challenges to the Christian education of adolescents around you?

### To judge

After we have become more aware of the presence of the wheat and the weeds in the case we have chosen (see Matthew 13:24-30), we want to discern how Jesus judges or interprets our presence, participation, or attitudes before this case, and, consequently, understand what he hopes for from us.

- How can we make the most of this stage of life to make Christ known and pass on the faith to adolescents?
- What answers are needed to go out to meet them?
- As Regnum Christi, how can we respond through evangelization in this area?

- In schools?
  - In ECYD?
  - In the family?
  - In apostolates?
- To what degree do you think that Regnum Christi in your locality is responding to the needs of people in this field of evangelization?

### To act

This is the moment to choose what actions of conversion and apostolate we are called to in light of what we have discerned that Christ is asking of us. We seek to respond to the invitation from the Lord that we received through the Gospel judgement with our own evangelizing initiative. In this way, we aspire to transform reality with the criteria of the Gospel.

The members suggest possible actions to carry out with regard to themselves, with the goal of their own conversion, and with regard to the reality affected by the case, with the goal of evangelization. In response to the call experienced in the “to judge” element:

- As a team, how can we collaborate with God in his work of making present the Kingdom in this area of evangelization?

### 4. Closing prayer

The Encounter with Christ concludes with a prayer of thanksgiving by one or several members.

The prayer closes with the two invocations to Christ the King and the Virgin Mary proper to Regnum Christi.

# Christian Formation of Youth

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## Discussion Guide 4



# Christian Formation of Youth

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“Youth is an original and stimulating stage of life, which Jesus himself experienced, thereby sanctifying it”. (Christus Vivit 22)

This is the stage of discovery, of ideals, of the future which is built in the present. It is the moment to lay foundations, to have an experience of a close God who wants you to be happy and who is always with you. The stage of understanding, of comprehending a living God present in the world and in daily life.

Youth are on the path of discovering a faith that has meaning, not merely theoretical, but applicable to life. A faith that allows him or her to progress and begin a path of deep and lasting happiness. Like the Samaritan woman, they seek water that can fully satisfy them.

Allowing Jesus to accompany and know them deeply in this stage profoundly marks their hearts and lives.

Evangelization in this stage of life is essential, since young people are not only the future, but also the present of society and of the Church.

In this topic we want to reflect on the importance of the long-term evangelization of youth, and ask ourselves how Regnum Christi can respond to the needs and questions of the young people of our time. It is necessary to know and comprehend their reality, their circumstances, their challenges and questions, so that the proclamation of the faith and the person of Christ falls on good soil, bearing fruit and transforming young people into the protagonists of evangelization.



## 1. Opening prayer

We begin this activity with a prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to enlighten our understanding, move our wills, and enkindle our hearts.

It is appropriate to add a Hail Mary or other prayer to invoke the Blessed Virgin, a Glory Be, and the invocations proper to Regnum Christi which seal our prayer by pointing to the goal of all our life and actions – the glory of God.



## 2. Prayerful reading of the Word

We seek to encounter him in the Gospel in order to place ourselves in an attitude of listening, so that faith and charity will guide our reflections, order our values, and orient our discernment.

A passage of the Gospel is chosen. It could be from the previous or next Sunday, or another passage that is appropriate to the needs of the team.

For today's encounter, please choose one of the following Gospel passages:

Luke 15: 11-32 The prodigal son

Alternative Gospels:

Mark 10: 17-22 The rich young man

John 1: 35-39 The following of Christ

John 4: 5-15 The Samaritan woman



## 3. Apostolic discernment of reality

After we have encountered Christ through his Word, we undertake a communal discernment of what he expects of us as a team or community in the circumstances of life in which we find ourselves. Consequently, we will observe the reality in which we are immersed with the desire to discover the best way to carry out our mission of evangelization within it. For today's encounter with Christ, using

the questions provided in this discussion guide, please reflect on: “Christian formation of youth”.

