

Guide for Reflection on the Identity of the Lay Members of Regnum Christi

On the Road to the General Convention
of Regnum Christi 2024



REGNUM
CHRISTI

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For other evangelization areas

Introduction



As part of the journey of discernment leading up to the 2024 General Convention, the lay members of Regnum Christi feel called to reflect more deeply on our identity and mission and on our vocation in Regnum Christi. We want to understand what our role is, not only in the Church but, in a particular way, in our spiritual family in the light of the Gospel, ecclesial documents and our charism.

This is why, just as we are participating with the other vocations of Regnum Christi in an apostolic discernment of reality, we also want to take a moment and listen to the Holy Spirit in order to understand what specifically he calls us to as laity in the world and in Regnum Christi.

This guide seeks to be a tool to help with this reflection.

Methodology

It is recommended that this activity be carried out by teams of lay members, whether encounter teams within a section, or apostolate teams. Although this activity does not follow an Encounter with Christ methodology, it can replace one of the Encounters with Christ foreseen in the teams' regular activities.

Parts: the activity consists of three main parts:

- I. A moment of reflection and personal discernment before meeting as a team on the proposed material.
- II. A moment of encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and his Word as a team; to allow ourselves to be questioned and enlightened by Him.

III. A moment for listening through our charism as expressed in our own Statutes and Rule of Life.

Secretary: a person from the team should act as secretary, to write down the team's answers in the following web space.

Reflection on the Identity of the Regnum Christi Lay Person



1. Opening Prayer

We begin this activity with a prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds, move our wills and enkindle our hearts. We can pray a Hail Mary or another prayer to invoke the Virgin Mary, the “Glory be to the Father...,” and the invocations proper to Regnum Christi, which seal our prayer by indicating the purpose of our whole life and actions: to give glory to God and extend his Kingdom.



2. Encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and his Word:

We seek to meet with Christ in the Eucharist, to allow ourselves to be touched by his presence, and enlightened by the Gospel. We recommend having a time for adoration (10-15min) and personal prayer together as a team. You can choose one of the following Gospel passages to meditate on before Jesus in the Eucharist:

Matthew 5:13-16: Salt and Light

John 3:1-21: Nicodemus



3. Time for listening and discernment in the light of the charism of Regnum Christi:

Another way in which God speaks to us is through the charism given to us and reflected in the documents of our own spirituality. In this part we present various extracts from the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation and the Rule of Life for the Lay Faithful Associated to the Regnum Christi Federation, which are supported by the Magisterium of the Church cited in the footnotes, so that through this reading and reflection we can deepen in our understanding on a personal level and as a team.

After the allotted time of personal reading and reflection, the team then reads and reflects on the following quotes and answers the in-depth questions.

Participate in the process by giving your feedback. Please fill out one form per team. You will be able to access the form at <https://www.rcgeneralconvention.org/guide-for-reflection-on-the-identity-of-the-lay-members-of-regnum-christi/>



“The associated faithful contribute their secular nature and their apostolic action. The laypeople extend Christ’s presence in the midst of the world and seek to transform temporal realities with the message of the Gospel, especially family life, professional life and life in society” (SFRC 5,3)

- 1) What can we observe about the way we live out this number as members of Regnum Christi? How do I live it on a personal level or as a team?
- 2) In the daily living of this aspect, what generates life, enthusiasm, consolation, and hope for me?
- 3) What difficulties do we see in living out this statute? Is there anything that stifles, discourages, slows us down, or does not allow us to live this?
- 4) From the answers to the previous questions, what key elements can we identify that would help us to more fully live what is presented in this number as Regnum Christi lay members in our concrete circumstances during the next six years (until the next General Convention)?

“We seek to give glory to God and make the Kingdom of Christ present in the hearts of all people and in society, by our sanctification in the state and condition of life to which God has called us, and by personal and communal apostolic action” (SRCF 7).

1) What can we observe about the way we live out this number as members of Regnum Christi? How do I live it on a personal level or as a team?

2) In the daily living of this aspect, what generates life, enthusiasm, consolation, and hope for me?

3) What difficulties do we see in living out this statute? Is there anything that stifles, discourages, slows us down, or does not allow us to live this?

4) From the answers to the previous questions, what key elements can we identify that would help us to more fully live what is presented in this number as Regnum Christi lay members in our concrete circumstances during the next six years (until the next General Convention)?

“To fulfill our mission, we seek to make present the mystery of Christ who goes out to people, reveals the love of his heart to them, gathers them together and forms them as apostles and Christian leaders, sends them out and accompanies them as they collaborate in the evangelization of people and of society” (SRCF 8).

1) What can we observe about the way we live out this number as members of Regnum Christi? How do I live it on a personal level or as a team?

2) In the daily living of this aspect, what generates life, enthusiasm, consolation, and hope for me?

3) What difficulties do we see in living out this statute? Is there anything that stifles, discourages, slows us down, or does not allow us to live this?

4) From the answers to the previous questions, what key elements can we identify that would help us to more fully live what is presented in this number as Regnum Christi lay members in our concrete circumstances during the next six years (until the next General Convention)?

“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” (RL 4).

