

Beginnings

A Tool for New Member Orientation by the Team Leader

INTRODUCTORY NOTE TO TEAM LEADERS

Congratulations! A new member has been assigned to your team. Another soul, generously giving herself to Christ in the Movement. There is so much to share with her, but where to begin?

The following pages include a brief “checklist” for the team leader to use in orienting the new member to the team, the section and the Movement at large. It is not meant to serve as an exhaustive explanation of the concepts listed, but rather as a tool for the team leader in gradually orienting the new member over the first three to six months of team dialogue.

Keep in mind that integration with our vocation as members of Regnum Christi is a process, accomplished over time and through multiple means. As a formator, Beginnings will assist you in helping the new member to “get her feet wet” in her life in the movement. It should be used by the section leaders according to the particular circumstances of the section, making sure that the team leader is trained and comfortable in covering these subjects with new members of her team.

As you know from experience, it is helpful to touch on these subjects multiple times. Some will have heard them in their discernment process, and some may be hearing them for the first time from their team leader. Each will hear them again and again throughout their life in the Movement, hopefully going deeper each time.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

There are eight subject matter areas covered below in outline format. They include:

1. Getting to know each other
2. Understanding the basics of the vocation to Regnum Christi
3. Understanding the team Encounter with Christ
4. Understanding the purpose and method of dialogue in the Movement
5. Understanding the principles of team life
6. Understanding the structure of Regnum Christi
7. Understanding AFIRE

These topics should be covered in roughly the order they are presented here, but the time spent on each area will depend on the situation at hand. It is recommended that the team leader cover each area in a natural and friendly way, during the first three to six months of team dialogue with the new member. When reference is made to materials that should be physically given to the team member, these items are highlighted in yellow and sample materials are included, where necessary.

1. Getting to know each other

a. Personal History

- i. Take time for both the new member and the team leader to share a little personal history with each other and get to know each other.

b. Commitment Card

- i. Take time to review the commitment card with the new member – the portrait of an apostle elements as well as personal commitments and her team commitments – and invite them to ask questions.

c. Calendars

- i. Give the new member a section calendar and spend some time pointing out events of particular interest to them, such as triduum of incorporation, dates for the monthly retreats, etc.
- ii. Give the new member a written schedule of Encounter dates.

d. Welcoming

- i. If there is a section event scheduled to welcome new members (or perhaps this is done at the next monthly retreat) be sure to point this out to the new member.
- ii. In some cases the section will send a welcome note to the new member. If this is not done, a personal written note from the team leader, perhaps with a gift from the team included (such as a copy of the prayer book or RCMH) is much appreciated. A personal touch makes all the difference.
- iii. Ensure the new member has a spiritual director
- iv. Ensure the new member is engaged in an apostolate suited to the living of their call to the RC Charism

e. Materials

- i. Explain to the new member how to purchase items such as prayer books, RCMH, Commitment cards, etc.
 1. If there is a section book store, point it out to the new member and explain to her the process of purchasing items.
- ii. Point out to the new member the resources available to her on the website www.regnumchristi.org .

- iii. (optional) give the new member a team binder with:
 - 1. Team Roster of names, contact info and birthdays of members
 - 2. Copy of encounter with Christ notes sheet and practical guidelines for the Encounter with Christ
 - 3. Commitments to Christ reviewed at EWC
 - 4. Copy of Portrait of the Apostle document which has the Spirituality, Core Convictions and Practical Principles of Regnum Christi which they can study and use during the case study of the Encounter with Christ.
 - 5. Vocation Statement and Program of Life Guide
 - 6. Guidelines for Spiritual Direction
 - 7. Blank paper for notes

