

**CONSAGRADAS DEL
REGNUM CHRISTI**

GOBIERNO GENERAL

Prot. DG CRC 1951/2018
Clas I.4
Translation from Spanish original

Rome, November 27th, 2018

To the Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi

My dear sisters,

With immense gratitude to God, I share with you that today, November 27, 2018, at the end of the Mass for the start of the second session of the extraordinary General Assembly of Regnum Christi, Most Exc. Msgr. José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM, secretary of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CIVCSVA), gave me the decree of canonical establishment of the Society of Apostolic Life of the Consecrated Regnum Christi, which is attached to this letter. Pope Francis, on November 20, in an audience with the Cardinal Prefect and the Bishop Secretary of the CIVCSVA, approved the canonical establishment.

The news of the canonical establishment fills us with joy and comes at a providential moment. On December 8th we will begin the jubilee year of preparation for the 50th anniversary of the consecration of the first three consecrated women of Regnum Christi -Margarita Estrada, Graciela and Guadalupe Magaña- shortly after they were joined by Patricia Bannon and Fátima Portillo.

As we all know, we have passed through a long journey of discernment to reach this moment. A path of lights and shadows, of successes and mistakes. We have been accompanied by people from the Church and by all the members of Regnum Christi. Through this letter, I want to express to all of them my gratitude for their understanding and patience, for encouraging us and sustaining us on this path.

First of all, I am grateful for the motherly concern of the Church that during these years has closely accompanied us, especially in the path of renewal that we have traveled and in our first years of autonomy in the government of the branch. In particular, I thank Card. Velasio De Paolis, C.S., may he rest in peace, Fr. Agostino Montan, C.S.I. and Fr. Gianfranco Ghirlanda, S.J.

I am especially grateful to the Legionaries of Christ who played an important role in the first years of the “Third Degree” of Regnum Christi, as our Society was then called. We received the charism through their testimony, apostolic zeal and dedication. They were the ones who invited

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our first sisters to consecrate their lives to God in Regnum Christi, accompanied them in their vocational discernment, guided their apostolate and offered us the sustenance we needed for the foundation and support of our communities and formation centers. In the Legionaries of Christ we have had fathers and brothers, who have offered us the sacraments and accompanied us in our formation, so that we would assimilate the apostolic style of Regnum Christi.

My gratitude goes also to all the lay members of the Movement, for their support and for their collaboration in the mission of making the Kingdom present. They are an example for us with their commitment to Christian life in the world.

Also, the Lay Consecrated Men of Regnum Christi today received their decree of canonical erection as a Society of Apostolic Life and we rejoice with them. We have lived together very similar circumstances in recent years, discovering reciprocally the value of our vocation and we have found true brothers in each of them. I thank them in a particular way for their testimony of immense love for the gift of Regnum Christi.

After the first ordinary General Assembly that we had in December 2013 and, once the period of accompaniment of the Pontifical Delegate, His Eminence Card. Velasio De Paolis, C.S., had finished, on April 29, 2014, during a meeting with the Prefect of the CIVCSVA, I gave him a copy of the Statutes and the decree of approval signed by the Pontifical Delegate. At that time, I also asked for the establishment of the Consecrated of Regnum Christi as a public Association of the Faithful. When I received the answer, in July 2014, we were asked to wait until the canonical configuration of the entire Regnum Christi Movement became clearer, before proceeding with the review of our petition.

In December of 2017, in conversations with the Secretary of the CIVCSVA, the option of being established as a Society of Apostolic Life of pontifical right was raised, considering the number of members of the Society, the international representativeness and the time that has passed since the group started. This option seemed the most appropriate to the general government, and so we proposed it to the consecrated women and to the extraordinary General Assembly (see Prot. DG CRC 2098/2017, of December 19, 2017).

Thus began a period of reflection and analysis among the consecrated women of the various territories and communities regarding this and other possibilities of juridical configuration. There was an enriching exchange, at all levels, which led the vast majority to take personal responsibility to contribute and express their opinion in this important decision regarding our identity.

On April 4, 2018, when the Extraordinary General Assembly met in Castel di Guido, Rome, it approved to present to the Holy See the proposal to be established as a Society of Apostolic Life, according to canon 731 §2 of the Code of Canon Law. There were three reasons for this decision: first, the conviction that we needed a canonical figure as a branch and by becoming a Society of Apostolic Life, we followed through with the choice made by the 2013 General Assembly to ask to be established as a public legal entity. Second, a Society of Apostolic

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Life allows us to live the fundamental elements of our identity as expressed in our proper law. Third, we needed to have a canonical identity to establish a legal relationship with the other branches of Regnum Christi (see Communiqué of the first session of the Extraordinary General Assembly, No. 8).

The Assembly considered that a Society of Apostolic Life was the best choice - among those offered by the current Code of Canon Law - that allows us to live our vocation as we have expressed it in the Statutes from 2013, and as we have continued to mature from then: total dedication to Christ in the lay consecration by the evangelical counsels, evangelizing mission, fraternal life in common. In that sense, the Assembly recognized it as the structure which best included all the essential elements that define our vocation. Believing that this canonical form safeguards what we already are, it allows us to continue developing our vocation in the service of the Church, to make present the Kingdom of Christ living our total consecration to Him in the midst of the world.

In the January-June 2018 Biannual Bulletin, you can find the complete dossier with the historical-legal report of the Consecrated Regnum Christi, statistics as of December 31, 2017 and other information that was requested for the canonical erection request.

As I said before, we have experienced in recent years the closeness, guidance and teaching of the Church. I am particularly grateful to Fr. Gianfranco Ghirlanda for his availability, patience and commitment, enabling the Church to recognize us officially today.

Today, in a special way, we feel ourselves to be living stones of the Church, which recognizes us as a Society of Apostolic Life, collaborating in the service of the universal mission the Church has received from Christ. I ask the Lord that we know how to accept the grace of living as daughters in the Church, offering our lives to her service.

God bless you and count on my prayers,