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## To see

We want to see the case as God sees it, learning to observe life with objectivity and depth, with reason and faith, discovering how God is present in it.

- What are the main questions that the young people around us are expressing?
- How do they understand and relate to the spiritual dimension of their lives? How is this expressed concretely?
- What experiences favor a personal encounter with Christ for them, and what experiences are an obstacle?



## To judge

After we have become more aware of the presence of the wheat and the weeds in the case we have chosen (see Matthew 13:24-30), we want to discern how Jesus judges or interprets our presence, participation, or attitudes before this case, and, consequently, understand what he hopes for from us.

- What is most attractive to them in the Christian message? What is misunderstood or what has not been expressed well in today’s context?
- What action do you think we should carry out as Regnum Christi to strengthen and consolidate the faith of young Catholics, and to go out to meet those that do not know Christ or have fallen away?

- To what degree do you think that Regnum Christi in your locality is responding to the needs of people in this field of evangelization?



## To act

This is the moment to choose what actions of conversion and apostolate we are called to in light of what we have discerned that Christ is asking of us. We seek to respond to the invitation from the Lord that we received through the Gospel judgement with our own evangelizing initiative. In this way, we aspire to transform reality with the criteria of the Gospel.

The members suggest possible actions to carry out with regard to themselves, with the goal of their own conversion, and with regard to the reality affected by the case, with the goal of evangelization. In response to the call experienced in the “to judge” element:

- As a team, how can we collaborate with God in his work of making present the Kingdom in this area of evangelization?



## 4. Closing prayer

The Encounter with Christ concludes with a prayer of thanksgiving by one or several members.

The prayer closes with the two invocations to Christ the King and the Virgin Mary proper to Regnum Christi.

# Marriage and Family

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## Discussion Guide 5

# Marriage and Family

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Marriage holds a very special place in the heart of God and in society. God himself wished to be born into, and live in, a family. In it, a human person learns what unconditional love should be, communion, fruitfulness and self-giving.

However, today we find multiple challenges and even visions of marriage that do not conform to the original plan of God. In this context, Regnum Christi, as part of the Church, is called to help others live the plan of God, giving a response, at the same time, to the current popular vision of marriage, by being a light to the world of Christian marriage and family.

Pope John Paul II said in 1981 (the document *Familiaris Consortio*):

The family in the modern world, as much as and perhaps more than any other institution, has been beset by the many profound and rapid changes that have affected society and culture. Many families are living this situation in fidelity to those values that constitute the foundation of the institution of the family. Others have become uncertain and bewildered over their role or even doubtful and almost unaware of the ultimate meaning and truth of conjugal and family life. Finally, there are others who are hindered by various situations of injustice in the realization of their fundamental rights.

Knowing that marriage and the family constitute one of the most precious of human values, the Church wishes to speak and offer her help to those who are already aware of the value of marriage and the family and seek to live it faithfully, to those who are uncertain and anxious and searching for the truth, and to those who are unjustly impeded from living freely their family lives. Supporting the first, illuminating the second and assisting

the others, the Church offers her services to every person who wonders about the destiny of marriage and the family.



## 1. Opening prayer

We begin this activity with a prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to enlighten our understanding, move our wills, and enkindle our hearts.

It is appropriate to add a Hail Mary or other prayer to invoke the Blessed Virgin, a Glory Be, and the invocations proper to Regnum Christi which seal our prayer by pointing to the goal of all our life and actions – the glory of God.



## 2. Prayerful reading of the Word

We seek to encounter him in the Gospel in order to place ourselves in an attitude of listening, so that faith and charity will guide our reflections, order our values, and orient our discernment.

A passage of the Gospel is chosen. It could be from the previous or next Sunday, or another passage that is appropriate to the needs of the team.

