

# Encounter with Christ Discussion Guides

In preparation for the 2024 General Convention, Regnum Christi teams throughout the territory were given a series of discussion guides on theme of “Discerning and Living the Mission Together”. These resources were offered as a help with apostolic discernment on concrete topics from life and surroundings, listening to the needs of the world and the Church from our charism.

Eight areas of the apostolic activity of Regnum Christi were chosen as themes for the discussion guides, which are found in number 11 of the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation. Each one of these discussion guides was meant to be used as an Encounter with Christ, to help each community to go deeper into each topic and discern what the Lord is inviting us to do as a team, as a section, and as Regnum Christi.

The discussion guides were made available in October 2022 through June 2023. All teams (lay, CRC and LC) were encouraged to make use of these discussion guides as part of the local phase. Shared reflections were then compiled and made available for delegates of the 2023 Territorial Convention.

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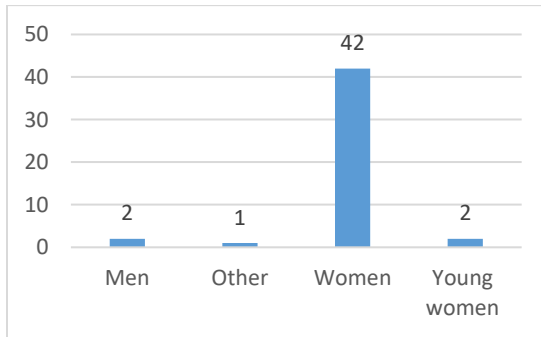
## Discussion Guide 1: Proclamation of the Faith and the New Evangelization

### Audience Analysis

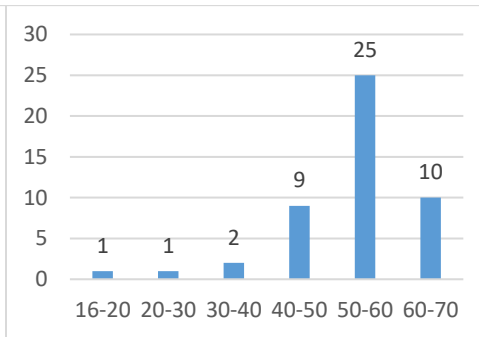
**Number of teams who participated: 48**

Atlanta (12)	Diaspora (3)	Ontario (3)
Calgary (6)	Heartland (1)	Other (7)
Cincinnati (5)	Manila (2)	Raleigh (4)
Dallas (1)	New Orleans (3)	
Detroit (1)	NY Tri-State (2)	

**Type of teams:**



**Average team members' age:**



- 1. How well do we know how to approach and interpret the world around us, our concrete surroundings, and how well do we let ourselves be challenged by it?**

  - Highly aware and challenged.
  - We know how to approach in a Christian sense and apostolic zeal, but often fall into the trap of fear of the response of others if we ask them to join us. We don't always rise to the challenge of evangelizing.
  - We share the Regnum Christi foundation to reach out with the spiritual tools we have for the people Christ puts on our hearts & in our path...However, we're less likely to seek challenges with those unfamiliar that don't share our belief or overtly disagree.
  - We know that the world is an ever changing equation, but biblical truths are constant. The world to us begins with the people in our homes. We know how to approach the world, but we don't always react well. We often don't know what the world is going to challenge us with: we need to pray to know the truth, hear, see, feel, the truth. How well do we let ourselves be challenged by it: We sense the challenge, but don't always speak up. Or, our first instinct is to pushback -- we act like a bulldozer, but we more often ought to use a light touch. We can evangelize by the way we are acting - people watch. We can be a good listener. We already know how this story ends - why do we not share that, and try to get everybody to heaven? Think about a great football team:



Nick Saban is so good, because he is humble enough to cater to the generations. We need to be humble, but not be like Pharisees by being proud that we are humble. We need to understand the starting points of each person...Jesus wants to meet each person where they are. Look at challenges as opportunities. We can train ourselves to not be confrontational before we leave through the door each morning, and learn from our past mistakes. From Excalibur: "It is the doom of men that they forget."

- Not very well
- We see the world around us through our faith. Our encounter help us accept the challenges we face.
- Attacks on the faith are common in the workplace, and our culture, and even among Catholics. We are responding to the challenges to our faith through living our faith and being faithful to our commitments, particularly those we have made in Regnum Christi.
- Over our years of participation in Regnum Christi we can see things through the lens that the victory has been won but it is still difficult to interpret the world. Yet we know that God is in control and everything is part of God's plan and we can be assured that He will use everything we give him for good. In listening to the world around us and what is needed, we are called to respond with love. We are apostles of Christ and we can challenge ourselves by being God's hands. In this struggle and doubt, we learn to abandon ourselves to God and trust in him.
- Through the grace of the encounter we are able to "put on our Spiritual Eyes" and see the world around us as God would. We seek to see the world through God's perspective. Our Encounters enable us to use all of our encounters with others as opportunities for evangelization. We use the encounters and the case studies as motivations for change.
- RC helps inform how I look at the world & choices I make, what I focus on with media, news, social media; I don't let it disturb my peace; I use my Team resolution as guidance in how I look at the world; I walk with others, appreciate where they come from and look at them with Christian eyes; I take the real world in bite-sized pieces, careful of too much consumption then take a break with the good things in life - I don't dwell, don't attach and take time to process; I hear the news and choose to be an intercessor, pray and lift it up to God's will, the challenge is to remain focused on my call and not get pulled away, modeling my life after how Christ lived and how he was called to act in the midst of suffering and real life drama; we can't fix the world but we can help one person at a time using Mother Theresa as an example.
- We strive to put the Charism of Regnum Christi into our ever changing individual states of life. We are in the process of discerning and are open how the Holy Spirit is calling us to proclaim and evangelize.
- It is helpful for us to understand the influences that affect society: communism, false anthropology, woundedness, lack of community, and consumerism, to name a few. We need (and do) educate ourselves in these areas.
- If we close our doors, how can we evangelize people?  
The challenge is to evangelize people who are outside our circle.
- We know this well in general. However, in our daily activities, we struggle to live charitably with those who irritate us or anger us. We may recognize the challenge but we may not always take the opportunities to evangelize/share the love of Christ.



