



MY PROMISES TO CHRIST

STUDY CIRCLE



A special note of gratitude to the Edmonton Regnum Christi Leadership Team for their collaboration and contributions on this study circle.

SUMMARY

With the renewal, our promises to Christ have been modified to more clearly reflect the 5 elements of the life of a Regnum Christi member: Spiritual life, Formation, Apostolate, Personal Accompaniment and Team Life.

This study was inspired as a guide for the associates of Regnum Christi to:

- reflect more deeply on each one of the elements
- truly understand and integrate the promises to Christ into their lives
- fully live out our mission, which is to seek to make present the mystery of Christ who goes out to people, reveals the love of his heart to them, gathers them together and forms them as apostles and Christian leaders, sends them out and accompanies them as they collaborate in the evangelization of people and of society (SRCF # 8)

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

This study can be used either as a personal reflection, or as a group study.

RECOMMENDED NUMBER OF SESSIONS

As a group study, this guide can be used in two different ways.

1. All members of the group can read and reflect on the study before the meeting and simply go through the group discussion questions, taking as much time as they need to go deep.

2. The group could together read through each section and, with the time given at the end of each section, (Bible Verse, CCC, quotes etc.), note lights the Holy Spirit inspired in them.

In this second method, the group could go at a natural pace, taking as much time as necessary to read through the entire study.

PROPOSED STRUCTURE OF A SESSION

The structure of a study session using this resource could be this simple (although individual groups could adjust it as they see fit):

1. Opening Prayer
2. Either: Time for silent reading and reflection of the personal questionnaire. Or reading aloud together the discussion questions, then allow time for silent reflection.
3. Discussing the content either using the questions for reflection and discussion or simply diving in according to the spontaneous reaction of the participants.
4. Conclusion: It is a good idea to vocalize at the end the major discoveries or insights that the discussion brought about. It can also be a good idea to finish each promise by writing down a personal resolution that can help the participants integrate into their daily lives the wisdom they discovered in the promise. These personal resolutions can be reviewed (silently) weekly in their Encounter with Christ.
5. Concluding prayer

SESSION 1

Grow in friendship with Christ, developing the life of grace through prayer and the sacraments.

STATUTES:

#12. Our spirituality is centered above all on Jesus Christ and born from experiencing his love. We seek to respond to our Friend and Lord with a personal, real, passionate and faithful love. Through the action of the Holy Spirit, we are sons and daughters in the Son who becomes the center, standard and model of our life. We learn to encounter him in the Gospel, the Eucharist, the cross and our neighbor.

#13. Bearing witness to, proclaiming, and expanding the Kingdom of Christ constitutes the idea that inspires and directs us. Our motto – “Christ our King, thy Kingdom come!” - expresses this longing.

Therefore:

1. we seek to clothe ourselves with Christ in our hearts and in our works, so he reigns in our lives through a progressive configuration with him;
2. we let ourselves be permeated by Christ’s love for humanity, striving to have him reign in the hearts of all people and society.

#20. We are contemplative and evangelizing:

1. Contemplative, because we discover Christ’s presence and love in our own hearts, in our neighbor and in the world. We seek to be men and women of interior life, lovers of prayer, and we recognize the primacy of God’s action in our growth in holiness and in the apostolate.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:

#790: Believers who respond to God’s word and become members of Christ’s Body, become intimately united with him: “In that body the life of Christ is communicated to those who believe, and who, through the sacraments, are united in a hidden and real way to Christ in his Passion and glorification.” (Lumen gentium 7) This is especially true of Baptism, which unites us to Christ’s death and Resurrection, and the Eucharist, by which “really sharing in the body of the Lord.... we are taken up in communion with him and with one another.” (Lumen gentium 7; Rom 6:4-5, 1 Cor 12:13)

#1468: “The whole power of the sacrament of Penance consists in restoring us to God’s grace and joining us with him in an intimate friendship.” (Roman Catechism, II, V, 18)

SESSION 1

Grow in friendship with Christ, developing the life of grace through prayer and the sacraments.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. **John 15:13-15**

VIRTUES:

Love of God: Charity seizes our entire being, and by means of love, casts it into God. Charity makes man tend to God by uniting his affection to God in such a way that man no longer lives for himself, but for God.

QUOTES:

As long as we live in friendship with God, his faithfulness and love ----his unending mercy----will restore all losses and lead us to the life that never ends. - Fr. John Bartunek, LC "Autumn Meditations"

POINTS TO PONDER:

If we are to discover Christ's face, we must have faith; a faith that is open in simplicity and trust to the person, word and work of Christ; a faith nourished on the Eucharist, the Gospels and our contemplation of the mysteries of his life. Frequent and patient contact with the living Christ in his word and the sacraments, through personal prayer and participation in the liturgy have always been the best school to achieve the experiential knowledge of his love.

PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

- What struck me most in this section and why?
- What, if anything, did I not understand fully in this section?
- How would I explain the main point of this section in my own words?
- How can the main point of this section apply to me personally in my current season of life?
- To this point, what has been my experience living out this promise? Does it fill me with joy? Why or why not?

SESSION 1

Grow in friendship with Christ, developing the life of grace through prayer and the sacraments.

PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR LIVING THIS PROMISE (quiet reflection time)

- What is Christ trying to show me today in this promise that I have made to Him?
- What does it mean to me to grow in friendship with Christ?
- What might I do to grow my friendship with Him even more?
- How do prayer and the sacraments help me to open my life to God's grace?
- What is Christ asking of me right now to delve deeper into my life of prayer and the sacraments?
- What are my personal lights from these reflection questions.
- My personal resolution for this promise is as follows:

SESSION 2

To live the Gospel virtues of poverty, purity and filial obedience in my thoughts and actions.

STATUTES:

#14. We build our interior lives and apostolic lives on the theological virtues, live with luminous and active faith, firm and joyful hope, and universal and generous charity.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:

#1809: Temperance is the moral virtue that moderates the attraction of pleasures and provides balance in the use of created goods. It ensures the will's mastery over instincts and keeps desires within the limits of what is honorable.... We ought "to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world (Titus 2:12)."

To live well is nothing other than to love God with all one's heart, with all one's soul and with all one's efforts; from this it comes about that love is kept whole and uncorrupted (through temperance). No misfortune can disturb it (and this is fortitude). It obeys only [God] (and this is justice), and is careful in discerning things, so as not to be surprised by deceit or trickery (and this is prudence).

#1814: Faith is the theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that he has said and revealed to us, and that Holy Church proposes for our belief, because he is truth itself. By faith "man freely commits his entire self to God." (Dei Verbum 5) For this reason the believer seeks to know and do God's will. "The righteous shall live by faith." Living faith "work[s] through charity." (Romans 1:17; Gal 5:6)

#1828: The practice of the moral life animated by charity gives to the Christian the spiritual freedom of the children of God. He no longer stands before God as a slave, in servile fear, or as a mercenary looking for wages, but as a son responding to the love of him who "first loved us" (1 John 4:19)

If we turn away from evil out of fear of punishment, we are in the position of slaves. If we pursue the enticement of wages . . . we resemble mercenaries. Finally, if we obey for the sake of the good itself and out of love for him who commands . . . we are in the position of children. (St. Basil: *regulae fusius tractatae*, prologue 3 & PG 31,896B).

SESSION 2

To live the Gospel virtues of poverty, purity and filial obedience in my thoughts and actions.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. **Philippians 4:8**

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God . . . If children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ. **Romans 8:14, 17**

VIRTUES:

Union of the Will: Captivated by love for God, the soul in all its deliberate actions is no longer guided by its personal will, so frail and inconsistent; but is directed by the will of God.

QUOTES:

With his passion, death, and resurrection, Jesus no longer speaks in parables, but clearly shows that he is sovereign and judge, and how he exercises his power. Jesus knows that the definitive victory of the Kingdom of God over the prince of this world will be won by the surrender of his life, by his filial obedience to the Father, showing with his life how the power of God works and what it means to be a child and image of God in the midst of a world that has lost grace. "Live the Mystery of the Kingdom"

POINTS TO PONDER:

Poverty of spirit is an essential condition for the growth of the human person and the development of a host of virtues. It maintains our soul open to God and our neighbor: it creates a spiritual climate favorable to interior docility, prayer, dialogue, and cooperation; it nurtures hope; it begins justice and mercy; it increases love and it brings us serenity, peace, and freedom of spirit.

In order to live out the ideal of chastity in their own state of life, the members of the movement apply the gospel precept of prayer and watchfulness. They approach the Lord, source of all grace and giver of all gifts, in a filial spirit. They strengthen their souls with the sacraments of the Eucharist and reconciliation. They also apply the natural means recommended by Christian asceticism, such as physical and mental rest, sports, the contemplation of nature, the good use of time and avoiding idleness.

SESSION 2

To live the Gospel virtues of poverty, purity and filial obedience in my thoughts and actions.

