

## Team Leader Training Course 4: The Team Leader's role in the Section

**Meditation:** Mt 5: 1-12



Painting: Brian Ahn- Sermon on the Mount

Mt 5: 1-12

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,<sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them.

He said:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Meditation:

HOLY MASS ON THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

**HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS**

Verano Cemetery, Rome  
Sunday, 1st November 2015

[\[Multimedia\]](#)

In the Gospel we listened to Jesus who was teaching his disciples and the crowd that had gathered on the mountain near the lake of Galilee (cf. Mt 5:1-12). The Word of the risen and living Lord also shows us, today, the way to reach the true beatitude, the way that leads to Heaven. It is difficult to understand the path because it goes against the current, but the Lord tells us that those who go on this path are happy, sooner or later they become happy.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”. We might ask ourselves how a person poor of heart can be happy, one whose only treasure is the Kingdom of Heaven. The reason is exactly this: that having the heart stripped and free of so many worldly things, this person is “awaited” in the Kingdom of Heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted”. How can those who weep be happy? Yet, those who in life have never felt sadness, angst, sorrow, will never know the power of comfort. Instead, happy are those with the capacity to be moved, the capacity to feel in their heart the sorrow that exists in their life and in the lives of others. They will be happy! Because the tender hand of God the Father will comfort them and will caress them.

“Blessed are the meek”. How often are we, on the contrary, impatient, irritable, always ready to complain! We have many demands regarding others, but when our turn comes, we react by raising our voice, as if we were masters of the world, when in reality we are all children of God. Let us think instead of those mothers and fathers who are so patient with their children who “drive them mad”. This is the way of the Lord: the way of meekness and of patience. Jesus traveled this path: as a child he endured persecution and exile; and then, as an adult, slander, snares, false accusations in court; and he endured it all with meekness. Out of love for us he endured even the cross.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied”. Yes, those who have a strong sense of justice, and not only toward others, but first of all toward themselves, they will be satisfied, because they are ready to receive the greatest justice, that which only God can give.

Then, “blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy”. Happy are those who know how to forgive, who have mercy on others, who do not judge every thing and every one, but try to put themselves in the place of others. Forgiveness is the thing we all need, without exception. This is why at the beginning of the Mass we recognize ourselves for what we are, namely, sinners. It isn’t an expression or a formality: it is an act of truth. “Lord, here I am, have mercy on me”. If we are able to give others the forgiveness we ask for ourselves, we are blessed. As we say in the “Our Father”: “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us”.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God”. Let us look at the faces of those who go around sowing discord: are they happy? Those who are always seeking occasions to mislead, to take advantage of others, are they happy? No, they cannot be happy. Instead, those who patiently try to sow peace each day, are who artisans of peace, of reconciliation, yes, they are blessed, because they are true children of our Heavenly Father, who sows always and only peace, to the point that he sent his Son into the world as the seed of peace for humanity.

Dear brothers and sisters, this is the way of holiness, and it is the very way of happiness. It is the way that Jesus travelled. Indeed, He himself is the Way: those who walk with Him and proceed through Him enter into life, into eternal life. Let us ask the Lord for the grace to be simple and humble people, the grace to be able to weep, the grace to be meek, the grace to work for justice and peace, and above all the grace to let ourselves be forgiven by God so as to become instruments of his mercy.