- The consensus was "well." We feel, as Regnum Christi members, that we have been formed through a global lens; to see humanity in a bigger perspective, and because of that, our formation is for anyone and for anywhere. (A sincere gratitude for the gift of Regnum Christi formation was discussed here at great length). We were able to immediately define our concrete surroundings: there is a lot of suffering. Suffering in the world in general, and suffering in our more immediate spheres of influence. Feeling often as if we are in a bombardment. Overwhelmed. The reality we see is that so many things need attention. But acknowledging and then actually doing are two separate realities. Our DESIRE is call to action. Our TENDENCY, however is often the opposite. Often we won't leave our safety square to meet the challenges. We feel it's too difficult to step outside of our square. We might even feel repulsed by the disorder/ugliness. Uncomfortable. We have to prayerfully ask ourselves, "How can we go outside of our square?"
- We feel that as Regnum Christi members we have been given the tools and approach and interpret the world around us and especially when we feel challenged. Many felt that they are more willing to let themselves be challenged by the world now that they are RC members.
- Focus on people, avoid scandal (news). Practice virtue when dealing with everyone.
- All of us are mothers and some are grandmothers, so most of what we know and are challenged by is through our family dynamics. We are concerned about the pagan culture we live in because it affects our children and grandchildren. Many of us believe that we should talk openly about issues in our culture rather than trying to shield our children from it. Our Encounters have become great ways of learning from each other and each other's' experiences through our Catholic Faith lens. There's wonderful insight that's shared and it helps all of us navigate these troubled times we live in. For example, in the fall we discussed the problem of the Halloween culture and a younger mom wanted to know how to navigate these waters with her young son. We were able to discuss ways and strategies to help her think of alternative solutions to what is offered in our world and she was grateful to talk about this with our team. That's the beauty of the Encounters. We can discuss situations and then analyze it through the lens of scripture and our faith.
- We are open to growing and learning on how to approach the issues of the world around us, from abortion, gender change/mutilation, social media, isolation, etc. We try to maintain our peace and love, but at the same time respond and remedy the situation if possible, via prayer and action.

**2. How well do we know our faith and how to adapt it to the context in which we live and concrete situations?**

- Well-formed in faith. Adapting it to the context of concrete situations is challenging.
- Each of us studies the faith & adapts as our life circumstances. We are each aware that it is necessary to remain close to the Sacraments in order to see concrete growth.
- We know our faith & the freedom it brings to us. We share & speak in love but are vulnerable to rejection, fear, lies, risk... We need to love thru it all & ask Jesus to help us be aware of the needs around us & respond--giving others the opportunity for belief.



- Love God, and our neighbor as ourselves. We may have read the bible and catechism, but don't catch onto maybe the true meaning at first. Think about chastity – not abstinence, it is the freedom to love. As our situations change, our faith adapts.
- Our case of life every week and our encounter helps us to live our faith in the many different situations we face. By living our faith and living our virtues we follow Christ.
- We know our faith well and find it challenging to adapt it to concrete situations, particularly those in social settings, even among Catholics. Many Catholics are cultural and are not practicing their faith. With our young adult children, knowing our faith helps us answer their questions.
- The love of God impels us. God's love, along with the sacraments, give us the guidance and energy to face situations that come up in our lives. We not only invest in learning about our faith, but in living out our faith in spite of challenges. Our RC community allows us to go deeper in accompanying each other. In our Encounters we make resolutions based on the case and virtues. This is a concrete way to live out our faith. It is an integral part that encourages us to live out our faith through these resolutions.
- We know our faith well and we continue to use the formation offered to grow in faith. We feel we have the opportunity to live our faith in the concrete realities of our day and in apostolic outreach. Each woman on the team is involved in activities to grow in faith and offer it to others, example: Walking with Purpose, Faith Formation, etc. We recognize we have so much more to learn and strive to make this part of our existence.
- see answers to #1
- We are grateful for our formation and recognize the need for continued formation and knowledge of church and Regnum Christi teaching/concrete ways and ways to evangelize in our sphere of influence; specifically ways to evangelize the unchurched and those weak in Faith.
- We know our faith well and have a relationship with Jesus. This is paramount. Otherwise, it is knowledge for the sake of knowledge. We need to focus on what is good, true, and beautiful and to meet people where they are. We need to share with them Jesus Christ. We need to recognize people's brokenness and desire for healing. Also, accompaniment through difficult situations is a way to bring others to the Faith.
- We see the importance of being a friend to someone to be able to evangelize the person, especially when it comes to moral issues.  
It is in the encounter with the person where evangelization happens.
- We know and love our faith. Some of us struggle with sharing the gospel, but we know we can share Christ's love and exhibit virtues towards others.
- The consensus was that we KNOW our faith well. We've been given so much in Regnum Christi. We know that formation comes first and then its result is apostolic action. We recognize that it's the action piece that is more difficult. It was discussed at great length that we don't always know how to adapt in concrete situations. In instances that don't happen often, or in instances that are so much of the world (repulsive/disordered), we don't adapt as well as we'd like.
- We know our faith and how to adapt it in the world that we live because of the tools that RC has given us through formation and deeper prayer lives. We have a desire to learn more about our faith as RC members.