1) What can we observe about the way we live out this number as members of Regnum Christi? How do I live it on a personal level or as a team?

2) In the daily living of this aspect, what generates life, enthusiasm, consolation, and hope for me?

3) What difficulties do we see in living out this statute? Is there anything that stifles, discourages, slows us down, or does not allow us to live this?

4) From the answers to the previous questions, what key elements can

we identify that would help us to more fully live what is presented in this number as Regnum Christi lay members in our concrete circumstances during the next six years (until the next General Convention)?

“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!’” (RL 9).

- 1) What can we observe about the way we live out this number as members of Regnum Christi? How do I live it on a personal level or as a team?
- 2) In the daily living of this aspect, what generates life, enthusiasm, consolation, and hope for me?
- 3) What difficulties do we see in living out this statute? Is there anything that stifles, discourages, slows us down, or does not allow us to live this?
- 4) From the answers to the previous questions, what key elements can we identify that would help us to more fully live what is presented in this number as Regnum Christi lay members in our concrete circumstances during the next six years (until the next General Convention)?

“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” (RL 12).

1) What can we observe about the way we live out this number as members of Regnum Christi? How do I live it on a personal level?

2) In the daily living of this aspect, what generates life, enthusiasm, consolation, and hope for me?

3) What difficulties do we see in living out this statute? Is there anything that stifles, discourages, slows us down, or does not allow us to live this?

4) From the answers to the previous questions, what key elements can we identify that would help us to more fully live what is presented in this number as Regnum Christi lay members in our concrete circumstances during the next six years (until the next General Convention)?

“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” (RL 15).

1) What can we observe about the way we live out this number as members of Regnum Christi? How do I live it on a personal level or as a team?

- 2) In the daily living of this aspect, what generates life, enthusiasm, consolation, and hope for me?
- 3) What difficulties do we see in living out this statute? Is there anything that stifles, discourages, slows us down, or does not allow us to live this?
- 4) From the answers to the previous questions, what key elements can we identify that would help us to more fully live what is presented in this number as Regnum Christi lay members in our concrete circumstances during the next six years (until the next General Convention)?



4. Concluding Prayer

The reflection concludes with a prayer of thanksgiving that can be said by one or more members. The prayer closes with the two invocations proper to Regnum Christi.

Complementary reference documents for study circles and personal discernment



1 On the identity of the laity and their secular nature, consult numbers 10, 31 and 32 of the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium* of November 21, 1964.

2 On what is proper and characteristic of the vocation of the laity, consult:

- Number 15 of the Apostolic Exhortation *Christifidelis laici*, of December 30, 1988, of John Paul II.
- Pope Benedict XVI's Address to the Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for the Laity of November 15, 2008.

3 Statutes of the *Regnum Christi* Federation.

4 On how the laity give glory to God in a consultative way, consult:

- Numbers 898 and 899 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, August 15, 1997.

5 On the manner of sanctification and way of life of the laity, consult:

- Number 43 of the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, of Paul VI, December 7, 1965.
- Number 313 of the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* of Pope Francis, dated March 19, 2016.
- Numbers 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* of Pope Francis, 19 March 2018.

6 On the personal and communitarian apostolic action of the laity, consult:

- Pope Benedict XVI's Address to the Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for the Laity of November 15, 2008.
- Spanish: The article by María Esther Gómez, "The role of the laity according to Pope Benedict XVI: from collaborators

of the priest to co-responsible in the Church” given at the Congress of Catholics and Public Life (it gathers various speeches of Pope Benedict XVI).

- The document “Identity and Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World” presented by the Central Commission for the revision of the Statutes of Regnum Christi, October 2014.

7 Regarding some aspects of the mission of the laity:

- Number 15 of the Apostolic Exhortation *Christifidelis laici*, December 30, 1988, of John Paul II.
- Letter of Pope Francis to Cardinal Marc Ouelet, President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, March 19, 2016.

8 On the divine filiation received in baptism consult:

- Number 10 of the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium* of 21 November 1964.

9 On the Identity and mission of the lay faithful in the Church and in the world consult: Study and Reflection Theme No. 1, presented by the Central Commission for the revision of the Statutes of Regnum Christi in October 2014.

10 On the younger laity and the journey towards a participatory and co-responsible Church, consult number 123 of the final document of the October 2018 Synod of Bishops, “Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment.”

11 Rule of Life of the Lay Faithful Associated to the Regnum Christi Federation.

12 On the role of the laity in the search for and extension of the Kingdom of Christ among all people, consult:

- Numbers 10 and 31 of the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen*

Gentium of November 21, 1964.

- Numbers 898 and 899 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church of August 15, 1997.
- Number 43 of the Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et Spes of December 7, 1965.

13 On apostolic zeal and how it is enlivened in intimate contact with the Lord, consult:

- Number 2 of Paul VI's Decree Apostolicam actuositatem of 18 November 1965.
- Numbers 211, 212 and 271 of the Concluding Document of the V General Conference of the Episcopate of Latin America and the Caribbean, of Aparecida, which included different interventions of Pope Francis from May 13 to 31, 2007.
- Numbers 225 to 228 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, August 15, 1997.
- Number 120 of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium of Pope Francis, dated November 24, 2013.



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