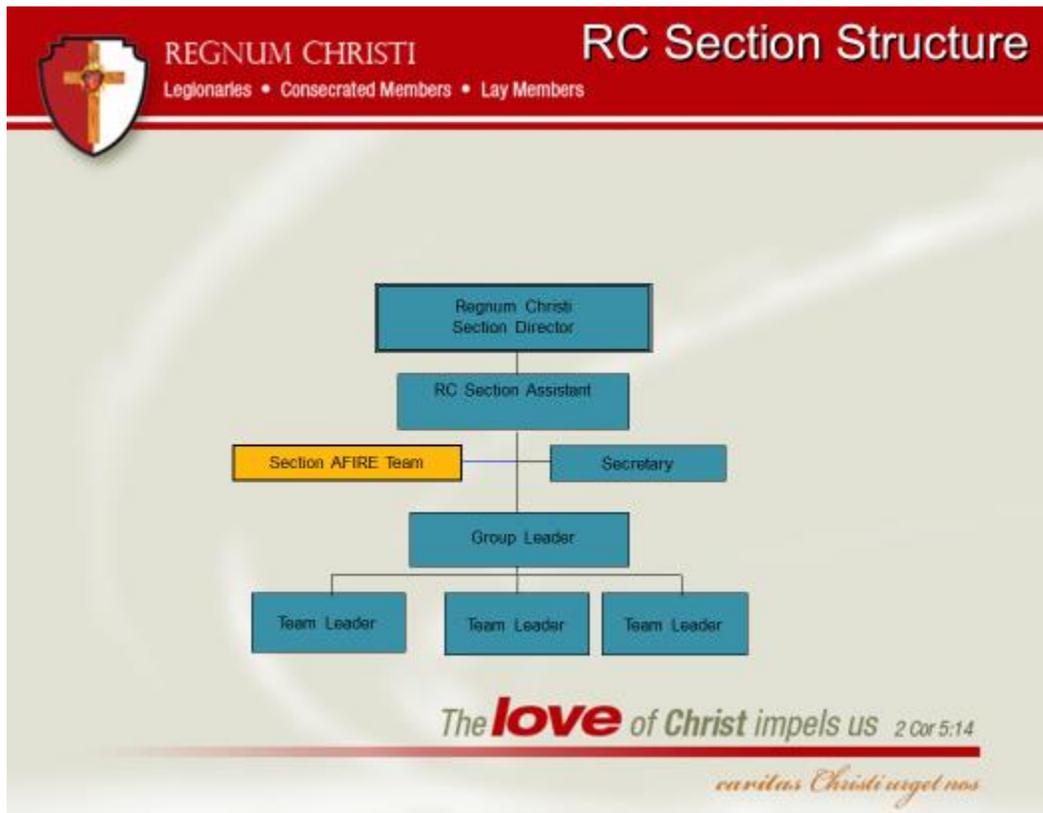
This is what the Saints did, those who have preceded us to our heavenly home. They accompany us on our earthly pilgrimage, they encourage us to go forward. May their intercession help us to walk on Jesus’ path, and to obtain eternal happiness for our deceased brothers and sisters, for whom we offer this Mass.

The drama and the mundane of daily life are lived in the Regnum Christi team. Each team member should know the others’ heart, family, crosses, joys, hopes and challenges. We are meant to

encourage each other in the Beatitudes through our team life. This implies an atmosphere of openness to each other, truth, humility, vulnerability, positivity, faith and love. The team leader must always nurture and protect these things in team life so that one day all members can say with the communion of saints, 'We lived the Beatitudes.'

## The Section and the Team Leader

### 1. The Section Structure



### The AFIRE team

- ▶ Collaborates with the section director in planning/organizing the section's work to support the members in living their vocation to the Movement
- ▶ Members of the team serve as coordinators. They organize the activities of the section and work together to help the section achieve its annual program

The Group Leaders direct, inspire and coordinate the team leaders. Provides regular dialogue, direction, support and advice for team leaders and communicates with the team leaders on behalf of the section.

## 2. What is AFIRE?

An Acronym that represents five key areas that must characterize the life of a member and of the RC section itself: Apostolate, Formation, Integration, Recruitment (Growth), and Economy

The section organizes itself to provide the means that members need to fully live these aspects through an AFIRE team.

