

[English translation of [Spanish original](#)]

Thy Kingdom come!

Rome, May 23, 2017

Dear friends in Christ,

Almost seven years ago the Holy Father appointed a delegate to govern the Legion and Regnum Christi and accompany us on our path of renewal. His mandate ended with the celebration of the general assemblies of the lay consecrated men and women and the General Chapter of the Legion of Christ. These left us the task of finding a suitable canonical form for Regnum Christi to help us to promote, safeguard and develop this charism God has gifted to his Church.

1. The process of producing the draft Statutes

Over the past few years, we were all able to participate in various ways in reflecting upon and going over the texts that define our charism and mission. In the [letter](#) dated October 12, 2016 (Prot. DG-RC 349-2016), Gloria Rodríguez, Jorge López and I described in some detail the ground we have covered. Dialogue and fraternal exchange took place between the different vocations born of the Regnum Christi charism and this proved to be especially fruitful in helping us to get to know much better the gift God has placed in our hands. More than a technical process needed to produce the draft Statutes, we tried to live this time as a period of profound self-examination, and to look at who we are through the eyes of God and the Church.

Today at last we have the draft of the General Statutes of Regnum Christi. It was prepared by the Regnum Christi General Committee, under my presidency, with Father Gianfranco Ghirlanda, SJ, the pontifical assistant, closely supporting us. The General Committee took into account the proposals that had been made in the community reflections during the process of reviewing the Constitutions of the Legion and of elaborating the Statutes of the Consecrated Women and the Lay Consecrated Men. The guidelines laid out by the General Chapter and the general assemblies of the consecrated members and the recommendations from the international convention of the laity formed the framework for the text. We also considered the reflections made in the Regnum Christi territorial plenary assemblies as well as the suggestions sent in by individuals.

2. Some features of the draft of the General Statutes

The Statutes are intended to define the nature, purpose, spirit and apostolate of the Movement, similar to what Canon Law prescribes for the constitutions of an institute of religious life (see canon 587). They lay out the elements of its patrimony that have to be preserved and constantly deepened.

In the draft you will find continuity in the essential elements of our spiritual patrimony; yet, some new elements and changes in comparison to the previous Statutes are also present. These spring from the path of renewal we have been on and carry in themselves a seed of hope. One example is the inclusion of recent developments in the Church's teaching on ecclesial movements and the use of language currently employed in ecclesial documents.

The Statutes also reflect the fact that the consecrated men, the consecrated women, and the Legionaries each have their own internal governments, while at the same time seek to foster communion in the mission. They also propose that each consecrated branch possess and manage the assets necessary for its sustenance, giving example at the same time of its *esprit de corps*, sense of responsibility and Gospel poverty.

From among all the canonical forms possible, the draft Statutes propose that the Movement be configured as a federation. The pontifical assistant helped us to weigh the different options that Church law offers and helped us see that this form best reflects what our members have expressed throughout the process of renewal. It is also the most flexible canonical form, which also protects the unity of the Movement. You can find more detailed explanations of this topic as well as other topics for reflection and discussion in the documents that come with this letter.

The draft contains a section dedicated to the lay members of the Movement. Respecting what the lay members themselves expressed at the international convention, they would be incorporated directly into the federation as individual members. They would cultivate the spirituality of Regnum Christi and live out its mission as lay people. The Statutes also provide for their active participation in the various governing bodies of the Movement.

3. 'Stir into flame the gift of God in you' (2 Tim 1: 6): The next steps of the process

We have chosen a quote from St. Paul's second letter to Timothy as the motto for the next part of the process, which lasts from now until the Statutes are officially submitted to the Holy See: 'Stir into flame the gift of God in you' (2 Tim 1:6). It is an invitation to live the upcoming months with a deeply supernatural and realistic attitude. We are trying to collaborate with a plan of God that on the one hand far transcends us while on the other hand has been entrusted to our care. We trust in God who placed this treasure—Regnum Christi—in our hearts. We know that he is the one who will bring to fulfillment the good work he has begun.

As we prepare for the assemblies, I recommend that you try to listen to the members of the other branches of the Movement, not only your own, and understand their points of view so as to better discern what the Holy Spirit is trying to say to us in this moment. Reread the [letter](#) that the general director of the consecrated women, the general responsible of the lay consecrated men and I wrote you together last October, especially the recommendations we made on how to live this period that lies ahead of us. I believe these can help us all to live the next few months as a moment of grace and avoid falling into the error of losing ourselves in the practical, external elements or letting ourselves be carried away by fears of one kind or another.

The territorial assemblies this year take place between September and November. The members of each territory will take time to study and reflect upon the draft of the Statutes. The assemblies will gather together the results and let the General Assembly know if they think the draft adequately reflects, protects and promotes the spiritual patrimony of the Movement. During the assemblies the key themes of each part will be dealt with, without entering into the wording of particular numbers. That is something the General Assembly will take care of. The document presenting the draft Statutes explains how to send contributions in to the assemblies.

After this the draft and the proposals and suggestions made by their territorial assemblies will be submitted to the extraordinary general chapter of the Legion and the extraordinary general assemblies of the consecrated branches. The General Assembly of Regnum Christi, in which members of all the branches of the Movement will participate, will use the same draft version the territorial assemblies used as their working document. The main task of the General Assembly is to produce a mature text of the Statutes to submit to the Holy See for approval.

From this moment on, everyone has the opportunity to participate in the preparation of the final text to be submitted to the Holy See. The members of the general committee and I are very interested in finding out how each branch and territory thinks and feels about the proposed text once they have brought it to prayer, reflected upon it and engaged in fraternal, trusting dialogue.

4. Documents to participate in this process available online

The following documents, available in English and Spanish, can be found on the website dedicated to the revision of the Statutes www.rcstatutes.org

- the draft Statutes
- accompanying documents
- the rules on convening the territorial assemblies
- the rules on convening the general assemblies (in the future)
- other background documents

An explanatory conference will also be held by the three general directors and members of the team that drafted the Statutes. It will air live in Spanish on June 4 at 7:00 p.m. Central European Time [1:00 p.m. Eastern, 12:00 p.m. Central, 10:00 a.m. Pacific]. The link to the live conference will be available on the website www.rcstatutes.org the day of the conference itself. After that, the conference with its English translation will be available on the internet for easy reference.

I want to thank everyone for participating in this revision process. Please ask the Lord to send us his Spirit so that we can know and savor his will for us. We entrust to the Mother of God the steps to be taken in the coming months so that she can obtain from the Holy Spirit the light and the grace we need to reach the goal of our journey, with the Risen Christ at our side.

With the assurance of my prayers,

Fr. Eduardo Robles-Gil, L.C.