



# REGNUM CHRISTI

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*Love, Serve, Build*

First Degree Rite of Incorporation

Thy Kingdom Come!

## Regnum Christi Rite of Incorporation

*“The Regnum Christi Movement proposes a Christian way of life. It presents itself as one path among many to respond to God’s invitation to live the faith of the Church in an integral, dynamic and enthusiastic way. Thus, rather than adding new commitments, it helps its members to live those that derive from their baptism. Far from being an additional demand to fit in alongside their marriage, family and social duties, it offers its members a unifying vehicle to live these duties in the conviction that through them they fulfill their mission of being Christian leaven in the world.”*

Regnum Christi Member Handbook, n.20

*The Regnum Christi rite of incorporation helps confirm and affirm the step of generosity and commitment a Catholic makes when he or she decides to become a member of the spiritual family of the Regnum Christi Movement. Any authorized representative of Regnum Christi can preside over the rite.*

*It should be held in a location that helps foster prayer, preferably in a church or chapel in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. The rite is divided into 7 simple parts:*

- I. Introduction*
- II. Liturgy of the Word*
- III. Calling of candidates*
- IV. Exhortation or homily*
- V. Incorporation rite*
- VI. Solemn blessing and conclusion*
- VII. Signing of the commitment card*

*The rite can also take place inside Mass. Suitable commentaries can be prepared to introduce the various parts of the Mass.*

*On a side table, lay out the already blessed crucifixes and Bibles along with the commitment cards that will be distributed.*

### I. INTRODUCTION

*If the rite is held outside of Mass, one of the participants reads the introductory commentary. This commentary can be omitted if the rite takes place inside Mass.*

We begin this ceremony with the joy every family feels at the arrival of new members. Today is an important day in our lives, for we are going to renew the commitment we made at our baptism and that was strengthened through confirmation; a commitment to live our Christian vocation to holiness and apostolate. Let us ask God, our Father, to help us always preserve our friendship with his Son, Jesus Christ, and to be apostles who transform our culture with the power of the Gospel.

### II. LITURGY OF THE WORD

*All sit. One of the participants reads the first reading, the responsorial psalm and the Alleluia. The person leading the rite reads the Gospel. See the appendix for optional readings for this rite.*

### **III. CALLING OF CANDIDATES**

*After reading the Gospel, the leader remains at the ambo and calls the candidates by first and last name. When called, they stand and say “present.” Each candidate remains standing until all have been called.*

*Leader:*

Please stand and say “present” when you hear your name called.

### **IV. EXHORTATION OR HOMILY**

*All sit. If the rite does not take place during Mass, the person leading the rite then gives a few words in which he or she should underline the importance of the moment that the participants are living in their relationship with God, the Church, and others.*

### **V. INCORPORATION RITE**

#### **1. INTRODUCTORY PRAYER**

*After the exhortation or homily, all stand. The leader says the introductory prayer.*

*Leader:*

O God, in your wonderful providence you willed that the Kingdom of Christ should spread throughout the earth so that all men and women might participate in your saving redemption. We pray to you that the Regnum Christi Movement will be an instrument of salvation for these sons (daughters) of yours, who prepare themselves to follow you in its ranks. We ask you, O Lord, to hear our prayer.

*All:*

Amen.

*All sit.*

#### **2. JESUS CHRIST: THE WAY, TRUTH AND LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN**

*The leader makes the Christological proclamation.*

Christ is the very height of human aspirations. He is the object of our hopes and prayers.

He confers meaning on human events. He gives value to human actions. He is the joy and fullness of every heart: He is true Man. And at the same time, Jesus is the well-spring of our true happiness: He is the origin of our spiritual and moral life. He says what has to be done and gives us the strength and grace to do it. For us, Christ is everything. To recognize, proclaim and celebrate this is a duty required by faith and a deep need of our human consciousness. Our destiny, our very salvation is tied to Christ.

### **3. PROFESSION OF PROMISES**

*The leader invites the candidates to make the promises to Jesus Christ.*

*Leader:*

If you wish to accept Christ's invitation to be his faithful apostle, then make the promises that unite you to him within the Regnum Christi Movement.

*Candidates:*

[My Promises to Christ]

It is my responsibility, Lord, and it depends on me, to see that your words are not lost. It is up to me to continue spreading your message of salvation to the men and women of our time. I commit myself to live your word in such a way that all who see me will give glory to God and feel moved by your grace to share in my faith and become its living witness. And so that this commitment can become a reality in my daily life, I renew the loyalty to you which I already made in my baptism and confirmation. In the presence of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer, and invoking the help of the Blessed Virgin, Mother of Jesus Christ, Mother of the Church and my Mother, I promise:

*[To God]*

1. To live in grace and friendship with Christ, my King, through prayer and the sacraments.
2. To live the Gospel virtues of poverty, purity and filial obedience in my thoughts and actions.