For today's encounter, please choose one of the following Gospel passages:

John 15: 12-16 The commandment of love

Alternative Gospel:

Mark: 10: 6-9 God made them man and woman



## 3. Apostolic discernment of reality

After we have encountered Christ through his Word, we undertake a communal discernment of what he expects of us as a team or community in the circumstances of life in which we find ourselves. Consequently, we will observe the reality in which we are immersed

with the desire to discover the best way to carry out our mission of evangelization within it. For today’s encounter with Christ, using the questions provided in this discussion guide, please reflect on: “Marriage and family”.

Follow the link to find all eight discussion guides and the corresponding forms to fill out as a team. [www.rcgeneralconvention.org/local-phase-resources/](http://www.rcgeneralconvention.org/local-phase-resources/)



### To see

We want to see the case as God sees it, learning to observe life with objectivity and depth, with reason and faith, discovering how God is present in it.

- What do the people around you think about marriage (family, friends, coworkers)? What elements of our current culture have brought them to this idea?
- What do Christian marriage and family contribute to the world?
- What elements help Christian marriages and families to live their vocation and mission fully? What difficulties do they encounter?

### To judge

After we have become more aware of the presence of the wheat and the weeds in the case we have chosen (see Matthew 13:24-30), we want to discern how Jesus judges or interprets our presence, participation, or attitudes before this case, and, consequently, understand what he hopes for from us.

- As Regnum Christi, how can we concretely bring Christ into the marriages and families around us?



- To what degree do you think that Regnum Christi in your locality is responding to the needs of people in this field of evangelization?



## To act

This is the moment to choose what actions of conversion and apostolate we are called to in light of what we have discerned that Christ is asking of us. We seek to respond to the invitation from the Lord that we received through the Gospel judgement with our own evangelizing initiative. In this way, we aspire to transform reality with the criteria of the Gospel.

The members suggest possible actions to carry out with regard to themselves, with the goal of their own conversion, and with regard to the reality affected by the case, with the goal of evangelization . In response to the call experienced in the “to judge” element:

- As a team, how can we collaborate with God in his work of making present the kingdom in this area of evangelization?



## 4. Closing prayer

The Encounter with Christ concludes with a prayer of thanksgiving by one or several members.

The prayer closes with the two invocations to Christ the King and the Virgin Mary proper to Regnum Christi.

# Vocational Culture and Ministry

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Discussion Guide 6

# Vocational Culture and Ministry

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In recent decades, the Church has made important progress in understanding more fully and deeply the mystery of vocation. This has necessarily had an impact on the way in which we understand and live vocational ministry.

Two concepts are especially significant on this path and have been the point of departure for the reflection that continues today:

- The understanding of the Church as the pilgrim people of God and as the community of the baptized in which each individual has received a gratuitous call of God's love and has been sent as a response to the evangelizing needs of the world today.
- The universal call to holiness, and, consequently, the appreciation for the vocation of the laity. The Church is therefore understood as a body with different members (see 1 Cor 12:12), with different gifts which must be given a place, since everyone contributes to the holiness of the members and of the body as a whole.

These two concepts enlightened and expanded the notion that was held of the religious life as the “state of perfection” and as the path in which the Christian life was full realized. Consequently, vocational ministry, which was understood principally as the promotion of the religious or priestly life, began to be understood from a new perspective, as a service to all believers to help them discover the gift of the vocation each one had received, without considering one path better than another:

“Vocation ministry is understood as the constant and coordinated action of the ecclesial community so that each of its members may recognize the call that God makes to them

and to which they must respond generously. It seeks that each person may discover the path to the realization of a life project according to God's will and the needs of today's world. In responding, each one will recognize the service or ministry that he/she will render in the community." (cf. Final Document of the 2nd Latin-American Continental Congress on Vocations, 2011, n. 78-80)

In this discussion guide we seek to renew our understanding of vocation ministry and discern how we are called to know, value, and foster all Christian vocations.



## 1. Opening prayer

We begin this activity with a prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to enlighten our understanding, move our wills, and enkindle our hearts.

