

To me, the new RC statutes are a very solid description of what God is calling the Lay Members of Regnum Christi to live. Reading them, I resonated with the personal call I felt from God 16 years ago and that I still feel today, and see reflected in the lives of my fellow members. They give me confidence and clarity in following God's path for me, and for being able to explain this Movement to others.

When I first was introduced to the idea of the 5 dimensions of a Regnum Christi member, I was surprised to see something I hadn't read before. The Central Renewal Commission in Rome explained that this synthesis was the fruit of listening to the feedback of all of our members around the world in the statute renewal process. As we began to discuss them together in Rome at the International Renewal Convention, they came to life for me as things I really cherished in my own call.

Regnum Christi has given me a way to grow deeper in my relationship with Christ over the past 16 years. The spiritual practices (acts of piety) have helped me develop a rhythm of prayer in my day, keeping me connected to God and being more open to receiving his love and lights in my soul and daily life. My spiritual life keeps changing, and God will never stop leading me deeper into His heart. The formation and encouragement Regnum Christi gives me is deeply rooted in the tradition and teaching of the Church and helps me to keep following him deeper and deeper, going where He leads. To me, this is the greatest gift the Movement has given me.

The call to be an apostle who brings Christ's love to others exposed my own inadequacy for this task and the necessity to form myself spiritually, humanly, intellectually and apostolically to simply give others what God has given me by showing me his heart and his love and calling me to follow him. I am grateful for the conventions, study circles and book recommendations I have received, but most of all for the example of countless friends, lay members, Legionaries and consecrated members, which form me and inspire me to keep learning and developing the knowledge and skills I need to fulfill my mission, whether it is in my spiritual life, with my family, or in evangelization. Having a solid formation gives me a truly Catholic world view that allows me to see the world around me through God's eyes, instead of being tossed around by the loud opinions of culture and the media.

The gift of touching others with Christ's love is something I don't deserve, but that God has given me. We live in a fragmented, lonely, confused world. There is something magnificent about touching people's lives with Christ's love and seeing them come to life vibrantly- knowing they are loved, living their vocation and drawing others to Christ through their own example. To me this is love, and this is what matters in life. I love that the new Regnum Christi statutes tell me that my first mission is prayer and my relationship with God, my second mission is my family life, third my personal example, fourth organized apostolic work, fifth is engagement with my parish, and sixth is the responsibility to invite others to discern the call I have received. The order is so natural and healthy and allows me to balance all the God-given areas of my life.

There are people in my life who have shown me what it means to be present. To see the person in front of you as though there was nothing else in the world they needed to think about. They are my models when I think of how I want to give attention for others. I imagine Christ encountering people this way, and I pray he continues to encounter them this way through me. The formal methods of personal attention in Regnum Christi, Spiritual Direction and Team Dialogue, help me navigate the path God has for me, instead of relying on my personal whims and inclinations, and the informal ways of personal attention like friendship, have shown me what true community means.

My team surrounds me with women who know and love me for who I am and who encourage me pro-actively to grow into the woman I am called to be. To love them with joy in good times, and cry with them in hard times. To challenge and strengthen each other in our spiritual lives and vocations and to always be positive. What a gift to have these true friends. God created us for communion, and in my team life I have learned a lot about what that means- real friendship that goes deeper than like-minded people- really knowing and accepting one another as Christ loves us, and with a smile, encouraging each other to always follow him, go deeper, love more. To me team life is well summed up by the epistle to Diogenus, dating back to 130 AD:

“Christians are indistinguishable from other men either by nationality, language or customs.

They do not inhabit separate cities of their own, or speak a strange dialect, or follow some outlandish way of life.

Their teaching is not based upon reveries inspired by the curiosity of men.

Unlike some other people, they champion no purely human doctrine.

With regard to dress, food and manner of life in general, they follow the customs of whatever city they happen to be living in, whether it is Greek or foreign.

And yet there is something extraordinary about their lives.

They live in their own countries as though they were only passing through.

They play their full role as citizens, but labor under all the disabilities of foreigners. Any country can be their homeland, but for them their homeland, wherever it may be, is a foreign country.

Like others, they marry and have children, but they do not expose them.

They share their meals, but not their marriage beds.

They live in the flesh, but they are not governed by the desires of the flesh.

They pass their days upon earth, but they are citizens of heaven.

Obedient to the laws, they yet live on a level that transcends the law.

Christians love all men, but all men persecute them.

Condemned because they are not understood, they are put to death, but raised to life again.

They live in poverty, but enrich many; they are totally destitute, but possess an abundance of everything.

They suffer dishonor, but that is their glory. They are defamed, but vindicated. A blessing is their answer to abuse, deference their response to insult.

For the good they do they receive the punishment of malefactors, but even then they, rejoice, as though receiving the gift of life.

They are attacked by the Jews, they are persecuted by the Greeks, yet no one can explain the reason for this hatred.

To speak in general terms, we may say that the Christian is to the world what the soul is to the body. As the soul is present in every part of the body, while remaining distinct from it, so Christians are found in all the cities of the world, but cannot be identified with the world. As the visible body contains the invisible soul, so Christians are seen living in the world, but their religious life remains unseen. The body hates the soul and wars against it, not because of any injury the soul has done it, but because of the restriction the soul places on its pleasures. Similarly, the world hates the Christians, not because they have done it any wrong, but because they are opposed to its enjoyments.

Christians love those who hate them just as the soul loves the body and all its members despite the body's hatred. It is by the soul, enclosed within the body, that the body is held together, and similarly, it is by the Christians, detained in the world as in a prison, that the world is held together. The soul, though immortal, has a mortal dwelling place; and Christians also live for a time amidst perishable things, while awaiting the freedom from change and decay that will be theirs in heaven. As the soul benefits from the deprivation of food and drink, so Christians flourish under persecution. Such is the Christian's lofty and divinely appointed function, from which he is not permitted to excuse himself."

Regnum Christi has offered me the place where I can live this in the 21st century and follow Christ's call to know him, receive and respond to his love, and share it with others. I am grateful.

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