

**Message to Regnum Christi Members
Concerning Communion and Reconciliation
from the 2018 Extraordinary General Assembly**

At the end of the first session of the Extraordinary General Assembly of Regnum Christi, the participants experienced a moment of profound communion and a movement of the Holy Spirit towards reconciliation that we want to share with all our brothers and sisters. To start off on this path, we want to take the first step within the membership of the Movement; we recognize that we need to take steps in other areas as well, and reach out to those who have been part of our history and whom we may have offended in any way.

1. “The community of believers was of one heart and mind” (Acts 4:32). The first Christian communities were *of one heart*: They knew how to remain united in spite of their differences. In their experience we recognize our own, the *experience of communion that God has given us as a gift and that he invites us to continue building up as a family*. This experience originates in a personal encounter with Christ and enables us to love one another.
2. During the days of the assembly, Regnum Christi members from all the branches, who gathered together for the first time, have been able to *share the joy* of spending time together, celebrating, exchanging experiences, invoking God together, and thanking him for the gift he has given us. And we have dealt first-hand with the *challenges that communion entails*: the humility of trying to listen, trust, and open ourselves up, even when we find it hard to understand each other, even when we discover that we are not all on the same page. We hope that this process, at once painful and enriching, will lead us to grow closer as brothers and sisters and to live out a deeper and fuller communion.
3. Within the history of salvation that God continues to write in the Movement, the last few years have been difficult for everyone. It required a lot of effort to pick ourselves up off the ground after the crisis we experienced, while at the same time

- having to discover new ways of understanding aspects of life in the Movement, of the relationship between the branches, and of the challenge communion poses at all levels. We also acknowledge that during this time we became *more aware of the wounds* that we inflicted on one another, both personally and institutionally, even if we did not mean to. These wounds produced distrust, suspicion, and defensive attitudes on the part of individuals, teams, and branches.
4. We also know that our story is one of *God's mercy and forgiveness*, and that makes our wounds fruitful; this will always be part of our identity. Today we feel the need to ask for forgiveness and to forgive, to be reconciled with our own history and among ourselves. In this way we can continue moving forward united in carrying out the mission to which we are called. In each of us it seems there is a deep desire to mend divisions, build bridges, and heal wounds. This desire implies a “longing for reconciliation”¹ that has to be translated into concrete attitudes and actions, especially humble prayer.
 5. **Authentic forgiveness** is a **gift from God**, but it brings into play our entire freedom as well. Forgiveness is also a **path**. Having been forgiven, we are already on that path, we are able to forgive. The first step in the process is to recognize that we all have wounds, and that we have also hurt others. Only when a wound is acknowledged, integrated, and exposed can it heal and give way to forgiving and asking for forgiveness. And then there is reconciliation, which brings peace and reparation.
 6. **At the base of many of our wounds** we find lacking a total acceptance of one another. This creates false expectations and does not recognize our brothers or sisters as the gift that they are. We acknowledge that we lacked an understanding and appreciation of the other branches and of individuals. We acknowledge that as branches we did not always live up to what was expected of us and give Christian witness. We acknowledge that we let resentment take root in our hearts when we have felt offended. We acknowledge that we did not safeguard charity, that characteristic so typical of Movement members, as much as before, making comments that were not constructive and judging others negatively.

¹ JOHN PAUL II, *Reconciliatio et Paenitentia*, 3.

7. **Reconciling** with others implies accepting them as a true “sacrament” of the presence of God. Communion and reconciliation are lived out and built up day by day in the life of the family and the community through teamwork with those who are different from me. In the Movement, reconciliation, both as a path and a task, is showing up at all levels: in personal relationships, in work teams, in localities and territories, and between branches. Forgiveness seeks to rebuild relationships that have been destroyed or damaged. It is about filling the space this rupture leaves behind with those things on which authentic fellowship can be built.
8. **At the end of this General Assembly**, we want to bring to our brothers and sisters a message of reconciliation, peace, and harmony. We want to renew our commitment to live out Christ’s commandment and safeguard unity and communion in the Movement.
9. Although each one of us has to engage in this path of reconciliation, we propose that **the territories and localities** analyze their concrete situations to detect the areas of greatest tension—together with their causes and manifestations—and suggest concrete actions and behaviors that may help on the path of reconciliation. We invite everyone to join this effort.
10. Finally, we invite all the territories and localities to focus on this aspect in our celebration of the **Solemnity of the Sacred Heart**. The visible wound of his heart reminds us of the invisible wound of his love. Celebrating the Heart of Jesus is celebrating a love that is greater. There is no other transformative force more capable of establishing peace in the world and among individuals. Through the intercession of Mary at the foot of the cross, may we be a balm for the wound of the Heart of Christ, bearing witness among ourselves to his merciful love.

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