

Thy Kingdom Come!

**REGNUM CHRISTI  
MOVEMENT**

—  
Territorial Director

September 24, 2014

To all Legionaries of Christ and Regnum Christi members

Dear friends in Christ,

With this letter I would like to communicate how we will be moving forward in communion and collaboration as a spiritual family over the next couple of years. As you all are well aware, the Legionaries and consecrated branches have concluded their formal time of reflection, prayer and renewal. As a result, we have the Constitutions of the Legionaries of Christ as well as the Statutes for the two branches of consecrated members of Regnum Christi, which have been submitted to the Holy See for approval. Currently, the consecrated men and women are awaiting the definitive answer on their canonical status in the Church. Now the first and second degree members have an opportunity to reflect on their own vocation and place within the Church.

The Holy See has tasked us, as the Regnum Christi family, with exploring what the Holy Spirit is inspiring regarding our structure and canonical configuration, so that the identity and call from Christ to Regnum Christi is maturely and clearly articulated and approved by the Vatican. In order to complete this, the first and second degree members must first also have a time of discussion and discernment to articulate their own identity and role in the Church and specific place within the Regnum Christi Movement. Then we will need to understand how all the branches fit together as one charismatic family, but from a canonical perspective (i.e. from a Church law perspective). The final result will be a set of Statutes that will be presented to the Holy See for approval. I'm writing this letter to invite you to participate in this process and give you a brief overview of what it entails.

Here are the four basic stages of the process:

Stage 1 – The whole RC & LC will reflect together on the identity of the lay RC member in order to give the necessary input for elaborating a draft of the statutes.

Stage 2 – The directors of RC & LC will work together with the pontifical assistant (Fr Ghirlanda) in order to produce a proposed canonical configuration and a first draft of the statutes.

Stage 3 – RC & LC will be asked to review and ratify the draft statutes.

Stage 4 – The draft statutes will be submitted to the Holy See for final approval.

The first stage will last from this October until Pentecost 2016. The principle tasks of the first stage is to study the lay vocation and mission in the Church, discern and reflect on the specific lay vocation in Regnum Christi, and finally give concrete input toward the development of a draft statutes.

The process for the first and second degree will begin in North America with our territorial convention in Atlanta, in which 300 Legionaries, consecrated and lay members will participate, receiving the tools to implement the renewal locally and to engage all members in the very important work ahead of us. This convention will also give the instructions needed for each locality to have their own team to oversee the renewal in their area.

A complete explanation of the process is given below. Also, shortly, Fr Eduardo Robles Gil will be sending a letter giving greater detail on the process.

We have established a Lay Renewal Commission involving all branches of the spiritual family to help us during this journey of reflection and dialogue. The members of the North American Lay Renewal Commission are the following:

Fr. John Connor - president

Kerrie Rivard - executive leader

Josie Baker - secretary

Joe Cieply - member

Donna Garret - member

Mike Williams - member

Glory Darbellay – member

The end result of this process will be clarity about our personal call, identity and mission as well as our canonical status as the Regnum Christi family within the Catholic Church.

Kerrie Rivard, as executive leader of this commission, is available for any questions or suggestions you may have as we move forward in the lay renewal process.

I would like to invite all of you to participate actively in this process. I know some of you may feel a bit overwhelmed by all of this, or perhaps a bit fatigued by the prospect of so much time dedicated to reflection and discussion. The importance of this moment, however, cannot be understated. We are setting the foundation for the future of the Movement. What we do now is going to affect generations of RC members. Let us all unite in prayer and communion as we embark on this new and exciting phase. I attach a prayer that I would invite you to use as we go through this process. I would also invite you to join us for 10 days of more intense prayer for the convention and renewal using the link below.

I remain yours in Christ and the Movement,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Connor", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fr. John Connor, LC

Ten days of prayer for the convention and renewal:[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0448A5AA22A4F49-theoctober/2596068](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0448A5AA22A4F49-theoctober/2596068)

## **Renewal Process for the Lay members of Regnum Christi and the Canonical Identity of the Whole of Regnum Christi**

The process is projected<sup>[1]</sup> to be structured in 4 stages:

### **Stage 1 (Oct 2014 – April 2016)**

The purpose of the first stage is to enable all of lay Regnum Christi members to produce the input necessary for the drafting of statute(s). This will require the members of Regnum Christi to engage in individual and collective reflection and discernment regarding what they live and what they feel called to live. They will seek to capture this reflection, distill it and put it into writing. This will be done in 4 phases:

PHASE 1 –Study and reflection (October 2014 - April 2015) - A phase of group study and reflection, in order to understand the theological and canonical issues at stake and to begin to understand more deeply how they should apply in our lives. It should be conducted in natural groups of RC lay people to which LC and CW will be invited to attend/join in. Written input will be welcome but not sought in this phase. Modality will be group discussion with texts and questions given from the general commission. Implementation should be flexible for the localities to execute as best suits them.

Themes of study:

- Ecclesiology of Communion
- Identity of the laity
- Mission of the laity
- Theology of charisms
- Associations of the faithful and Ecclesial Movements
- Charism and history of Regnum Christi

PHASE 2 (May-November 2015) Statute discussions-A phase in which groups in the different localities will elect delegates to the territorial assembly. Delegates will be 2/3 lay members and 1/3 consecrated/LC. LC and consecrated members will have voice but no vote in the assemblies. The issues to be addressed in the territorial assembly will be the elements of the lay statutes and how the lay members see themselves as part of the whole will be discussed in each locality to prepare for the statute revision. The Elections will be held subsequent to the discussions. Written input will be welcome but not sought in this phase.

PHASE 3 (December 2015-February 2016) Territorial Assembly and statute revision - A phase which will consist in a territorial assembly attended by delegates who participate *ex officio* or by election. The delegates will discuss issues pertinent to the drafting of statutes, producing and voting on a document that contains their responses to the questions. The assembly will also elect delegates to the general assembly of Regnum Christi.

PHASE 4 (March to Pentecost 2016) A general assembly in which RCLC as a whole will make a written whole out of the input from the different territories and submit it to the general director.

**Stage 2 (May 2016 – 2017)**

The directors of RCLC will work together with the pontifical assistant in order to produce a proposed canonical configuration and a first draft(s) of a statute(s) built upon it employing the output of the general assembly and the lived experience of the *Framework of Cooperation*. Nothing will be asked of the members of Regnum Christi in this phase besides their prayers. Period of study by government and experts.

**Stage 3 (dates to be announced)**

RCLC will be asked to review and ratify the draft statute(s). The degree of individual participation and the mode of representation are yet to be determined.

**Stage 4 (dates to be announced)**

The draft statute(s) will be submitted to the Holy See for final approval. This stage may require a back-and-forth between the Holy See and the leadership of RCLC. If the Holy See requests changes to the draft(s), such changes will be incorporated. Nothing will be asked of the members of Regnum Christi in this phase besides their prayers.

[1] Given the many uncertainties at work, the timeline and major steps of the process may be subject to modification. One of the tasks of the central commission will be that of keeping the members of Regnum Christi informed regarding major changes in the development of the process.