It is appropriate to add a Hail Mary or other prayer to invoke the Blessed Virgin, a Glory Be, and the invocations proper to Regnum Christi which seal our prayer by pointing to the goal of all our life and actions – the glory of God.



## 2. Prayerful reading of the Word

We seek to encounter him in the Gospel in order to place ourselves in an attitude of listening, so that faith and charity will guide our reflections, order our values, and orient our discernment.

A passage of the Gospel is chosen. It could be from the previous or next Sunday, or another passage that is appropriate to the needs of the team.

For today's encounter, please choose one of the following Gospel passages:

John 14: 1-7 I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Alternative Gospels:

John 15: 1-8 The vine and the branches

Luke 1: 26-38 The Annunciation

Mark 3: 13-19 He called those whom he wanted



### 3. Apostolic discernment of reality

After we have encountered Christ through his Word, we undertake a communal discernment of what he expects of us as a team or community in the circumstances of life in which we find ourselves. Consequently, we will observe the reality in which we are immersed with the desire to discover the best way to carry out our mission of evangelization within it. For today's encounter with Christ, using the questions provided in this discussion guide, please reflect on: "Vocational culture and ministry".

Follow the link to find all eight discussion guides and the corresponding forms to fill out as a team.  
[www.rcgeneralconvention.org/local-phase-resources/](http://www.rcgeneralconvention.org/local-phase-resources/)



### To see

We want to see the case as God sees it, learning to observe life with objectivity and depth, with reason and faith, discovering how God is present in it.

- How do we understand the Christian vocation? How do we see that the personal call of God is manifested in a concrete way according to one's own state in life?
- How does our vocation unite all the aspects of our life? What elements help us to live our vocation fully?



## To judge

After we have become more aware of the presence of the wheat and the weeds in the case we have chosen (see Matthew 13:24-30), we want to discern how Jesus judges or interprets our presence, participation, or attitudes before this case, and, consequently, understand what he hopes for from us.

- Do we know and value all of the different states of life in the Church? Do we consider that all are equally important and that they complement one another? How do we live and promote this?
- What challenges do we find in making known the vocation to the consecrated life and accompany those who feel called to it in their discernment?
- Do we believe that Regnum Christ offers an environment that helps to understand life as a vocation? What elements facilitate discovering and embracing it?
- To what degree do you think that Regnum Christi in your locality is responding to the needs of people in this field of evangelization?



## To act

This is the moment to choose what actions of conversion and apostolate we are called to in light of what we have discerned that Christ is asking of us. We seek to respond to the invitation from the Lord that we received through the Gospel judgement with our own evangelizing initiative. In this way, we aspire to transform reality with the criteria of the Gospel.

The members suggest possible actions to carry out with regard to themselves, with the goal of their own conversion, and with regard to the reality affected by the case, with the goal of evangelization. In response to the call experienced in the “to judge” element:

- As a team, how can we collaborate with God in his work of making present the kingdom in this area of evangelization?



## 4. Closing prayer

The Encounter with Christ concludes with a prayer of thanksgiving by one or several members.

The prayer closes with the two invocations to Christ the King and the Virgin Mary proper to Regnum Christi.

# The Evangelization of Professional and Cultural Environments

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Discussion Guide 7



# The Evangelization of Professional and Cultural Environments

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Man, made in the image and likeness of God, is called, through work and the development of culture, to participate in Creation. Work and culture respond to the original command of God to man (Gen. 1: 28; 2: 15) and manifest the dominion of man over Creation, so that all things give glory to God (1 Cor 10: 31).

Work should be a witness to the dignity of the person, an occasion for the development of the personality, the creation of community bonds, a relationship with nature and culture, a means to sustain the family, a contribution to the common good of society, and a source of progress for all of humanity.

Culture is the system of ideas, beliefs, traditions, habits, values, and claims that characterize a people in a given time. It exercises enormous pressure on each person and on the whole of society, facilitating – and obstructing – possibilities for the realization of a good and holy life.

