



# REGNUM CHRISTI LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST

The International Regnum Christi Renewal Convention May 30 – July 3, 2016 brought 64 RC members and 16 Legionaries and Consecrated men and women to Rome to make proposals to be drafted into the final statute submitted to the Holy See. Sixteen nations were represented among the delegates: USA (7), Mexico (22), El Salvador (2), Costa Rica (1), Venezuela (3), Colombia (3), Brazil (5), Argentina (1), Chile (4), Spain (4), Italy (4), Austria (1), France (1), Germany (2), Philippines (1), Canada (2). There were 25 women and 39 men. The average age of the delegates was 42.

After a week of intense work which was chronicled daily in blog and video updates (<http://www.regnumchristi.org/convencion/en/>) the delegates returned home to share their experience and the results of their work with their localities.

For all delegates, the experience of prayer, discernment, celebration and joy with other members from all over the world was extraordinary. The 5 days of meetings, discernment and voting were done in small group and plenary sessions. Each day began with adoration and prayer, and included Mass and benediction. The delegates had the opportunity to attend the Wednesday audience with Pope Francis, and to attend a special group mass of thanksgiving at the tomb of Pope St. John XXIII at the conclusion of the week. A summary of the convention's voting results and the official summary of conclusions are found here <http://www.regnumchristi.org/convencion/en/documents/>.

Here are 5 things you need to know:

- 1. About the identity of the laity in Regnum Christi:** The delegates articulated their identity by saying "The lay members of the Regnum

Christi Movement are Christian faithful who personally accept and live a divine vocation to live their baptismal commitments in the midst of temporal realities according to the charism of Regnum Christi.” (number 13, Rough draft of the Statute numbers). The results of the local discussions on the working document and the territorial conventions were all carefully considered and integrated into the final working document which the delegates in Rome worked with. As a result of that 18 month listening process, the delegates discerned and approved 5 dimensions of the life of a lay Regnum Christi member. These are: spiritual life, team life, apostolate, formation and personal accompaniment. The statutes outlined in chapter 3 of the working document detail these 5 dimensions, and in particular how they relate to the lay vocation of members.

**2. About their relationship with the Movement as a whole:** Lay members affirmed their unique vocational identity as lay people in the Movement as well as their connection to the other branches of Regnum Christi. They voted almost unanimously not to form their own association of laity before associating into the whole of Regnum Christi, but affirmed the desire of all members to participate as associates with rights and responsibilities in the Movement. They gave their input to the elements of Regnum Christi shared by all branches, including the legionaries, lay consecrated men and consecrated women.

**3. About the spirituality of the Movement:** They have confirmed the central elements of the Regnum Christi spirituality, which they live from their lay state of life: Christ-centeredness, the living of charity, a contemplative and evangelizing spirit, the loves of a Regnum Christi member.

**4. About the mission of Regnum Christi:** They believe that the Movement’s mission consists principally in the formation of apostles, Christian leaders at the service of the Church. Members

resonated with the idea that living their own spiritual life and Christian witness was an important element of their mission, transforming temporal realities by making Christ known and loved in their daily lives, as well as by evangelizing and forming apostles who will also bring Christ's kingdom to others.

**5. About the first and second degree:** They have recognized that among members there are two different ways that one can experience and live the call to Regnum Christi, but that the labels and idea of the idea of "degrees" is not adequate, since there are not some members that are "more members" than others. A new classification still needs to be found. Both are called the live the Movement's charism fully, nevertheless, it is noted that some from among the lay members feel responsible for the Movement and for propelling, developing and projecting its life. This distinction does not mean a differentiation on the level of rights and duties in the association. From this point of view there is only one category of members. This identity still needs to be better expressed, as its definition is still barely sensed. The implications (commitments, admission, etc.) also need to be developed. The international convention has given the central commission responsibility for proposing the way this is expressed and developed in the General Statutes.

In North America, the territorial communications and mission support teams are developing training and materials for members based on the draft of the proposed statutes that will help localities and sections integrate the results of the renewal. These will be launched in August.

The delegates from North America who attended the convention will also be available to share their experience with all members. They are: Kerrie Rivard (Atlanta), Mike Williams (Atlanta), Rebecca Teti (Washington DC), Stephen Grundman (Washington DC), Brenner LeCompte (Greater NYC area), Mary Williams (Detroit area), Donna

Garrett (Omaha), Angela Christianson (Calgary), Brian Williams (San Francisco) and Kai Leal (Manila).