*[To My Family & My Neighbor]*

3. To fulfill the responsibilities of my state of life out of love, as faithfully as possible, making my life a gift to God and others.
4. To live an authentic Christian life, fighting the good fight for Christ, with a special emphasis on the virtues of charity in thought, word, and action; honesty; self-mastery; mercy; courage; and joyful zeal to spread Christ's Kingdom.

*[To myself]*

5. To use all the means at my disposal to grow in my integral formation, increasing my capacity for Christian leadership, in order to be a good disciple and apostle of Jesus Christ at all times.

*[To the Church]*

6. To profess and live a faithful and effective love for our Mother, the Church; for the Holy Father, the Vicar of Christ; for my bishop; and for my local pastor.

7. To offer my time, talent, treasure and apostolic endeavors to contribute to the mission of Regnum Christi at the service of the Church.

To fulfill these promises, I trust in the infinite merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord, and in the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, whose help I humbly ask for today.

#### **4. RECEPTION OF THE CRUCIFIX, BIBLE AND COMMITMENT CARD**

*Those who have recited the promises approach the altar in procession. The leader gives each one a crucifix, Bible and commitment card while saying the respective exhortation. If the group is very large the leader can make the exhortation once and then hand over the religious articles to each one in silence. Meanwhile the congregation may sing appropriate hymns.*

##### **Reception of the Crucifix**

*Leader:*

If you wish to come after Christ, take up your cross and follow Him, because whoever does not take up his cross and follow Him, is not worthy of Him.

*Candidates:*

Hail, O Cross, our only hope.

##### **Reception of the Bible**

*Leader:*

Receive the Word of God. May it be food to nourish your life, light to always guide your steps towards eternal life, and the message of salvation you bring generously to everyone.

*Candidates:*

Amen.

## Reception of the commitment card

*Leader:*

Receive the Regnum Christi commitment card. It will remind you of your responsibility to fulfill all that you have freely promised to Jesus Christ.

*If the incorporation rite takes place in the Mass, the profession of faith and the prayers of the faithful are said if the liturgy of the day prescribes them. The new members should express their participation in the offerings, each one bringing their host to place it on the paten of the priest. During Communion appropriate hymns are sung.*

*If the leader is not a priest or the rite is not held during Mass:*

We give you thanks for all your gifts, almighty God, living and reigning now and forever.

## VI. SOLEMN BLESSING

*If the rite takes place within Mass, the priest may use this solemn blessing.*

*Celebrant:*

God has called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. May He pour his blessing kindly upon you and confirm your hearts in faith, hope and charity.

*All:* Amen.

*Celebrant:*

Christ appeared in this world as the light that shines in darkness. Since you follow Him with trust, may He make you light for your brothers and sisters.

*All:* Amen.

*Celebrant:*

May Almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and remain with you forever.

*All:* Amen.

*Celebrant:*

May the joy of the Lord be our strength. Go in peace.

*All:* Thanks be to God.

*All:* Amen.

## VII. SIGNING OF THE INCORPORATION CERTIFICATE

*Afterwards, the person who led the rite and each new member can sign the incorporation certificate.*

## APPENDIX

### READINGS FOR THE REGNUM CHRISTI INCORPORATION RITE

*If the incorporation rite is celebrated within Mass on a Sunday or coincides with a liturgical feast or solemnity, the readings for those days should be used. If it takes place on a liturgically free weekday, or the celebration takes place outside of Mass, the leader may choose readings which are most suited to this particular celebration, provided that he takes them from an approved lectionary (cf. Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani, no. 319). With due regard for the above, the following readings are suggested.*

#### First reading

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (2 Cor 5:14-20)

For the love of Christ impels us, once we have come to the conviction that one died for all; therefore, all have died. He indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. Consequently, from now on we regard no one according to the flesh; even if we once knew Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know him so no longer. So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

The Word of the Lord.

R/ Thanks be to God.

#### Responsorial psalm (Ps. 19:2-3, 4-5)

***R. The heavens proclaim the glory of God.***

The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.  
Day pours out the word to day,  
and night to night imparts knowledge.

***R. The heavens proclaim the glory of God.***

Not a word nor a discourse  
whose voice is not heard;  
Through all the earth their voice resounds,

and to the ends of the world, their message.

*R. The heavens proclaim the glory of God.*

## **Alleluia** (Mt. 28:19-20)

V/ Alleluia, alleluia.

R/ Alleluia, alleluia.

V/ Go and make disciples of all nations; I am with you always, until the end of the age.

R/ Alleluia, alleluia.

## **Gospel**

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 5:1-16)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you. "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R/ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Through the Kingdom of Christ to the Glory of God*