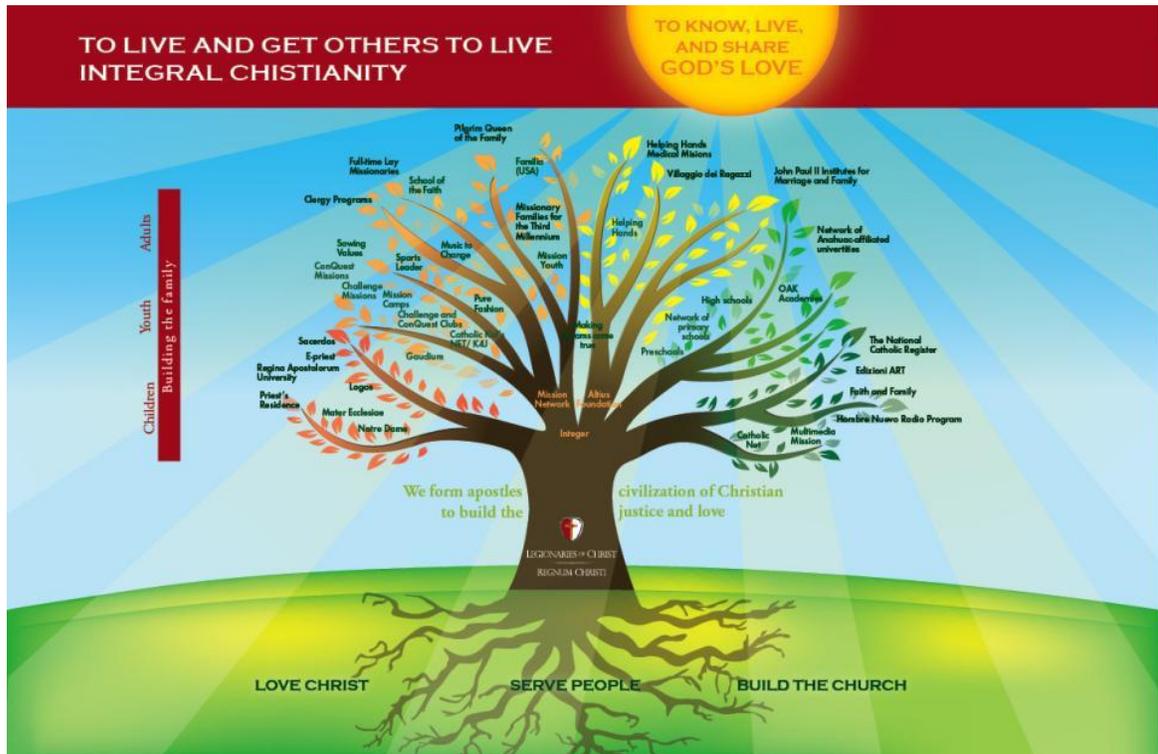
The member is also supported in the life of AFIRE through their team life.

### Apostolate

"Another trait which distinguishes your charism is *apostolic fervor*. You show this in all the many works you have undertaken, especially in education, evangelization, social communications, the spreading of the Church's social teaching, the cultural and human promotion of the disadvantaged, and the training of diocesan priests. In all of this you strive to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit, who constantly renews the face of the Church with gifts and charisms which enrich and strengthen her. In a secularized world such as our own, built in large part on neglect of transcendent truths and values, the faith of many of our brothers and sisters is sorely tried. Because of this, there is a need today more than ever for a confident proclamation of the Gospel which, casting aside all crippling fears, announces with intellectual depth and with courage the truth about God, about man, about the world. To you, Legionaries of Christ and members of *Regnum Christi*, I repeat the words of St Catherine of Siena which I proposed to the young people at the World Youth Day: "If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!"

Words of Pope John Paul II in the audience held in St. Peter's Square on January 4, 2001.

No one can honestly say that he has no time to be an apostle, because that would be like saying he has no time to be a Christian. No one can say he has nothing to give; that would be unjust toward God. No one can say that he already does too much apostolate, because being an apostle is a vital attitude that should blossom in every moment, place, and circumstance



### The Team Leader's Role in Apostolate

- Building apostles...authentic, holy, integrated members
- ensuring each member has a concrete and specific apostolate tailored to each one's strengths and potential
- motivating members who may be passive or nervous about getting involved in apostolate
- knowing what and how each member is working in the apostolate, but leaving apostolic advice to their directors

## Formation

The Movement's ranks should be filled with men and women who are outstanding for their mettle, preparation and self-giving to Christ's cause. To achieve this, each Regnum Christi member must strive to acquire an integral formation that will enable them to live out their spiritual commitment to the maximum and carry out their apostolic mission effectively and responsibly.