POINTS TO PONDER:

Christian obedience. By reason of their vocation to Regnum Christi, its members are invited to readily embrace our own charism, to observe its principles and guidelines, identify with its methodology and particular style of formation and apostolate, and to adhere in heart and mind to the directives and priorities that the movement offers them through its directors.

PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

- What struck me most in this section and why?
- What, if anything, did I not understand fully in this section?
- How would I explain the main point of this section in my own words?
- How can the main point of this section apply to me personally in my current season of life?
- To this point, what has been my experience living out this promise? Does it fill me with joy? Why or why not?

PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR LIVING THIS PROMISE (quiet reflection time)

- What is Christ trying to show me today in this promise I have made to Him?
- Am I living out His call to poverty of spirit?to filial obedience? purity in thought and action?
- What is He asking of me right now to live out these virtues more fully?
- What are my personal lights from these reflection questions?
- My personal resolution for this promise is as follows:

SESSION 3

Fulfill the duties of my state of life with love and honesty, as a service to God and to others.

STATUTES:

Humility and sincerity:

#25.1: We seek to imitate the humility of Christ, who lived constantly aware of having received everything from the Father's hands. We live our condition as creatures, and as sons and daughters in need of mercy and grace, with simplicity and an unshakable confidence in his love in every moment.

#25.2: We cultivate sincerity in our relationships with God and with our brothers and sisters. We strive for every-increasing consistency between our faith and our works. We are faithful to our word and act according to a conscience formed in the principles of right reason and the Gospel.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:

#2219: Filial respect promotes harmony in all of family life; it also concerns relationships between brother and sister. Respect toward "With all humility and meekness, with patience, {support} one another in charity."
(Eph 4:2)

#2427: Human work proceeds directly from persons created in the image of God and called to prolong the work of creation by subduing the earth, both with and for one another. (Gen 1:28, Gaudium et spes 34, and Encyclical Centesimus annus 31- John Paul 11) Hence work is a duty. "If anyone will not work, let him not eat."
(2 Thes 3:10; 1 Thes 4:11) Work honours the Creator's gifts and the talents received from him. It can also be redemptive. By enduring the hardship of work (Gen 3:14-19) in union with Jesus, the carpenter of Nazareth and the one crucified on Calvary, man collaborates in a certain fashion with the Son of God in his redemptive work. He shows himself to be a disciple of Christ by carrying the cross, daily, in the work he is called to accomplish. (Encyclical Laborem exercens 27) Work can be a means of sanctification and a way of animating earthly realities with the Spirit of Christ.

#2428: In work, the person exercises and fulfills in part the potential inscribed in his nature. The primordial value of labour stems from man himself, its author and its beneficiary. Work is for man, not man for work.
(Encyclical Laborem exercens 6)

Everyone should be able to draw from work the means of providing for his life and that of his family, and of serving the human community.

SESSION 3

Fulfill the duties of my state of life with love and honesty, as a service to God and to others.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. **Proverbs 16:3**

Whatever you do, do from the heart, as for the Lord and not for others, knowing that you will receive from the Lord the due payment of the inheritance; be slaves of the Lord Christ. **Colossians 3: 23 – 24**

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. **Galatians 6: 9**

VIRTUES:

Generosity: is the virtue which teaches us to spend ourselves, without counting the cost, without ever saying, "It is enough"; it teaches us to give ourselves completely, and to work with the maximum of love, not only in great things but also in little ones, even the least.

QUOTES:

As Regnum Christi members, we know we are sent to make the Kingdom of God present in our own hearts, in others' hearts, and in society. -Live the Mystery of the Kingdom

POINTS TO PONDER:

Everyone in the Church is called to be holy, according to St. Paul's words: "This is the will of God, your holiness." This holiness is shown in the fruits of grace that the Holy Spirit produces in the faithful. As a member of the Movement, seek to cooperate with God's grace by humbly beseeching him for it in prayer, increasing or recovering it by the fervent reception of the sacraments, exercising the Christian virtues, and by offering up in the morning the activities of each day. Foster friendship with the Holy Spirit, faithfully following his inspirations so as to accomplish the mission entrusted to you and fulfill the duties of your state in life. Keep always in mind that the exercise of gospel charity in your thoughts, words and deeds is the essence of Christ's message, and without it there can be no authentic Christian holiness.

Knowing that God's will is the only path that guarantees the complete fulfillment of the individual and his life project, always be open and attentive to God's voice in order to hear his call and follow him by means of the vocation, state in life and profession which he has in mind for each one. Answering this call requires not only fostering prayer and interior recollection, but also an attitude of generosity and magnanimity recognizing in our own vocation a loving and eternal plan of God to walk toward him by serving the Church and society, setting aside our personal likes and whims which are so unstable and relative.