2. Understanding the Basics of the Vocation to Regnum Christi

a. Nature of Regnum Christi RCMH 1-65

- i. A gift from God
- ii. A Vocation
- iii. A call that requires our response in freedom

b. Mission RCMH 374-384

- i. A movement in the church is distinguished by its apostolic charism
- ii. The charism of Regnum Christi is to seek the most effective action
- iii. Forming apostles who will lead others to Christ

c. Name

- i. Means “Kingdom of Christ” – to make Christ reign in our hearts and lives and the hearts and lives of all people
- ii. To inject the spirit of the Gospel in the diverse aspects of human existence

d. Identity RCMH 66 -172,

- i. Contemplative and Missionary

Regnum Christi members should strive for

ii. Personal spiritual growth

1. Desire to become closer to God
2. For sanctification
3. With our own efforts and with God's grace to imitate Christ and grow in virtue
4. Develop an ever-deeper love for souls

iii. Action for Others

1. To have spirit and dedication
2. To be apostles
3. To live the Gospel with Joy

iv. Team Life

1. Adapt to working with others
2. Work selflessly as part of a group with a common goal
3. Together growing closer to Christ
4. Learn from each other's strengths
5. Live Charity in all things

v. Lead a True Sacramental Life

1. Frequent participation in the sacrament of reconciliation
2. Nourish the soul with the Eucharist
3. Acceptance of the Church and the Magisterium

3. Understanding the Team Encounter With Christ

a. Basic purpose

- i. One of the specific activities offered for the formation and perseverance of the members of Regnum Christi is the Encounter with Christ.
- ii. The objective is to help us meet the living Christ, our Savior

b. The Encounter helps to develop

- i. Teamwork
- ii. Confidence
- iii. Flexibility
- iv. Cordiality
- v. Seriousness

c. The Encounter promotes apostolic action and activities

d. The Encounter purifies individualism, egoism and pessimism

Order of The Encounter With Christ

- i. Opening prayer
- ii. Gospel reflection
- iii. Review of commitments
- iv. Case study
 1. See
 2. Judge
 3. Act
- v. Review of apostolic commitments
- vi. Closing prayer

1. Opening prayer

- vii. Prayer to the Holy Spirit from the Regnum Christi Prayer Book

2. Gospel Reflection

- viii. Read the scheduled passage while standing
- ix. When finished, kiss the Bible and sit down. A moment of silent reflection follows.
- x. Members briefly and freely offer their reflections
- xi. A moderator or secretary gives a brief summary

3. Review of Commitments

- xii. Each team has a commitment sheet that contains two commitments from each category on the commitment card.
- xiii. Each member responds “fulfilled”, “not fulfilled” or “partially fulfilled”, without adding justifications or comments
- xiv. Finish the review of commitments with a spontaneous prayer lead by a member, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The prayer should contain thanks to God and petitions for help, strength and light.

4. Case Study

- xv. Choose a real happening, event or occurrence for the case study
- xvi. Several cases are presented and then the team votes for one. The case is then evaluated in the light of the Gospel and through the eyes of Christ by following the method “See, Judge, Act” which comes from the encyclical *Mater & Magistra* by Pope John XXIII
 - To See
 - a. The member who offered the case expands on it and gives the details
 - b. Members offer similar or parallel cases from life or from the Gospel
 - c. Examine the causes and consequences of the actions taken in the case, seek out the virtues present and how they impacted the situation
 - To Judge
 - d. According to Christian virtues
 - e. According to human virtues
 - f. According to the Movement’s spirituality
 - To Act
 - g. Personal lights or inspirations from the case
 - h. Team’s apostolic resolution

4. Review of Apostolic Commitments

1. Review the short-term resolution from the last Encounter, responding “fulfilled”, “not fulfilled” or “partially fulfilled”
2. Members may add inspirations or fruits received from fulfilling the last resolution
3. Analyze the progress and fulfillment of the long-term apostolic commitment of the team

i. Closing Prayers

4. From the Regnum Christi Prayer Book

4. Understanding the Purpose and Method of Dialogue in the Movement

Purpose

As a way of helping the member to grow and improve in her life of faith, Regnum Christi provides each member with guidance

Team Leader Dialogues

- Monthly
- Review personal AFIRE (see explanation in next section)
- Team life

Spiritual Direction

- Monthly
- Program of Life
- Prayer Life
- State of Life
- Personal Formation

Apostolic Dialogue (if member is working in an RC specific apostolate)