Regnum Christi Handbook, 308

The integral formation of the man and woman of the Kingdom is one of the strongest guarantees that the Movement will be able to serve the Church effectively in the world, especially when lifestyles and societies are proving to be more averse to the things of God. God's grace cannot take man's place in extending Christ's Kingdom; rather, he uses man's efforts and asks for his collaboration as a base and platform to act upon. By our preparation, we must be an apt, effective, and useful instrument for the cause of Christ. Our formation never ends; the human person has an unlimited capacity for growth, and also a fundamental need to be nourished in his soul. We have a whole lifetime in the Movement to form ourselves with ecclesial sensitivity and to serve our fellow man better.

Regnum Christi Handbook, 323

### The Team Leader's Role in Formation

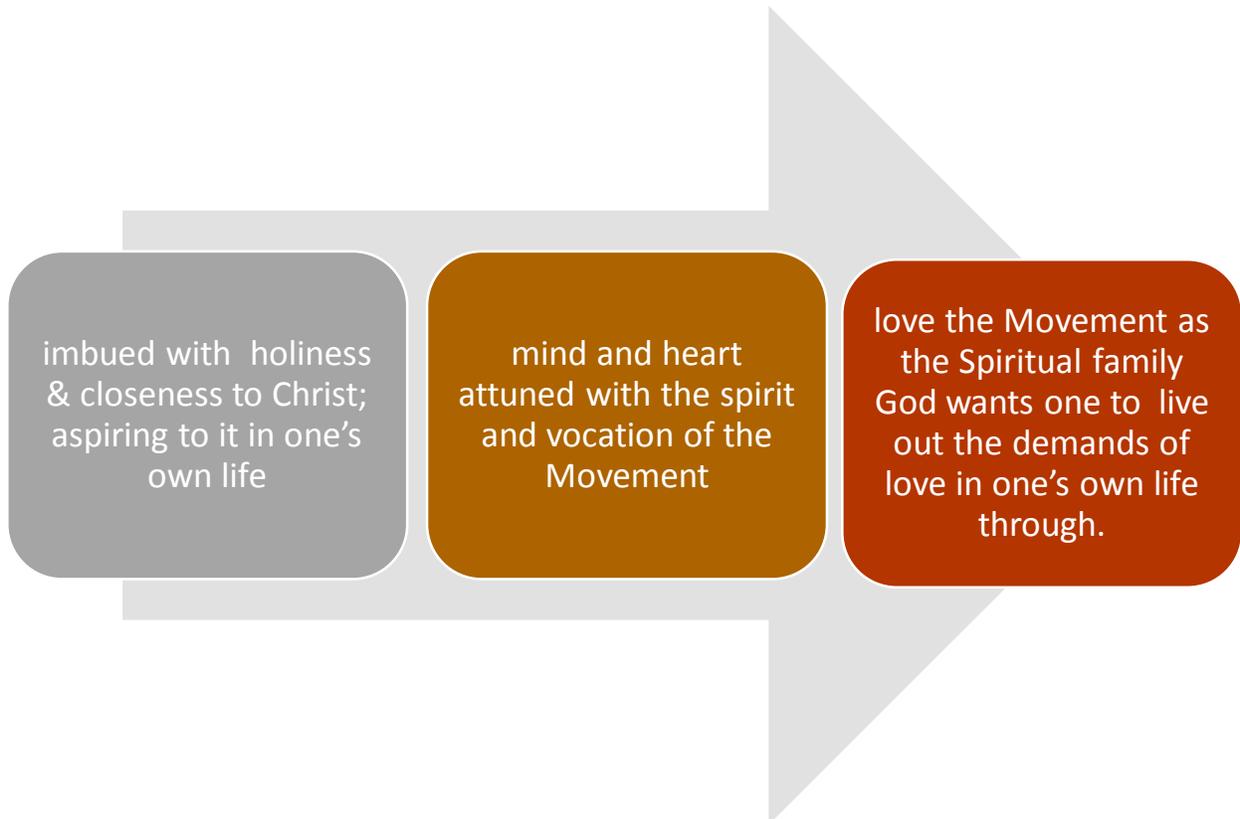
- Taking a special interest in the members' formation –especially the formators – talk to them about how they are forming themselves and forming others.
- Study and dedication to lead study circles well. If there are other formators on the team, motivate them to specialize in one or more themes, to be able to impart this formation to others.
- Motivating members to take advantage of their study circles, RC Spirituality resources and other solid books, websites and formative opportunities.
- Knowing that each member and each team should have a reading plan to keep formation ongoing – not only for their own enrichment, but for the good of souls and the Movement.
- Encouraging members to attend conventions and other courses offered by the Movement or its apostolates.
- Being experts in the Handbook of Regnum Christi, able to apply it to personal and team situations. This ensures you can form others through your example.