SESSION 3

Fulfill the duties of my state of life with love and honesty, as a service to God and to others.

PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

- What struck me most in this section and why?
- What, if anything, did I not understand fully in this section?
- How would I explain the main point of this section in my own words?
- How can the main point of this section apply to me personally in my current season of life?
- To this point, what has been my experience living out this promise? Does it fill me with joy? Why or why not?

PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR LIVING THIS PROMISE (quiet reflection time)

- What is Christ trying to show me today in this promise that I have made to Him?
- Am I fulfilling the duties of my state of life with love...? with generosity?
- Do I stop to enjoy and give thanks for my state of life?
- Do I remember that fulfilling my state of life is serving and glorifying God?
- What is He asking of me right now to fulfill my state of life?
- What are my personal lights from these reflection questions?
- My personal resolution for this promise is as follows:

SESSION 4

Apply myself to my integral formation, and forge my Christian leadership.

STATUTES:

#30.1 To share a spirit and a mission requires that the formation of all must take into account the characteristic features and requirements of that spirit and mission. This formation must help us discover the full meaning of our lives in Christ, be configured to him, and fulfill our mission. Formation should be integral and include all the dimensions of the person.

#33. In their mission to form apostles, the members of the federated institutions and the associated faithful:

1. ° develop their own leadership, understood as the ability to inspire, guide and form others, and exercise this as a service, following Christ's example;
2. ° through their apostolic activity, seek to help others develop that same ability;
3. ° seek to evangelize the persons who bear particular responsibility in the various spheres of life in society;
4. ° bear witness to the truth and new life of the Gospel in the exercise of their social duties and their authority, serving the common good with Christian charity.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:

#1324: "The Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life.'" (Lumen gentium 11) "The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch." (Presbyterorum ordinis 5)

The Catechism expresses this purpose of human life in various ways for example:

#45: Man is made to live in communion with God in whom he finds happiness.

#1721: God put us in the world to know, to love, and to serve him, and so to come to paradise.

SESSION 4

Apply myself to my integral formation, and forge my Christian leadership.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Members of the Movement learn to think and express themselves clearly and logically so that they can apply and communicate that knowledge. He took the initiative by his incarnation: he came into the world to save us. He took the initiative in his public life: "he journeyed from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God..." **Luke 8**

He took the initiative in his passion, death, and resurrection, "I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own..." **John 10:17-18**

And his last words to the Apostles bequeathed that same leadership style to them: "Go and make disciples of all nations... As the Father sent me, I send you..." **Matthew 28:19; John 20:21**

VIRTUES:

Integral Formation: involves the whole person, allowing God's grace and truth to touch, transform and harmonize every dimension of our lives: spiritual, intellectual, human, and apostolic.

Leadership: Virtuous leadership is about achieving greatness by bringing out the greatness in others. Leaders are not born, they are made. It is a way of being, which can be lived by anyone, whatever your place in society or position in an organization. Leadership is not a matter of mere technique, but a way of being that flows from your character.

QUOTES:

I am convinced more than ever that living out and sharing our vision for integral formation is a significant contribution that the Lord wants Regnum Christi to make to the Church in this era of the New Evangelization. But for that to happen, we may need to renew our appreciation for this aspect of our charism, and to mature in our understanding of it. RC Formation Pathway Summary - Fr. John Bartunek, LC

We don't simply "work with" leaders; we form leaders to be apostles, to exercise their leadership to bring Christ to others. Rather than simply using their influence only for their own benefit, we bring them to exercise their influence for the good of others. Rather than simply excelling within the dominant societal culture in order to get ahead, they want to transform the culture with the message of the Gospel. - "The Quest for the Core: of the Regnum Christi Charism" by Owen Kearns, Patrick Langan

Session 4

Apply myself to my integral formation, and forge my Christian leadership.

POINTS TO PONDER:

Today, the Church needs Catholic leaders, that is to say, people who are motivated, formed and capable of exercising a positive influence in every sector of social life, through their personal witness, their word and their gospel charity. In this sense, and in virtue of the power of their own baptism, every Christian can and must become a leader in his/her milieu, and help his neighbour to have a personal experience of Christ and the vitality of the Church.

In order to be able to offer an effective service to the Church, Regnum Christi knows that it must have well-formed members, motivated and trained to take on the great challenges of the apostolate in today's world. This is an unavoidable demand since nothing can take the place of formation.