- Monthly
- Working on the mission of the apostolate

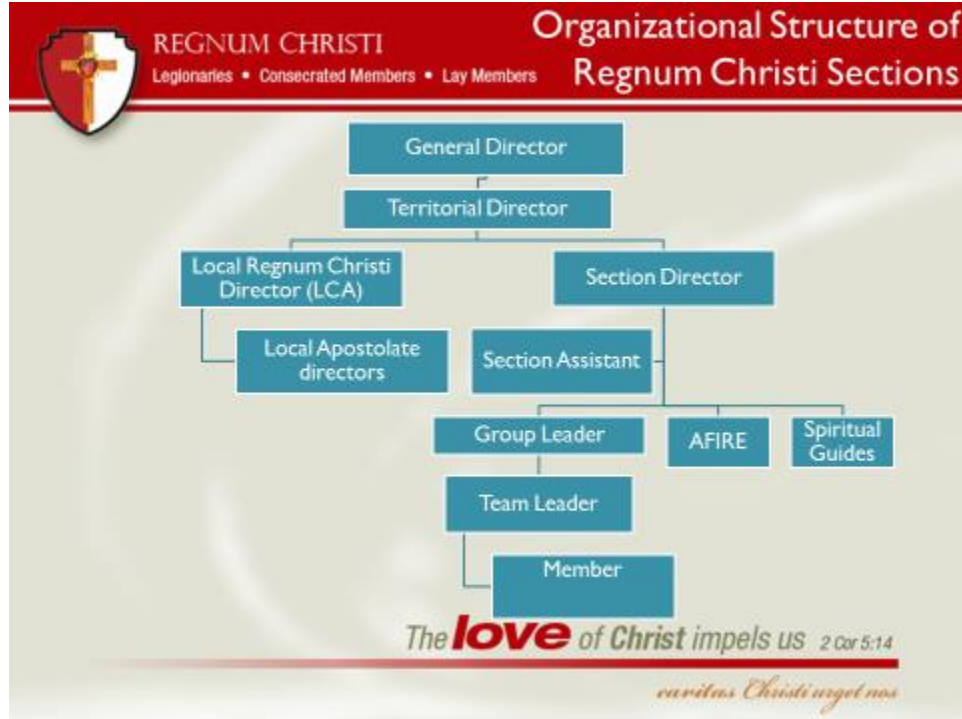
5. Understanding the Principles of Team Life

Teamwork is a key principle of Regnum Christi's apostolic method

Team life is characterized by

- Esprit de Corps
- Friendship
- Optimism
- Perseverance
- Accountability
- Openness
- Conquering Spirit
- Realism
- Openness to others and desire to grow

5. Understanding the Structure of Regnum Christi



General Director: the seat of our General Direction (Directorate) is in Rome, as a sign of Regnum Christi's obedience and fidelity to the Holy Father and the Magisterium of the Church.

Territorial Director: Since the Movement is in so many places, it has been divided into 8 territories globally. These territories are based on the number of members, rate of expansion and development of apostolates rather than geographical boundaries. A Territory could be several countries, one country or a portion of a country. Each Territory has its own Territorial Director and Territorial Committee. Our territory is North America, which right now includes the small English speaking sections in the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand and Korea. The Territorial Director of the lay members of Regnum Christi is a priest and is also the Territorial Director of the Legionaries of Christ.

Section Director: The territories are divided into localities, which are in turn, depending on their size, divided into sections. The head of each section is a section director, who directs, coordinates and inspires the section.

Assistant: The section director relies on an Assistant. This individual collaborates with the section director in the supervision, organization and coordination of the life and activities of the section, relying in turn on the help of the Coordinators (AFIRE teams) and the group leaders.

Group Leaders: After the section director and assistant, these members are the ones who direct, inspire and coordinate the team leaders

Team Leaders: The team leader's mission is to inspire and bring about the perpetual self-improvement of each member of the Movement. The team leader's mission is of the utmost importance because he is the one in constant contact with the individual members. There are several key elements to this role.

The line of consultation supports the hierarchy: territorial director, section director, assistant, group leaders and team leaders. They provide support and coordination.