*Study circles:* The purpose of study circles is to impart a better knowledge of Catholic faith and morals, enlighten the members on topics of current events, and in general, form Catholics who can give a reason for their hope. To foster participation, the topics should be attractive and well prepared; it also helps if the team leader is the person leading it. However, this task can also be delegated to another formator.

The presentation of the topics should not be merely theoretical, but should have a practical, real-life focus that responds to the questions that concern modern man.

*The Encounter with Christ* can be a means of formation. The team leader should strive to prepare well and carry them out according to the methodology so that they help the members grow. Attending EWC that run according to methodology and deeply connected to Christ is very formative, and also builds the desire for deeper self-formation in members

## Integration



The goal of a Movement member is to become deeply integrated with his vocation to Regnum Christi as a Christian vocation, a vocation in the Church. To be integrated is to shape one's mind and heart according to the spirit and mystique of the Movement.

This means becoming deeply imbued with the charism and way of holiness of the man and woman of the Kingdom and aspiring to it in one's own life.

To integrate oneself is to know and love Regnum Christi spirituality and become holy within it.

To integrate oneself is to take on the Movement's criteria of formation and apostolate and apply them in one's personal life and apostolic activity.

To integrate oneself is to love the Movement as the fruitful earth where God wants one to bear fruit and live out the demands of this love in one's own life."

### Important aspects of Integration:

The Core Convictions of Regnum Christi (RCMH 133-172) –a great guide for growing in and evaluation of integration

1. GOD MY FATHER LOVES ME WITH AN EVERLASTING LOVE
2. BECAUSE I LOVE GOD, I LOVE HIS WILL ABOVE ALL ELSE
3. MY PASSION IS CHRIST
4. BECAUSE I LOVE CHRIST, I FULFILL MY MISSION IN THE CHURCH
5. BECAUSE I LOVE CHRIST, I CONTRIBUTE TO A CIVILIZATION OF CHRISTIAN JUSTICE AND LOVE
6. BECAUSE I LOVE CHRIST, I LOVINGLY EMBRACE MY CALLING TO REGNUM CHRISTI
7. MY LIFE IS SHORT; MY DESTINATION, ETERNITY
8. MARY MY MOTHER ACCOMPANIES, INSPIRES AND UPHOLDS ME

-Benedicencia

-Personal Attention

-Availability of resources to members –RC member handbook, good spiritual books, etc....

### Affective and Effective Integration:

#### Affective

Affective integration is essentially an attitude of love, the will's inclination toward something that it perceives and understands as a good.

#### Effective

Effective integration is the concrete and practical living out of this love. The Movement member encounters in this integration a particular way of loving Christ, the Church and the world.