The primacy of grace in the apostolate does not exclude but rather presupposes the need for apt instruments in order to touch individual hearts – first the man, then the saint. Christ himself dedicated a good portion of his time and his apostolic life to preparing those who would be his instruments at the dawn of the Church.

The Church's mission is arduous: to preach the Kingdom of Christ to every heart and the whole of society in the midst of complex circumstances and in sometimes hostile or indifferent environments. This requires men and women of character, well-formed and dedicated to Christ's case. Hence, every member of the Movement must strive to acquire an integral formation that will enable him to fulfill effectively and responsibly his evangelizing mission.

This integral formation is articulated in four dimensions: spiritual, apostolic, intellectual and human.

The purpose of **spiritual formation** is to achieve in each Regnum Christi member a deep and solid spiritual life, built on the bedrock of their knowledge, love, imitation and following of Christ. It is sustained by the theological virtues, frequent reception of the sacraments, prayer, devotion to the Blessed Virgin, loyalty to the Church and a spirit of sacrifice.

The purpose of **apostolic formation** is to form in each member of the Movement the heart of an apostle, full of zeal for the salvation of mankind, and to provide each one with knowledge, skills and resources in order to be effective in some work of evangelization and Christian charity.

The purpose of **intellectual formation** is a broad and deep understanding of Catholic doctrine in perfect harmony with the Magisterium of the Church and in tune with the sensibilities of each time in history. By systematically and organically studying spiritual and doctrinal topics, as well as those of our specific charism. We want our members to be better able to live their faith, better answer the questions brought up by their contact with the word and to be able to preach the gospel more effectively.

Session 4

Apply myself to my integral formation, and forge my Christian leadership.

POINTS TO PONDER:

The purpose of **human formation** is to acquire a rich and balanced personality, full of human virtues and values, which will serve as a solid base for the supernatural action of grace. To this end, the Movement (Federation) first of all invites us to address the formation of a right conscience, following natural law and the gospel teachings, guided by the Magisterium of the Church. Members must also get to know themselves and accept their reality so as to work realistically and serenely to improve themselves. They should also work to maintain the proper order between the area of their instinct, sentiments and emotions on the one hand and their intellect and will on the other; achieve strength of character and a tenacious will; and develop social virtues such as discretion, politeness, simplicity and openness to others.

In addition to their personal effort and the help of divine grace in acquiring their integral formation, the members of the Movement (Federation) have at their disposal a program of formation that they receive through various means such as spiritual direction, the Encounter with Christ, study circles, monthly retreats, triduum of renewal, spiritual exercises, conventions, seminars and conferences.

The members of the Movement (Federation) must do all in their power to prepare themselves professionally and keep up to date in everything to do with the study and practice of their profession. This is a means of personal growth and will allow them to exert broader influence in society. Likewise, they must acquire a rich and appropriate cultural background that will give them a broad and deep understanding of man and the world, so as to cooperate more effectively in the Church's mission.

An apostle's formation never ends. In answer to the vast challenges facing the Church and the constant need to nourish our own spirit, every member of the Movement is faced with the task of ongoing formation with a deep sense of service to God and his neighbour.

PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

What struck me most in this section and why?

What, if anything, did I not understand fully in this section?

How would I explain the main point of this section in my own words?

How can the main point of this section apply to me personally in my current season of life?

To this point, what has been my experience living out this promise? Does it fill me with joy? Why or why not?

Session 4

Apply myself to my integral formation, and forge my Christian leadership.

PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR LIVING THIS PROMISE (quiet reflection time)

- What is Christ trying to show me today in this promise I have made to Him?
- What am I doing right now to continue to develop my integral formation?
- What area of integral formation am I in need of most to strengthen?
(Spiritual, Intellectual, Apostolic, Human)
- Is there an opportunity to forge my Christian Leadership that I can take advantage of?
- Do I have a spiritual guide? Can I visit with her/him about this promise...?
- What is Our Lord asking of me right now to strengthen my integral formation?
- What are my personal lights from these reflection questions?
- My personal resolution for this promise is as follows:

SESSION 5

Initiate and participate in apostolic initiatives.

STATUTES:

#4: The associated faithful contribute their secular nature and their apostolic action. The laypeople extend Christ's presence in the midst of the world and seek to transform temporal realities with the message of the Gospel, especially family life, professional life and life in society.

#9: Aware that the Kingdom of Christ is a gift and that we cannot build it by human strength alone, we seek to remain always in communion with Christ and with his Church, like the branch on the vine (see John 15:5). As followers and collaborators of Christ the Apostle, we know that prayer, participation in his cross, generosity in the service of others, trust in the action of his grace, and the witness of an authentically Christian life must precede and accompany all our apostolic action.