- In tough situations, wait, listen, respond (speak) if necessary, especially if inspired by the Holy Spirit
- We believe that Regnum Christi encourages us to grow in the faith, so we feel pretty comfortable with our faith and living it in concrete situations. Many of us are teachers and catechists in our parish.
- We believe that we know our faith well and what God in His Bible and Church teaches us, but are aware that we need to discern and learn on how to follow the "spirit of the law" instead of the "letter of the law".

### **3. What opportunities for evangelization do we find around us?**

- We find opportunities in ourselves, our families, our church community, and the society around us. (schools, community & faith organizations)
- Each team member has different circumstances in family life, work, social life and apostolate where we can evangelize. Our formation through RC helps us know HOW to evangelize. Yet, we see little growth in our section because we are stuck in a comfort zone.
- Unlimited! There are those that believe but have no one to share their faith with.(e.g. elderly, ignored parishioners)...Those in the periphery...encounters in every moment of our day with others who are "hungry" for the meaning & joy Christ could bring to their lives...those who need comfort...parents struggling with children's choices...gender confusion, etc.
- Topics: What it means to be a man and a woman, what it means to have an intimate, complete relationship. Gender identity opportunities. Value of chastity – can't give what we don't have. Venues: Prison ministries, homeless, unchurched, where we normally spend our time (family and workplace) - these are our opportunities.
- Youth , Parents & seniors
- We witnessed at Planned Parenthood weekly during 40 Days for life and join the March for Life every January. We have different resolutions and commitments that we live by to keep us focused on the right path.
- Parents at school, our workplaces, our young adult children, in social settings; accompanying those that are lost and suffering; opportunities arise every day.
- There are unlimited opportunities for evangelization. We find opportunities within our family, in the work place, and within our local and world communities.
- Evangelization takes place in innumerable ways throughout the day personally and in ministries, work and personal life.
- Family-by living where they are & teaching by example; apostolate-placing JC at the center; job-evangelizing while at work; witnessing to Catholic teaching in social media; mentoring & helping them find Christ in various available Catholic media outlets or at parish; I use food/meals to neighbors with a book or prayer card; with family by sharing stories; giving small gifts with meaning; thoughtful actions that show Christian love; at the store in casual conversations inviting others to events; posting events on social media; not being afraid to post positive comments about the Catholic faith or relevant teachings to show the truth.
- Individual Parish needs. Marriage/family. Priestly vocations



- Using good resources: Inviting people to watch The Chosen. It portrays Jesus as merciful and can help people come to know Jesus, Inviting people to watch any of the programs on Formed, (knowing good resources and passing them on), Accompaniment: walking with people 1:1, reaching out to those who are suffering or are away from the faith, build relationships, invite others to share community, because people feel so isolated (invite to retreats).
- An opportunity of evangelization is living our Catholic faith well. "Subtle evangelization" - ex. tumbler with John 3:16. Being simple and open in living out our faith--being God's instrument by just being you. Have the courage to evangelize! Continue to live out the faith even if some don't. Having more formation helps to evangelize others.
- Kindness to others, rising above situations, finding the good in others and finding ways to show love in difficult situations
- There are many. There is so much suffering around us. Everyone is struggling with something. Suffering is sacred grounds for evangelization. Simply, we can be that face of Christ to others, and His arms of comfort and unconditional love. Ways to do this: authenticity in our proclaiming of Christ. How? By being people of humility and simplicity. BEING more and PREACHING less, always motivated by the thought of, "When they encounter me, Lord, let them encounter you."
- There are so many opportunities for evangelization in our everyday lives. It occurs most often as we go about daily activities and share our lives and experiences with those around us.
- Unlimited
- After discussing this, we think our best focus is marriage and families. To be able to have the most impact would be to work at doing a better job with women in our parishes.
- RC team, Church, work, family, relationships, people we come across in our daily lives.

**4. Can we say that our discernment and our apostolic action are rooted in prayer and in our personal experience of the love of Christ?**

- Yes.
- Each team member strives to root her life in prayer. Building our relationship with Christ gives us an opportunity to love Christ by loving others.
- Yes. Although, we're guilty of "omission" with good intentions but fragmented efforts.
- Yes, when we are talking about apostolic actions that arise from Encounter with Christ case studies. However, and it is tough to say this...where are we pulling our "truth" from? Such polarized news now – we need to pull away from the news and return to the real Word. WE know that Christ has this endless source of love for every one of us – he did it for me! Talk up the love of Christ, and don't be distracted by the noise of the world.
- Yes
- Yes by our commitment in RC to weekly adoration and prayer, and the mass we are rooted in love of Christ. Also by our work in our parishes evangelization.
- Yes, through our Regnum Christi prayer commitments.
- Yes! We are Christ's apostles and we strive to follow his example.
- Yes, in the encounter we place everything in prayer with Christ.