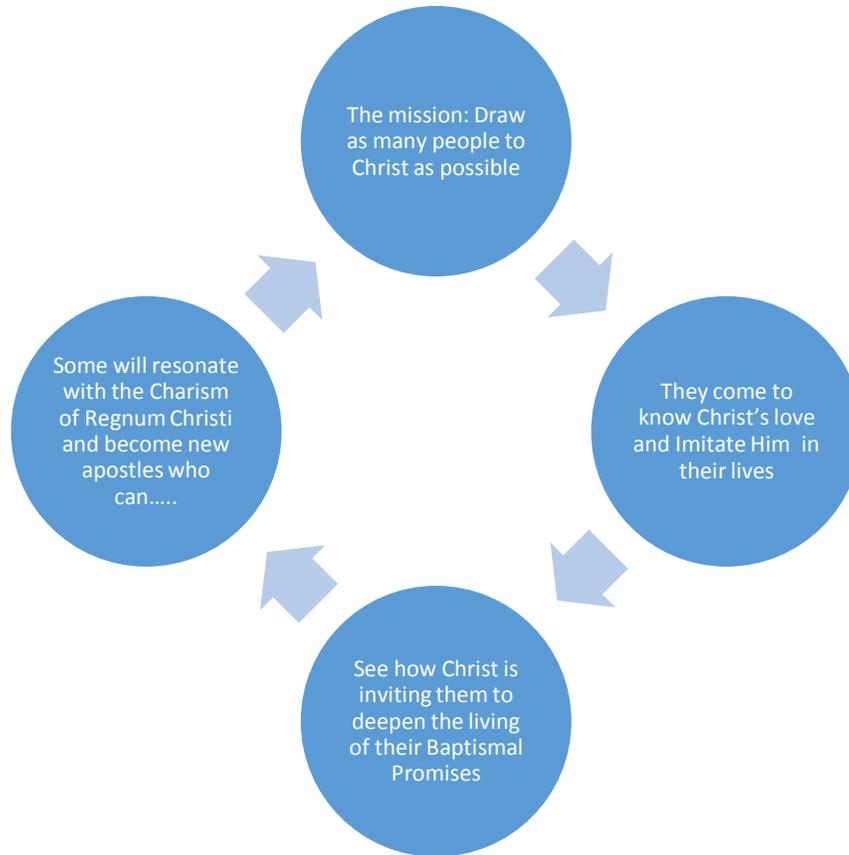
### The Team Leader's Role in Integration

- Working to create a healthy atmosphere among all the team members so that each one feels welcomed, loved, and respected. There should be a sincere interest for each other, shown in mutual support and being there for the important moments of each other's lives.
- Build a team spirit like that of the first Christians.... "See how they love one another...."
- Motivating team members in:
  - attendance, punctuality, participation at Section & team events
    - speak about events and meetings
    - seek out your members and help them to place those dates on their calendars
    - don't allow team meetings to be dominated by one or two members
  - encouraging regular spiritual direction/guidance
  - following the essence & method for the Encounter with Christ – with a spirit of love and joy
  - motivating and encouraging fidelity to commitments to Christ in the Movement

A proactive love for team members is a sign of integration in team life. Your example is the most important catalyst of this. Safeguard the charity, and peace of team life, making the team a real family in which the presence of God is evident. Keep the team motivated so that there is always an atmosphere of conquest, improvement, growth and progress in every area of team life, including, where appropriate, the healthy emulation of others, or fraternal competition with other teams. Create a climate of optimism and happiness so that the work of holiness and apostolate is undertaken with enthusiasm and difficulties and setbacks don't dampen the militant spirit of the members. See to it that the team is committed to a common apostolate or project (if possible) so that by working and growing together, the team really grows closer and each member feels more and more united to her team. Plan a series of integration activities just for the team –apart from the section-wide activities.

## Recruitment (Growth)

Recruitment is better explained as growth, and it happens through the natural witness and openness of the life of a Regnum Christi Member



From the document “Guidelines for Section AFIRE Coordination Teams”:

Bringing another person to Christ is a process; it requires some steps and a gradual approach, yet without ever losing its spontaneity. This is how the grace of God normally works. We find the key to this process in Christ’s example. He offers all people his love and personal friendship. He does not love us generically or *en masse*, but personally. We, following the example of Christ our Master and Redeemer, will have to draw near to people, offering them warm personal attention full of authentic charity.