Local Regnum Christi Director coordinates the mission & apostolates being done by the various sections (men, women, young women, young men, youth clubs) in a city or region, and communication among the different sections

Section Coordination Team: Also known as the AFIRE team, it is made up of a team that oversees and organizes the life of the section in the areas Apostolate, Formation, Integration, Recruitment and Economy.

6. Understanding AFIRE

AFIRE is the acronym for five given areas of life in Regnum Christi

A – Apostolate

- Upon incorporation, the member makes a commitment to participate actively and effectively in any of many works of apostolate.
- This is something the member chooses freely, according to her possibilities.
- “The Christian vocation is, by its very nature, also a vocation to the apostolate.” (*Decree on the Apostolate of the Lay People*)
- There are three main forms of apostolate in the Movement
 - Internal – formation of Regnum Christi members (eg: team leader, spiritual guide)
 - External – works of apostolate (eg: youth programs like Conquest and Challenge, faith-based small groups, missions)
 - Full time volunteer work (RC Mission Corps)

- Other forms of apostolate
 - Prayer – prayer reaches where human efforts, discussion and planning at times cannot
 - Life Example – in words and action
 - Witness of Charity – “See how they love one another”. It is simple, discreet, humble but powerful.

F – Formation

Formation makes the man or woman of the Kingdom who has assimilated it an eager apostle – prepared and efficient in working for the Kingdom of Christ.

- Integral formation
 - Spiritual formation
 - Human formation
 - Intellectual formation
 - Apostolic formation
- A well-balanced formation is when all five pillars of AFIRE grow together
 - A – love for humanity and a missionary spirit
 - F – Christ is formed in you (Gal 4:19)
 - I – Identification with our vocation to RC
 - R – Drawing others to Christ
 - E – Stewardship and Generosity
- Ongoing formation – integral formation is a journey full of challenges, joys and surprises. It’s not simply a task we will eventually be able to cross off our to-do list. The Church and the Movement will guide us. God will make sure that our efforts bear fruit for many others – but he will always need those efforts.

I – Integration

“With incorporation, the new member who becomes part of the Movement is introduced to a life focused on his becoming each day, with the help of the Movement, an authentic Christian: Not a superficial but a deep transformation, since the new person can only come about as a result of interior change.” (RCMH)

- a. What is integration?
 - i. Identifying with the Movement and the Spirituality of Regnum Christi
 - ii. Understanding your Christian baptismal vocation and loving it
 - iii. Experiencing a deep interior growth, over time
 - iv. Becoming a “new person in Christ”

- b. What are the means of integration?
 - i. Prayer
 - ii. Studying the RC Charism and Life
 - iii. Learning from formators in RC
 - iv. Spiritual direction/guidance
 - v. Conventions, retreats, triduums
 - vi. Participation in Movement activities and events
 - vii. Work in the apostolate

R – Recruitment

The Movement will grow only if we actively seek out those whom God puts in our paths whom he is calling to a vocation to Regnum Christi.

- b. The purpose for growth in the Movement is not to become “BIG”, but that Jesus will reign in the soul of each individual and that those he is calling to Holiness and Mission in Regnum Christi will be able to fulfill their vocation.

E – Economy

“Though Regnum Christi’s goals are fundamentally spiritual and religious, being an institution situated in time, it is human too. It requires material means for its development and growth at the service of the Church.” (RCMH)

The Church offers us the ability to live generosity and poverty of spirit by placing Christ above the desire for material things. We accept the gifts he gives us and understand that we are stewards of them, using them as much as possible for the good of Christ’s kingdom and the needs of others.

- c. Means
 - i. personal donations as possible
 - ii. Participation in fundraisers
 - iii. Seeking contributions for needs
 - iv. Initiating fundraising enterprises
 - v. Team fundraising initiatives

d. Section economy needs

Review briefly the various economic needs of the section. For example:

- a. Support of the consecrated women or Legionaries working in the section
- b. Support of Legionary Seminarians and Consecrated members in formation
- c. Formation and growth activities in the local section
- d. Facility fees, staff, or rent for Regnum Christi Locality
- e. Stipends for local priests who assist with our activities
- f. Scholarships to help with cost of retreats and formation for members