- All we do as a Team is rooted in our reflections and resolutions; my personal experience of Jesus Christ informs my actions; we want to be an apostolate not an organization; our integral formation changes us in prayer and helps us bring that to others; our Teams AFIRE duties allow us to be apostolic.
  - Consistency of attending encounter for individuals varies. While each has good individual prayer lives and personal experience of Christ, coming together to pray consistently as a team is difficult because of varying states of life, changing states of life. ei. Taking care of parent's, grandchildren, retirement of spouses and needing to be with them. As we age we feel energy levels are decreasing
  - Yes. With our fundraiser for the Consecrated Women in Cincinnati, we discern what our theme/topic should be. It gives us an opportunity to reach out to others. We prayerfully try to respond to the needs of the times by hosting Kids4Jesus, iGirl talk, Familia. One on one accompaniment has great impact. Also, partnering with others for apostolic activity (St. Paul Street Evangelization, and Urban Encounter).
  - Missions (Mission Youth) has all the 5 elements of RC, especially Holy Week Missions. In this environment, this apostolic action is definitely rooted in prayer and in our personal experience of the love of Christ.  
When things were shifted to online because of the pandemic, it was harder to perceive if certain apostolates were rooted in prayer and in our personal experience of Christ or just out of obligation.
  - We need to reflect on this and pray about this on an ongoing basis. We need to do a better job of taking apostolic actions and sharing about RC. We used to have so much more in Jacksonville but we are smaller now and not growing. We don't have the consecrated and other resources that we used to have.
  - Yes, we can.  
We discussed at great length here the importance of making ourselves available and open to God in prayer so that He can clarify in us our calls to action.  
We also discussed the importance of being true to those resolutions, both individual and team resolutions. We discussed the beauty of our team resolutions and how they are special in that they are prayerfully discerned together.
  - Most definitely yes
  - Yes
  - Absolutely! Many of us pray for discernment for our apostolates.
  - Yes. We strive to emulate the love of Christ in our actions and day to day interactions, but we realize that we fail quite often and need God's Grace to help us discern His Will and how He would like us to act and respond.
- 5. As Regnum Christi, what elements should we take into account in the apostolic discernment of reality? How can we go out to meet people in our concrete circumstances, in order to evangelize more fruitfully?**
- Our objective is to draw others to Christ based on our prayer & discernment. Assess through prayer and listening how Christ is calling us to evangelize where we are today – in family, school, community and parish involvement.





- As RC, we use the tools of Spiritual Direction, Team Dialogue and conversation with other team members, in addition to our sacramental life to discern our reality. We can engage in our apostolic work more deliberately, striving to show Christ's love by meeting others where they are.
- Don't be Afraid! Of the unknown response or rejection. Connect with others, step UP & reach out regardless. Scatter & nurture ALL seeds. Go deeper in faith.
- Prayer and Sacramental Life: Do I rely on myself to "pray when convenient", or intentionally go somewhere to pray without distraction? Being deliberate is important; it is too easy to give excuses on busy days. Get to adoration and mass as often as possible, Spiritual Direction, and Encounters with Christ – these will all help us do an appropriate discernment of reality.
- How can we go out: Look at where we spend our time as opportunities, approach people in humility? Balance our home and work life. We need to give people our undivided attention, choose moments when we can do this, but really listen, provide a delicate truth. Need to have these same types of conversations at home. Have empathy for those that can't grasp the truth at first – and we need to speak the truth in love, not hate. Encountering Christ moves us to where he wants us to be. Pray for all. Be sure in what sustains us, and then let it come through us, Reach out to diverse groups. Our apostolates should flow from our case studies, when we ACT on what we SEE and JUDGE.
- We are planning a family Retreat camp
- Our state of life as mature women with husbands, adult children and grandchildren afford us many opportunities to evangelize and go out to others and share Christ message.
- We always have the apostolic field in front of us. We can evangelize more fruitfully by applying the virtues of charity in the home and in the workplace and in our local parishes, realizing it is the consistent effort over time that will bear fruit.  
We have made Blessing Bags for the homeless, served the young adults at Benedictine College who were on retreat, led the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls in Challenge girls club and will have Holy Week Missions in downtown Kansas City and downtown Atchison.
- We follow the Ignatian rules of discernment to have true discernment of the spirit that comes from God. It is important to understand our charism so we can use the gifts that we were given to their fullest. By being generous with our talents we can then serve others. If we are in tune with the Holy Spirit throughout our day, we will feel the pull and inspiration to evangelize at every opportunity.
- The elements we look at are the virtues evident in the case, we look at it through the eyes of the Gospel and Regnum Christi characteristics of spirituality. We look at these lights and use it to drive our personal actions.
- The RC methodology allows us the framework/structure to be accountable and speak & act in a concrete way; we place our God-given talents at the feet of Christ and the movement to build the Kingdom here on earth.
- Work closely, be available to Parrish
- We should ask: Do we have availability? What projects have the greatest scope and depth?
- What elements should we take into account: the poor people; we're really called to be one with them, help them in our capacity – not just during missions but also in everyday life



Image that RC is for the elite – how others perceive us also affect how we evangelize; the intentions are always good, but sometimes it can come off “snobbish” for others. We have to be critical on how we approach things.

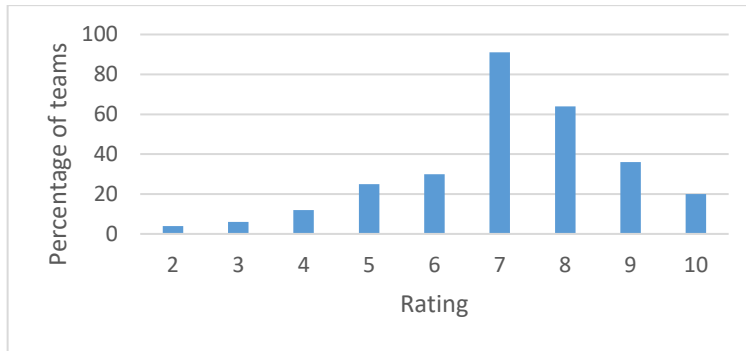
Sometimes it comes across that we are the saviors–the Messiah complex.