Due to original sin, it happens that work and culture are not always an adequate image of the Kingdom, for which it is helpful to remember the warning of St. Paul, “let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit.” (Romans 12: 9-11)

The laity is called to transform personal and social existence by sanctifying life styles, professions, institutions, public opinion, and artistic expressions, making “the fruit of the vine and the work of human hands” into liturgical life, an image of the Kingdom that participates in the work of Redemption.

In this discussion guide we want to analyze the evangelization of professional environments, of culture, and of the means of communication

“Charity in truth places man before the astonishing experience of gift. Gratuitousness is present in our lives in many different forms, which often go unrecognized because of a purely consumerist and utilitarian view of life. The human being is made for gift, which expresses and makes present his transcendent dimension. Sometimes modern man is wrongly convinced that he is the sole author of himself, his life and society. This is a presumption that follows from being selfishly closed in upon himself, and it is a consequence — to express it in faith terms — of original sin.” (Caritas in veritate, 34)



## 1. Opening prayer

We begin this activity with a prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to enlighten our understanding, move our wills, and enkindle our hearts.

It is appropriate to add a Hail Mary or other prayer to invoke the Blessed Virgin, a Glory Be, and the invocations proper to Regnum Christi which seal our prayer by pointing to the goal of all our life and actions – the glory of God.



## 2. Prayerful reading of the Word

We seek to encounter him in the Gospel in order to place ourselves in an attitude of listening, so that faith and charity will guide our reflections, order our values, and orient our discernment.

A passage of the Gospel is chosen. It could be from the previous or next Sunday, or another passage that is appropriate to the needs of the team.

For today's encounter, please choose one of the following Gospel passages:

Matthew 25: 14-30 Parable of the talents

Alternative Gospels:

Matthew 5: 13-16 The lamp and the bushel basket

Matthew 20: 1-16 Parable of the workers in the vineyard

Mark 16: 9-20 The missionary mandate



### 3. Apostolic discernment of reality

After we have encountered Christ through his Word, we undertake a communal discernment of what he expects of us as a team or community in the circumstances of life in which we find ourselves. Consequently, we will observe the reality in which we are immersed with the desire to discover the best way to carry out our mission of evangelization within it. For today's encounter with Christ, using the questions provided in this discussion guide, please reflect on: "The evangelization of professional and cultural environments".

Follow the link to find all eight discussion guides and the corresponding forms to fill out as a team.  
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### To see

We want to see the case as God sees it, learning to observe life with objectivity and depth, with reason and faith, discovering how God is present in it.

- Describe the characteristics of the current culture that affect you most on a personal level.
- In what areas is the Church a cultural reference point? Where is it not?

## To judge

After we have become more aware of the presence of the wheat and the weeds in the case we have chosen (see Matthew 13:24-30), we want to discern how Jesus judges or interprets our presence, participation, or attitudes before this case, and, consequently, understand what he hopes for from us.

- What Christian values should we foster in order to sanctify the current culture?
- What elements of the current culture present an obstacle to Christian life (norms, language, symbols, values...)?
- How can we respond, as Regnum Christi, in order to bring the light of the Gospel to public, cultural, economic, political, academic, and social life?
- To what degree do you think that Regnum Christi in your locality is responding to the needs of people in this field of evangelization?

## To act

This is the moment to choose what actions of conversion and apostolate we are called to in light of what we have discerned that Christ is asking of us. We seek to respond to the invitation from the Lord that we received through the Gospel judgement with our own evangelizing initiative. In this way, we aspire to transform reality with the criteria of the Gospel.

The members suggest possible actions to carry out with regard to themselves, with the goal of their own conversion, and with regard to the reality affected by the case, with the goal of evangelization . In response to the call experienced in the “to judge” element:

- As a team, how can we collaborate with God in his work of making present the kingdom in this area of evangelization?