We try to follow the example of Christ with the Samaritan woman. When the Samaritan woman met Christ, she went from an initially hostile attitude to an enthusiastic gift of self, convinced of the newness of the person and message of Jesus Christ. The conviction, zeal, and authenticity that flowed from Jesus’ person and words made her connect with him and change the direction of her life.

Your local section should offer opportunities for people to explore a call to RC, open events like monthly retreats, the chance for working in apostolate with RC members, discernment courses, and open spiritual exercises.

### **A Team Leader's Role in Recruitment/Growth**

- ensuring the Encounter with Christ is faithful, and lived deeply, to stimulate apostolic zeal to reach more souls for Christ
- As a general rule, the Encounter with Christ and the study circle are activities for Regnum Christi members. However, it is always possible to occasionally invite interested people who are discerning a call to Regnum Christi, as long as they are of the same sex and according to the criteria of team homogeneity.
- A great means currently in use: open study circles and open encounters held on a periodic basis

### **Economy**

Although Regnum Christi's purposes are fundamentally spiritual and religious, it is still an institution situated in time, and therefore, human. It needs material means to develop and grow to serve the Church. Each Movement member should be concerned about generating these material resources.

Regnum Christi Handbook, 324

CCC2544 Jesus enjoins his disciples to prefer him to everything and everyone. Shortly before his passion he gave them the example of the poor widow of Jerusalem who, out of her poverty, gave all that she had to live on.<sup>336</sup> The precept of detachment from riches is obligatory for entrance into the Kingdom of heaven.

CCC 2404 "In his use of things man should regard the external goods he legitimately owns not merely as exclusive to himself but common to others also, in the sense that they can benefit others as well as himself."<sup>188</sup> The ownership of any property makes its holder a steward of Providence, with the task of making it fruitful and communicating its benefits to others, first of all his family.

CCC2446 St. John Chrysostom vigorously recalls this: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs."<sup>239</sup> "The demands of justice must be satisfied first of all; that which is already due in justice is not to be offered as a gift of charity".<sup>240</sup>

### A Team Leader's Role in Building Economy

- Promote awareness among members that they are stewards of their God-given talents as well as of their material goods, and that they should be generous and put them at the service of others and of the Church. It is also a concrete way of living the spirit of gospel poverty.
- Encourage the team to have a strong and healthy economy that can sustain and support the creation of apostolic projects, and that will help sustain priestly and consecrated vocations in the Movement.
- Be creative and have initiative! I.e.: economy best practices – fundraisers like pins for priests, home design showcase, etc.....

### In Team Life AFIRE Means:

The life of Regnum Christi is built around the teams as the fundamental structure of the Movement. The sections should foster in all senses the full development of the life of the teams.

Teams should be a warm and welcoming environment where they can meet and spend moments in a climate of healthy apostolic zeal, formation, friendship, commitment, generosity and authenticity.”

### The Team Leader encourages the growth of members in AFIRE through their participation in



## Practical Application

### Recommended reading:

Regnum Christi Member Handbook: 358-396 Participation in the Life in the Movement  
133-172 The Core Convictions of Regnum Christi

### Activity:

Actively engage all of your members in the life of the Movement through AFIRE by:

1. Knowing how each member is living each aspect of it. Use team dialogue as a way to discuss the elements of RC life (AFIRE) with each one.
2. Promoting and actively encouraging the team to take part in section events.
3. Think about how your team will live **AFIRE** in the next year and discuss together. Example:
  - A.** All team members have an apostolate that fits with their talents, interests, Charism and state in life
  - F.** The team will use the RC renewal materials and activities as a main means of formation
  - I.** Hold at least 2 events with a social and formative element, to build integration and friendship
  - R.** Host open encounters twice a year and invite any interested people to come with you and your members to open retreats.
  - E.** Consider a team fundraiser to help the section's needs, to do a team apostolic project (i.e.: local mission day) or to help team members get to retreats or conventions.