We should have more an emphasis on who we are in missions–that this translates to everyday life and not just in missions

Helping others in a sustained way

- It's important for us to understand others' reality and meet them where they are. Tell them what Jesus has done for our life and tell them what RC has done for my life. We are not doing much to share RC in our parishes.
- We should take into account the four pillars of formation. We feel that we are heavy on Spiritual, heavy on Intellectual, and as a movement, we generally yield to those two pillars. We consistently talk about apostolic formation, but in the 4<sup>th</sup> pillar, however, the Human formation, we are super weak. We feel that we lack skills and the CONFIDENCE in this pillar. That's the missing piece, the weak part. How does this show itself? We too often stay in our comfort zones. Why do we like staying in our spiritual square? It's EASY to stay in the Adoration Chapel. The enemy tells us it's comfortable there. We experience FEAR. We experience INTIMIDATION. We are not interacting with souls enough! We aren't fulfilling our mission when we stay in our spiritual squares. We need to ask ourselves, “Where are we spending our time daily?” The consensus is that we need practical tools of human formation to get us there.
- By our authentic witness in our everyday lives we evangelize others by sharing our experiences and inviting them.
- The harvest is vast, the laborers are few. God put us in our position to go out and bring his word, his love, his light those who are stifled by darkness or weak in their faith
- We need to focus on joy! We must realize that there will always be the bad with the good, but rather than getting overwhelmed with the negatives, we must focus on the positives. Focusing on the wheat (the good) and not the weeds (the bad) will help us to be more fruitful. We need to listen to people where they are and avoid judging, give all situations to Christ in prayer, learn from each other, and accompany each other.
- We need to meet people where they are at. Evangelization happens more naturally in casual encounters with people, such as in hobbies, walks, games, etc. Focus on building the relationships with people, creating trust, and planting small seeds. Need to be intentional and purposeful.

6. **To what degree do you think Regnum Christi in your locality is responding to the needs of people in this field of evangelization? (rating on scale of 1 to 10)**



**7. As a team, how can we collaborate with God in his work of growing the kingdom in this field of evangelization?**

- By being of one mind and heart as a team. We are a virtual team and our unity provides strength as we each live our mission of evangelizing the world around us.
- As a team, we collaborate by supporting & encouraging our team members in their individual works of apostolate through prayer and vocal encouragement. When we do projects, we work well together, but these activities are rare because our team has such a variety of members in different stages of life.
- Prayer & Discernment—for who God is placing in our path to evangelize & how can we meet them where they are & help them encounter Christ.
- Start each day with 10-15 intentional time of prayer – and be mindful that every person we encounter is an evangelizing and a prayer opportunity.
- WE hope to have a family Retreat camp to reach more souls & hopefully to then start more youth groups & invite more to our Encounters
- Being a witness and inviting women to half day reflection.
- We will continue to work in our current apostolates and will explore the opportunity to support young adult women in building up the teams, either by supporting them spiritually or helping with practical needs like babysitting.
- We can evangelize within RC, within our parishes, and within our communities. We are called to evangelize and give our gifts to those who God puts in our paths in order to bring them to him. We are being formed to be Christ for others and to bring love and light to those who are in darkness. When God works through us to be his servants, we in turn grow closer to him.
- We have a heart for the young women in this area. We will continue to pray and listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in order to offer a bible study or mornings of reflection to bring them closer to Christ.
- We have recently video recorded an instructional Encounter with Christ that is being used for various purposes in the section and beyond and we are willing and ready to collaborate with our section when there is a need that we can fulfill; we would like to collaborate with the evangelization efforts within the section; we have resolved to create our own individual “elevator pitch” to share with anyone asking about RC so we can quickly & easily convey why someone should look closer at the movement for themselves.
- Prayer



- Invite our Pilgrim Queen of the Family members to RC activities and to have activities for them. Schedule rosary making parties with our friends and Pilgrim Queen Families.
- Go to missions! – And invite a friend!  
Also, think more about how we can be one with the poor and how we can help them (to be discussed more)
- Invite someone to the Virtue Party. Next, we need to discern, discuss, and pray about apostolic work we can bring to St. Joseph (Familia, Adoration for fallen away Catholics). Talk to Lisa and Father Kevin about this. They need to speak with Bishop Pohlmeier also.
- Prayer, discernment, and being true to those resolutions, both individual and team resolutions. We discussed the beauty of our team resolutions and how they are special in that they are prayerfully discerned TOGETHER. Let's grow in human formation, which we have acknowledged in the last question, we are weak in. We decided as a team to focus on this and not wait. We will begin now. What do practical examples of this look like? We can ask, "Where is it in me that I can be a better bridge?" and, "I want to build the skill of listening better." We discussed how we need to work on ourselves first; we have to ask God to change OUR hearts first. We need to be following through on inspirations. We are all women of prayer. If we aren't praying, we cannot be growing the Kingdom. Prayer comes before action. When we pray, God orders things for us. How are we spending our time?
- We can remember that every moment that we live our faith we are evangelizing and invite others whether it be to adoration, mass, coffee to share our experiences or the RC Reflections. INVITE!
- We can continue to organize events like a "women's morning of reflection" and plan and work accordingly to execute the event
- We need to listen to God and his nudges and be open to how He guides us with His mission. We need to persevere in the faith and continue His work. We need to continue to grow spiritually and pray without ceasing.
- Listen to the promptings of The Holy Spirit and act on it. Engage people, meet them where they are at, and focus on building relationships, especially people in isolation.
  - With the goal of evangelization.
  - Where we find ourselves in life from our individual and Team perspectives.
  - Making present the Kingdom. Kingdom top of mind in our resolutions for prayers and actions.
  - Leading with joy, finding goodness, finding the light.
  - Need to counter the darkness and negativity by seeking and fervent prayer for joy, beauty and light.
  - Looking for ways to reframe things to move us from darkness to light.
  - As a Team we do well at collaborating with God in HIS work.
- Our team is full of lovely apostolic women and each encounter sends us out to spread the kingdom in whatever ways the Holy Spirit puts in our paths. We also have weekly initiatives and on top of that we are currently offering a series of talks based on "In His Image" that is meant to address current difficult issues such as transgenderism, femininity, etc. We are inviting women and men who are ready to go deeper in their faith. Our first meeting had about 30 guests – we're praying that number grows as time goes on.