#11: Seeking to respond effectively to the principal needs of evangelization in our own sphere of life and without excluding any type of apostolic activity, we undertake initiatives and establish apostolic works directed especially at proclaiming the faith and spreading Catholic doctrine; at the Christian formation and education of children, adolescents and young adults; at the promotion of marriage and the family; at vocation ministry; at the evangelization of the professions, of culture and of the media; and at the promotion of social justice and the practice of the works of mercy.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:

#849: The missionary mandate. "Having been divinely sent to the nations that she might be 'the universal sacrament of salvation,' the Church, in obedience to the command of her founder and because it is demanded by her own essential universality, strives to preach the Gospel to all men."

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. **Matthew 28:18-20**

SESSION 5

Initiate and participate in apostolic initiatives.

VIRTUES:

Zeal for Souls: according to the measure in which the love of God takes possession of our heart, it creates and nourishes in us an ever increasing love for our neighbor; this love, being supernatural, seeks only the supernatural good of our fellow men and thus becomes zeal for the salvation of souls.

QUOTES:

There truly is work to do—both normal earthly work that needs to be seasoned with Christian love and grace in order to reach its full potential, as well as the more directly supernatural work of spreading faith in Jesus Christ. This is the work Jesus calls us all to engage in by sending us into his vineyard. This is the work his Church was established to accomplish. - Go!: 30 Meditations on How Best to Love Your Neighbor as Yourself by Fr. John Bartunek, LC

POINTS TO PONDER:

God the Father, moved by love, sent his son into the world to save mankind. Christ in turn sent the apostles to the ends of the earth to preach the joyful news that God is love and the time of salvation has come.

The mission stems from a deep, personal experience: your living and life changing encounter with Christ.

The mission has two conditions. Each member of the Movement must allow himself to be permeated by Christ's love for each person, the source that inspires.... And each one with the power of the Holy Spirit must be able to love every person with the very heart of Christ.

PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

What struck me most in this section and why?

What, if anything, did I not understand fully in this section?

How would I explain the main point of this section in my own words?

How can the main point of this section apply to me personally in my current season of life?

To this point, what has been my experience living out this promise? Does it fill me with joy? Why or why not?

SESSION 5

Initiate and participate in apostolic initiatives.

PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR LIVING THIS PROMISE (quiet reflection time)

- What is Christ trying to show me today in this promise I have made to Him?
- How can I daily, hear the call, open gift of His love, embrace the cross, and then be sent forth to share this love with others?
- Do I keep informed about the apostolic activities occurring in our section?
- Do I volunteer to help where I see a need?
- Am I eager to share an idea about an apostolic initiative I may have? If not, why not?
- What is he asking of me right now to participate in or initiate an apostolic activity?
- What are my personal lights from these reflection questions?
- My personal resolution for this promise is as follows:

SESSION 6

To profess a faithful and active love for the Holy Church, the Pope, and the other bishops.

STATUTES:

#14. By revealing the love that burns in his Heart, Christ invites us to love him and all he loves: The Father who sent him to redeem us; the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother and ours; the Church – his Mystical Body – and the Pope; all people, his brothers and sisters, for who he gave his life; and the spiritual family of Regnum Christi as a way to make his Kingdom present in our hearts and in society.

#16. We love the Church, the seed and beginning of the Kingdom on earth. We feel we are a living part of her and collaborate in her evangelizing mission. We are loyal to the Pope and the other bishops with love and obedience, know and spread his teachings, back his initiatives and support the local Church.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:

#2030: It is in the Church, in communion with all the baptized, that the Christian fulfills his vocation. From the Church he receives the Word of God containing the teachings of “the law of Christ” (Gal 6:2). From the Church he receives the grace of the sacraments that sustains him on the “way”. From the Church he learns the example of holiness and recognizes its model and source in the all-holy Virgin Mary; he discerns it in the authentic witness of those who live it; he discovers it in the spiritual tradition and long history of the saints who have gone before him and whom the liturgy celebrates in the rhythms of the sanctoral cycle.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Our Saviour “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”. **1Tim 2:4**

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. **Mt 28:19-20**

They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; thy word is truth. As thou didst send me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be consecrated in truth. **Jn 17: 16-19**

SESSION 6

To profess a faithful and active love for the Holy Church, the Pope, and the other bishops.