## 4. Closing prayer

The Encounter with Christ concludes with a prayer of thanksgiving by one or several members.

The prayer closes with the two invocations to Christ the King and the Virgin Mary proper to Regnum Christi.

# Social Justice and the Practice of the Works of Mercy

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Discussion Guide 8

# Social Justice and the Practice of the Works of Mercy

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The New Commandment of Christ to love our neighbor (John 13: 33-35) becomes reality when we carry out the works of mercy that he himself taught us – to give food to the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to give shelter to the stranger, to clothe the naked, to help the poor, and to visit the sick and those who are in prison.

When we contemplate reality, the Holy Spirit – who is love – inspires us and moves us to feel the needs and demands of others as our own. This interior voice that speaks in our conscience makes us perceive the duty of justice and solidarity toward our brothers, especially toward the most vulnerable and needy, the excluded and discarded on the peripheries.

The Church, including Regnum Christi, have to follow the example that he left us, to make the problems of others our own, to love and help the needy in order to contribute to human flourishing, the dignity of each person and the transformation of society.



## 1. Opening prayer

We begin this activity with a prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to enlighten our understanding, move our wills, and enkindle our hearts.

It is appropriate to add a Hail Mary or other prayer to invoke the Blessed Virgin, a Glory Be, and the invocations proper to Regnum Christi which seal our prayer by pointing to the goal of all our life and actions – the glory of God.



## 2. Prayerful reading of the Word

We seek to encounter him in the Gospel in order to place ourselves in an attitude of listening, so that faith and charity will guide our reflections, order our values, and orient our discernment.

A passage of the Gospel is chosen. It could be from the previous or next Sunday, or another passage that is appropriate to the needs of the team.

For today's encounter, please choose one of the following Gospel passages:

Matthew 25: 34-40 For I was hungry, and you gave me to eat

Alternative Gospels:

Luke 10: 25-37 The parable of the Good Samaritan



### 3. Apostolic discernment of reality

After we have encountered Christ through his Word, we undertake a communal discernment of what he expects of us as a team or community in the circumstances of life in which we find ourselves. Consequently, we will observe the reality in which we are immersed with the desire to discover the best way to carry out our mission of evangelization within it. For today's encounter with Christ, using the questions provided in this discussion guide, please reflect on: "Social justice and the practice of the works of mercy".

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### To see

We want to see the case as God sees it, learning to observe life with objectivity and depth, with reason and faith, discovering how God is present in it.

- Among the basic needs of humanity, which ones are not being met and most call out to us?





## To judge

After we have become more aware of the presence of the wheat and the weeds in the case we have chosen (see Matthew 13:24-30), we want to discern how Jesus judges or interprets our presence, participation, or attitudes before this case, and, consequently, understand what he hopes for from us.

- How do we approach and react to the injustices and suffering of people who are in need or abandoned? What are the attitudes and responses of the people around us? What are ours?
- How can we live a life of prayer that brings us to go out to meet our neighbour and to live the works of mercy?
- Can we say that our apostolic activity contributes to the transformation of society according to the values of the Gospel? How?
- How can we respond, as Regnum Christi to evangelize in this area?
- To what degree do you think that Regnum Christi in your locality is responding to the needs of people in this area of evangelization?



## To act

This is the moment to choose what actions of conversion and apostolate we are called to in light of what we have discerned that Christ is asking of us. We seek to respond to the invitation from the Lord that we received through the Gospel judgement with our own evangelizing initiative. In this way, we aspire to transform reality with the criteria of the Gospel.

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evangelization . In response to the call experienced in the “to judge” element:

- As a team, how can we collaborate with God in his work of making present the kingdom in this area of evangelization?



#### 4. Closing prayer

The Encounter with Christ concludes with a prayer of thanksgiving by one or several members.

The prayer closes with the two invocations to Christ the King and the Virgin Mary proper to Regnum Christi.



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