- Spending more time in Adoration and prayer.
- Looking around our circle to see what God may be asking of us. We are close to Kansas State University and so we will look and see if there is something there.
- Have a half day retreat for ladies to get to know about RC. Invite new people to the spiritual exercises,
- A Program for boys.
- We are small but mighty. God has done beautiful things in our team of 8. We learned of our charisms and how God matched us perfectly and filled in every area. We then began to use our charisms in our apostolic planning. We've brought in incredible speaker 2022 (109 ladies attended) that our local CCW hired for their convention this year. Introduced the first weekend long Sp. Exercises (silent) for the diocese 2022 and a new speaker for Lent 2023 and we have 81 women signed up so far plus Beloved Retreat this June. Holy Spirit is moving!! Praying we grow and become large enough for priests and consecrated
- By our team efforts of supporting all the events we are providing for women in our area. Be open to new experiences, trying to be sure we are not a comfortable closed prayer group, looking at what others are doing to glean ideas
- In our different apostolates and ministries, we are bringing God to others.
- Making our presence within the ministries of our parish churches
- As a team, we are going to be more diligent with our daily Examen prayer, keeping in mind that this brings God to the forefront of our minds throughout our day which then makes us more likely to hear the Holy Spirit calling us to the moments of evangelization He is already giving us.
- Our team members are in varied stages of life and some are not physically available to come or participate in events or missions. Two of us are very involved, and others are unable to. As a team, we discussed that those who cannot physically participate can accompany each other in prayer and with tasks leading up the event.
- RC member need to be vulnerable with each other first, then turn to evangelize.
- We can collaborate with God by inviting others to our online retreats or perhaps in the future to our Holy Hours. One thing at a time. We can also ask what the needs of our Parish are. On our own we can take it to prayer, do personal reflection on our own gifts and talents as to where we can serve and evangelize.
- This is an area for further discernment for us as we are spread out across Connecticut. We are not in the archdiocese where the Rye LC house is located and that can slow things down. We often participate within our parishes that are open to the degree they will allow us. We are planning for regular "business" meetings to help collaborate more on individual apostolates and create mystique surrounding those.
- Continue to invite and inform. Our locale is more active in seeking women that could be drawn to and inspired by RC to evangelize to our parish and their young families.
- Approach younger women in the parish with a personal invitation to come to a Discernment course.
- Create an event that would bring about social interaction that would bring about social interaction and provide some spiritual direction. As a Team, start to build our own strong foundation of spirituality. We can't give what we don't have.
- We can start with others and make some commitments as a team to share his word.



- There's a beauty in attending to the nourishment of the "seedling" of RC members' growth.  
Reach out to one person who has not been active in RC.
- We are going to work on our Apostolate that we started, but was put on hold, to create a quarterly Holy Hour for Parents of children that have fallen away from the faith.
- Say "yes" and create options to serve. A list of the apostolates available to the members and families of RC will be helpful to know the areas in need, sorted by charism.
- As a team we are open to working supporting evangelization in our locality. But at this team we are very heavy on our apostolic action and are feeling that we need to have a focus within our team on feeding each other, developing our team community and creating a team that is connected to each other and to Christ in a prayerful, formative way.
- Through discernment of this discussion guide several ideas have been placed on our hearts:
  1. Within our own families; we each felt that through our faith and RC we are equipped with the knowledge and tools to be the light and examples in our families. Each of us thought of recent times that we fell short. We recognize an opportunity to see where we can each improve and grow: by spending time with each other in prayer and discussing life issues so that we can respond as God wishes; to use the tools such as spiritual direction, retreats, frequent receipt of the sacraments; having mercy and love for each other to strengthen each other so that we can be the light in our families.
  2. Within our parish; during the discernment, each have felt called to be a confident RC member in our parish. What do people think of when they hear RC in our parish? Those who were with RC from the beginning when it was introduced to the parish, recall that it was not a gentle and kind receipt. We recognize that there is still a small overshadowing of this but feel called by the Holy Spirit to repair it and to be challenged to speak truth and let the Holy Spirit compel us into action. The parish is also growing and there are new members in the last several years as our town has seen a population growth. We also have a new priest who came to our parish about 4 years ago now. He is very supportive and he has brought a reverent, liturgist approach to mass that is transforming our parish; at first it was poorly received but we have seen it transforming. Ideas include, letting people know we are part of RC and being able to tell them what that means; living in such a way that they are curious to what we are doing and why our faith and daily life is the way it is, having a breakfast social/RC year in review, after one of the first Saturdays to invite people to find out about who we are and what we did this past year, be open to others who are searching, most RC members on our team are involved in the parish – but to those RC members who aren't, to pray and find where they can be involved in the parish activities; talk to men in parish about going on a RC retreat to see if a men's group can be created.
- Being part of Regnum Christi has deepened our faith beyond what might have been were we not members. It informs our behaviors and how we bring Christ to others around us. The better formed we are and the more regularly we practice our faith and go deeper the better we can evangelize others.
- Continue the fruitful formation work with retreats, adorations, studies, etc. Involve seasoned and new RC people and collaborators in missions as