VIRTUES:

Love for the Church: Jesus loves us so much that He chose to remain with us in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, and through the Church as our Guide, our Shepherd, and our Teacher. The Church lives by Christ alone; she is holy with His holiness, she is the Mother of souls through her union with Him.

Love for Mary our Mother: In bringing Christ forth, in nourishing him, in presenting him to the Father, in suffering with her son as he died on the cross, she cooperated in the work of the Savior by obedience, faith, hope and burning love to restore supernatural life to souls. As result, she is our Mother in the order of grace.

Eucharistic Love: The Eucharistic Jesus is here with us as a brother, as a friend, as spouse of our souls. He wishes to enter within us, to be our food for eternal life, our love, our support. He wants to make us part of His mystical Body in which He would redeem us and save us, and then take us into the kingdom of Heaven to settle us in an everlasting bliss of love.

Fidelity to the Holy Spirit: Although He is eager to enter our souls and possess it, He takes only what we give Him, but does not give Himself wholly to us, until we give ourselves wholly to Him, respecting our liberty as free beings.

QUOTES:

....the charism of a spiritual family confers on its members a particular grace to contemplate, live, and communicate a particular mystery of Christ, and thus offer the Church and the world a specific way to make the Mystery of Christ present in its totality. In our case, we are called to contemplate and live “the mystery of Christ who goes out to people, reveals the love of his heart to them, gathers them together and forms them as apostles and Christian leaders, sends them out and accompanies them” (SRCF #8) - Regnum Christi Identity According to the Regnum Christi Federation Statutes

Christ Jesus, King and Lord of the Church, in your presence I renew my unconditional loyalty to your Vicar on earth, the Pope. - Regnum Christi Prayer Book

SESSION 6

To profess a faithful and active love for the Holy Church, the Pope, and the other bishops.

POINTS TO PONDER:

Christ loves his Church “and handed himself over for her.” (Eph 5:25) In order to fulfill his Father’s design to save all mankind from sin, Christ established a new people of God, which is the Church. The Church, founded on the rock of Peter and guided by the apostles and their successors, is the universal sacrament of salvation. In her and through her Christ continues to gather together into one body all mankind scattered by sin. The Church is his Mystical Body, the Kingdom of God made present in human history, the Mother who engenders us for eternal life.

Through the Church and in the Church, we receive our faith in Christ, the sacraments that give us grace, and the fullness of truth about God and his plans for salvation. Christ gives himself to us by means of the Church. Consequently, if we don’t passionately love the Church, love and obey the Pope with the bishops that Christ has put there to guide her, and faithfully adhere to the doctrine she transmits to us, we do not love Christ himself.

PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

- What struck me most in this section and why?
- What, if anything, did I not understand fully in this section?
- How would I explain the main point of this section in my own words?
- How can the main point of this section apply to me personally in my current season of life?
- To this point, what has been my experience living out this promise? Does it fill me with joy? Why or why not?

PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR LIVING THIS PROMISE (quiet reflection time)

- What is Christ trying to show me today in this promise I have made to Him?
- How do I profess my faithful and active love for the Holy Church, the Pope and the other bishops?
- When I see questionable articles in news reports about the Pope, the bishops and the Church, do I accept it as truth? Do I seek clarity?
- How do I extend a warm welcome to newcomers in my parish? Do I feel accepted and included in my parish? If not, why?
- Do I invite and welcome others to the Eucharistic banquet? To the sacraments? To formation programs, studies and parish social events?
- What are my personal lights from these reflection questions?
- My personal resolution for this promise is as follows:

SESSION 7

Generously offer my prayer, talents, time and material goods to collaborate in the mission of Regnum Christi at the service of the Church.

STATUTES:

#10. The personal experience of Christ's love produces an interior urging in our hearts that impels us to passionate self-giving in order to make his Kingdom present: 'caritas Christi urget nos' (2 Corinthians 5:14).

This passion moves us to take on a way of living that is characterized by:

- accepting that following Christ includes spiritual combat, the struggle marked by perseverance and trust in the Lord in the face of the reality of evil and sin in one's own life and in society, moved by the power of love to the extreme;
- undertaking with a magnanimous, enthusiastic, and creative heart the actions that make the Kingdom present in greater depth and extent;
- going out to address the most pressing needs of the world and the Church;
- facing challenges with courage and boldness in our personal lives and in the apostolate;
- making the most of the opportunities that arise in life to proclaim the love of Christ with Christian audacity;
- fulfilling the responsibilities, we assumed and striving to give the best of ourselves both in our formation and in our work.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:

#1880.... By means of society, each man is established as an heir and receives certain "talents" that enrich his identity and whose fruits he must develop.....

