



REGNUM CHRISTI

Portrait of the Regnum Christi Chaplain

A chaplain is a priest to whom is entrusted in a stable manner the pastoral care, at least in part, of some community or particular group of the Christian faithful, which is to be exercised according to the norm of universal and particular law. (Canon 564)

The Legionaries of Christ, by their religious consecration, contribute the testimony of their self-giving to Jesus Christ and their complete availability for the fulfillment of the common mission. By their condition as priests, they make present Christ the Priest and the Good Shepherd through preaching, administering the sacraments and spiritual guidance. In communion with all, they collaborate in the integral formation, direction and apostolic projection of the associated faithful, promoting the fullness of their baptismal vocation and Christian leadership; and they establish institutions and initiate actions that can most contribute, in depth and in extent, to building the Kingdom of Christ in society. (Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation #3.5.2)

Most Regnum Christi sections are assigned a chaplain whose role is to *foster and promote the liturgical and sacramental life of the section and collaborate in the spiritual formation of the lay members. (Rule of Life #35)*

While exercising his own leadership, the chaplain respects the authority of the section director making himself available to accompany and help form the lay members in both leadership roles and the general membership. The chaplain is a shepherd of the section.

Being a good shepherd means living the ministry as a service, especially in "readiness to allow oneself to be taken up, as it were 'consumed,' by the needs and demands of the flock" (Pastores Dabo Vobis, 28). In the words of the Apostle, we are "slaves for the sake of Jesus" (2 Corinthians 4:5). (Ratio #319)

Qualities of a Regnum Christi Chaplain

The Legionary chaplain knows his influence lies in his spiritual fatherhood. His mission flows from his identity as a priest configured to Christ, and he strives to imitate the way Christ lived and fulfilled his mission from the Heavenly Father. He is another Christ for Regnum Christi members. He offers the sacraments, he nourishes them with his own spiritual life which flows from his personal relationship with Christ and the power of His priesthood. He offers counsel at all levels of the section where appropriate. He accompanies and listens to each individual member (from section director to the newest member). He longs to see that every member reaches their full potential as RC apostles. Being grounded in his identity, the chaplain's security is not threatened when others grow and flourish as leaders. He desires to see Regnum Christi members respond fully to their personal call to holiness and apostolate and rejoices with them as they bear fruit for the Kingdom.

The Regnum Christi members see in him a safe space where they can share their inner lives with confidence. Due to his unique vision as a spiritual father, his insights may be sought by many members in the section. As he imitates Christ, he makes himself available to the multitude, while recognizing those he must capacitate with more personalized attention. He works to serve as Christ came to serve, looking for lasting fruits that will remain beyond his assignment as chaplain. His work is person to person and collaborative; sometimes initiating, other times following, as members live out their vocations in their various states of life.

The Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation remind us about the importance of formation in the life of each member. The chaplain plays a key role in this regard through his efforts to accompany:



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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. (Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation 30)

Accompaniment is required to form convinced apostles who aspire to the fullness of life in Christ. Accompaniment is understood as close, stable personal attention marked by selfless service. It seeks to help the other be open to the action of grace and contribute their own human collaboration, so they can respond to the questions and challenges they encounter on their journey of human and spiritual growth (Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation 35).

An important contribution of the Regnum Christi chaplain is his efforts to foster co-responsibility and complementarity, and cultivate communion, fundamentals set out in the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation 28-29. This implies that the Regnum Christi chaplain is grounded in his identity and strives to help others live from their own identity. His spiritual fatherhood capacitates him to give and to receive and therefore to reflect to the RC member his love as father and friendship as brother.

Recommended Practices as Chaplain:

- Assimilate and transmit the RC Identity as articulated in the statutes and subsequent documents in the section.
- Be familiar with the Rule of Life of the lay member and the resources available in the Regnum Christi Formation Pathway toolkit.
- Schedule a regular weekly meeting with the section director. Offer support in any way needed. (Be open about your own skill sets and how you can apply them in the section).
- Be humble but proactive. Where could the ministry of presence strengthen the section? Do not underestimate the impact of the chaplain's presence within the leadership teams and members, but be wary of becoming a necessity for forward progress.
- Offer to attend all the leadership meetings in the section: AFIRE or Section Work team, Team Leader training, Spiritual Director formation etc.
- Pay special attention to the identification and formation of formators and potential formators within the section. Look to assist the section directors identify those with corresponding gifts and skills to fill leadership roles within Regnum Christi.
- Develop a working relationship with each of the AFIRE coordinators or Section Work Team.
- If possible attend personally the Encounter with Christ prayer meetings of each team so that the members get to know the chaplain personally.
- Offer support and encouragement to the lay spiritual directors, working with the section director to offer ongoing formation and accompaniment to those who guide others. Supervision is essential for all spiritual directors. Regnum Christi asks each member serving in this capacity to participate in supervision either peer to peer or one on one. Section Directors are required to account for this accompaniment. Identify those who might benefit seeing you for direction or supervision.
- Make yourself available to all those in the section seeking guidance regarding their apostolate or spiritual life.
- Contribute to the development of the section formation and evangelization plan.
- Offer feedback or ways you see the section can synergize with others and support the life of RC in the locality.
- Look to visit RC Families in their homes to strengthen the sense of belonging in the community and as a living testimony to the vocation of the priesthood.
- Be dedicated to the Principles of Apostolic Action as outlined in the Statutes and their application within the section.