much as they are open to them and in the preparation and conduct of the formation activities. Continue social gatherings to reach out to new people and solidify the bonds among RC members. Reach out to pastors and support them in formation and outreach. Get much more involved in the teaching of children and their preparation for the sacraments.

- We can meet with our diocesan evangelization minister to look at his calendar and offer to help. This would also give us an idea of what is already being done and what areas could use our attention and action. We have also discussed how we need to reach out in a bigger way to evangelize in the concrete action of our weekly case studies.
- Talk more openly about God with others. Spark a conversation about God. Ask someone: “How is God showing himself in your life today?” Start praying with somebody.

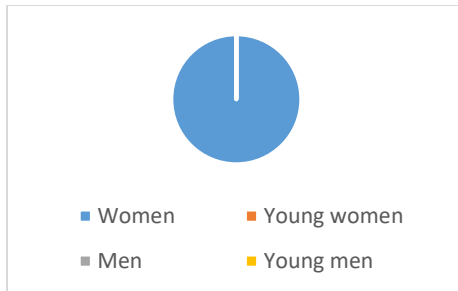
## Discussion Guide 2: Christian Formation and the Education of Children

### Audience Analysis

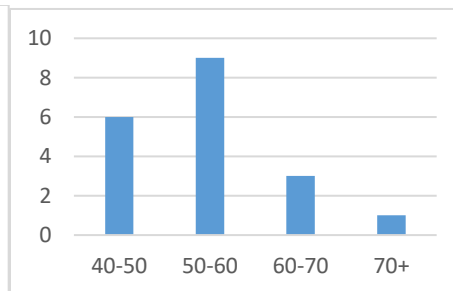
**Number of teams that participated: 20**

Atlanta (6)	Houston (1)
Calgary (3)	New Orleans (1)
Detroit (1)	Ontario (2)
Diaspora (1)	Other (3)
Heartland (1)	

#### Type of teams:



#### Team members' average age:



### 1. How important do you think Christian formation from childhood is?

- Essential. Christian formation from childhood gives the basic foundation for a lifetime. It is the apex of a parent's vocation in raising children.
- Critical to have a loving foundation, presenting facts of faith & why so it may be embedded as a child's own, not just going thru motions. Need a concrete "experienced" Love of Christ & His friendship. Start small & simple to develop the wonder & appreciation of God's love.
- Essential as a child and for your life
- Essential, it has to start at home. It is the responsibility of the parents. It must become an anchor for them to know truth as children, to get the roots down deep, and develop a solid conscience. Giving children structure, consistency, truth, love and an understanding of what it means to be a Christian, parents need to be good examples in all our actions and words.
- We think it is invaluable! All of us are mothers and grandmothers, so it is a very important topic for us! Home is the beginning of the future church. Most of us participate actively in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 or teaching at our local Catholic School.
- Very important
- Critical
- We feel it is vital





- It is paramount to the raising of children to be good citizens, active in their faith and helping neighbors.
- Extremely, especially compared to the formation we received as children...very limited.
- Very important, it lays the foundation and seeds for their future even if they turn away at some point.
- Christian formation is very important from childhood, it is the foundation for children as they grow. Very often what brings grown children back when they wander and struggle is the formation they have been given as a child? They need the grace of the sacraments. They need a lived faith even more so than formal programming in the earliest years. Children see and mimic what we do, our example vs what we say. As they grow, they need to have other families and other outside opportunities and events for growth, for formation and to rest in their faith with others. They need to have connections with faith filled youth and families to encourage them and find an alternative to the culture.
- It is imperative because it is the foundation of their spiritual growth. The children are more receptive and impressionable than adolescents. The children need basic formation in order for them to grow their faith into adulthood.
- Extremely important foundation ("Train a child up in the way he should go, and when he is older, he will not depart from it") Primary goal of Christian parenting.
- We believe it is very important for children to know that they are known and loved by God they are made in his image. They are unique and have a great mission for their life in God. Also, to develop a moral conscience it is easier done when they believe everything is possible with God. Children need to know what is true; the gospel truth rather than messages they get from the outside world.
- Extremely important.
- Extremely!!
- We think that faith formation is extremely important from childhood. In the Gospel reading, it stood out that it said people were bringing children to Him, rather than parents. This made us aware that although it does start at home and with the parents, we all have a responsibility to participate in the Christian formation of children.
- Christian formation from childhood is very important. We are like sponges at that time and learnings during childhood can stay with us for life. Formation is fundamental for the children to learn and keep growing in faith. Every seed planted on them at this stage of life will support them for life.
- Extremely important

## **2. What are the challenges regarding the Christian education of children?**

- Note: The challenges vary based on the age of children in our homes. For the majority of our team, our children are upper elementary to married adults. We face different challenges than a family with young children. Thus, the challenge of a Christian education for our children is free will. As parents, we have to let our children follow their own vocation. We have to encourage them to know HOW to defend what they believe and clearly articulate it. We have to teach how to discern between logic and emotion.
- Secular agendas, liberal school & gov't systems, don't just go w/ the flow; loudest voice vs. truest heart--let virtues prevail.