#2818 In the Lord's Prayer, 'thy kingdom come' refers primarily to the final coming of the reign of God through Christ's return, but far from distracting the Church from her mission in this present world, this desire commits her to it all the more strongly.

#2820.....Man's vocation to eternal life does not suppress, but actually reinforces, his duty to put into action in this world the energies and means receive from the Creator.....

SESSION 7

Generously offer my prayer, talents, time and material goods to collaborate in the mission of Regnum Christi at the service of the Church.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Above all hold unfailing your love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins. Practice hospitality ungrudgingly to one another. As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. **1 Peter 4:8-10**

We want you to know, brethren, about the grace of God which has been shown in the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of liberality on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints – and this, not as we expected, but first they gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God. **2 Corinthians 8: 1-5**

VIRTUES:

Seeking God in Prayer: If we wish to find God in prayer, we must begin by making this very firm decision of our will: to put aside everything – all care, all preoccupation with human things- and concentrate all the powers of our souls on God alone. Without these prayerful intervals, it is a real illusion to pretend to live a spiritual life-not only a serious one, but even the most elementary one.

Collaborative Spirit: In order to live our mission to the full, collaboration is needed. Collaboration is both mutual and intentional—when we are honest with ourselves, we are able to identify our own insufficiencies and realize the need we have for others to complete us and possibly for us to complete others in a God-ordained way. Once we see the beauty of collaboration with this understanding, we can take on the posture of generosity in a different way.

Good Use of Time: God has assigned to each of us a definite time in which to fulfill His divine plan for our soul; we have only this time and no more. Time ill spent is lost forever.

SESSION 7

Generously offer my prayer, talents, time and material goods to collaborate in the mission of Regnum Christi at the service of the Church.

QUOTES:

Regnum Christi Apostles:

- ...yearn to continue knowing, loving, and following Christ more and more closely, and therefore actively seek to go deeper in their prayer and sacramental life, to be ever more fully “united to the vine” (cf. John 15).
- ...feel themselves co-responsible for the life of the Church, whose “deepest identity” is evangelizing, who “exists in order to evangelize” (St. Paul VI, EN 14), and therefore are always ready and willing to reach out to others with the Gospel message. They do this through one-on-one encounters, through sanctifying their everyday activities, and especially through creative and organized apostolic action in harmony with their particular lay vocation in the Church, which emphasizes transforming the temporal order with the leaven of the Gospel.
- ...are convinced that Christ’s Kingdom here on earth is constantly being opposed by sin and by the “powers of darkness” (Eph. 6:12), and therefore live out every aspect of their Christian identity and mission dynamically, with courage, resilience, and astuteness. This is what we have traditionally called a militant spirit.
- ...are equally convinced that in Christ the everlasting victory has already been won and given to us through grace, and therefore their lives are marked by a sincere and spontaneous spirit of optimism and joy .
- ...view time as one of God’s most precious gifts, and therefore seek to use their time wisely and responsibly as a way of glorifying and loving the Lord (cf. SRCF #21).

-Regnum Christi Formation Pathway

PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

- What struck me most in this section and why?
- What, if anything, did I not understand fully in this section?
- How would I explain the main point of this section in my own words?
- How can the main point of this section apply to me personally in my current season of life?
- To this point, what has been my experience living out this promise? Does it fill me with joy? Why or why not?

SESSION 7

Generously offer my prayer, talents, time and material goods to collaborate in the mission of Regnum Christi at the service of the Church.

PROPOSED QUESTIONS FOR LIVING THIS PROMISE (quiet reflection time)

- What is Christ trying to show me today in this promise I have made to Him?
- Do I generously offer my prayer... talents... time... and material goods to collaborate in the mission of Regnum Christi?
- What is He asking of me right now? Offer more prayer? More of my God-given talent? More of my time? More of my financial support for our section/our movement?
- What are my personal lights from these reflection questions?
- My personal resolution for this promise is as follows:

SOURCES:

Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation

Bible Verses – Ignatius, Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition

Catechism of the Catholic

RC Formation Pathway

Autumn Meditations - Fr. John Bartunek, LC

Live the Mystery of the Kingdom

The Quest for the Core - Fr. Owen Kearns, LC and Fr. Patrick Langan, LC

Go!: 30 Meditations on How Best to Love Your Neighbor as Yourself - Fr. John Bartunek, LC

Regnum Christi Identity According to the Regnum Christi Federation Statutes

Regnum Christi Prayer Book

RC Spirituality general questions