- Lack of formation of parents: Too many extracurricular activities: The children's catholic norms are attacked. The spirit of agnostics: rather than our spirit leading us, our bodies lead us. Lack of volunteers to do children's program. Parents not realizing the need of spiritual formation for their children at a very young age. Parents are not leading a true Christian life (they are critical of every facet of the church, cafeteria Catholics).
- The culture, materialism, technology, lack of well-formed parents, selfishness, media, liberal education, at all levels, indoctrination of anti-Christian values. Adults have been poorly catechized, even Catholic parents, so we are not equipped to confidently share our faith with our children.
- We feel like it is phones, TVs, and parents not supporting the teachings of the church or not taking an active role in teaching the faith of their own children. Many of us have experienced parents dropping their kids off for religious education (which we are a part of), yet not taking their children to Mass, or living lifestyles contrary to church teaching. But after more discussion, we feel like time is a huge obstacle because many families are so busy with extracurricular activities that they are constantly running from one activity to the next and don't have set aside time for their own families.
- Poorly formed parents and the culture.
- The schools are indoctrinating our children to the evils of the world. Poor and middle class kids need access to good Catholic schools
- Cost, lack of parent formation and today's values.
- Parents that do not know their faith, distractions of life - sports, jobs, media.
- Not all can be taught in schools. Family life - The Home (the Domestic Church) is very important. When the home is broken or one parent cannot be a stay at home, the children's Christian upbringing can be affected. Parents, grandparents are tremendous witnesses to their children.
- There are numerous challenges especially within our publicly funded (Catholic) schools. We are living in an anti-Christian culture which affects the media, schools and even our churches and some of our pastors.
- The biggest challenge is the culture, hyper focused on separating families. The family now is divided and pulled apart in so many ways, sports, activities, and work, to name a few. The culture including kids' shows seeks to form kids in ways that are not Christian. The intensity of many things these days is overwhelming and families need to be reminded to find relationship and balance, to push back on the 'all in' mentality that forces families to run in all directions. Sacraments, activities and sports are not a check box. Relationship comes first. Parents need to parent.
- Busyness, constant activity and lack of prayer in the family. "As the family goes, so goes the nation". Marriages failing truly affects family, children & adolescents. Societal norms are in flux.
- Social Media/peers or bad influences/at times school systems that choose not to partner with parents. hedonistic society, materialism, transhumanism
- The relative truth of the outside world. It is difficult for formation of children and Christian education when it is not supplemented at home.
- Giving the Faith to our children & not accepting it as a gift. When grandchildren aren't receiving Christian formation. Keeping the children Christ educated when they become



teens and young adults involved. Feel they are receiving a water downed version of Christian education.

- Lack of Christian teachers; lack of formation of parents; lack of spirituality in public schools; the importance placed on sports; children who are on the autistic spectrum
- We reflected on our own struggles while bringing up our children, recalling when we were children, and thinking about the world today and our community and parish. A common challenge in all of these was the faith and formation of the parents and family. Formation for very young children starts at home. Are the parents practicing their faith, do they know about the resources available at the church, do they feel welcome, supported and at church? Other struggles are: parents being pulled away from the church for sports and other activities, distractions from phones/iPad/TV, parents concerns if their children are noisy at church and their apprehension to search out a community within the church.
- Christian education should primarily come from the parents, but many parents received poor formation and are not passing on the faith. Catechesis is left to schools, it has been watered down and in some cases it is not taught at all.
- The world. Embarrassment when living your faith. Strange stares from people who have no idea what you're doing or why. Choosing the wrong group of friends makes it very hard.

**3. What kind of formation and accompaniment do you think is necessary so that parents have the tools to transmit the faith to their children according to their age and interior world?**

- For our team, the tools of formation RC provides both for adults and youth are priceless. They help guide all ages toward holiness in areas of spiritual life where many of our local churches are less than adequately providing formation. Retreats & spiritual direction, exposure to the sacraments are all tools that allow God to work in the hearts of each person. Additionally, we noted it is important for our children to see us work on our own formation.
- Need parental perseverance to stay the course of Truth, Love kids so well they know the love of God, Help form kids in Christianity--don't place parental judgements upon them.
- More education, from the church at the time of Baptism, e.g. celebrate your child's Baptism day pointing out the gift of belonging to the catholic family.
- Interactive tools, but back to basics, better resources, easier to use and read, parents have to make their faith a way of life not a check box, somehow we need to get some of the great resources we do have in their hands, get them to adoration to understand what our Lord wants for them and their vocation as parents, support Catholic education so that it is an option for all who want it.
- Many parents don't realize or utilize the many resources they have at their fingertips like Formed, Catholic apps, Catholic radio or streaming. We feel like this is an opportunity for us to focus on - the parents and mainly women.
- Adult formation classes.
- Close parish community, solid faith formation programs like ECYD, grace-filled parenting skills



- Personal formation and accompaniment for parents starting at the baptism of their child.
- Family focused monthly gatherings that give them solid faith knowledge, traditions, etc. and take home activities for the weeks between. Familia style learning for mothers and fathers. Joint activities between clergy/consecrated and the lay families.
- Continue to support our Legionaries and Consecrated in their efforts to provide retreats and apostolates to young families and their children. Promote in our parish schools youth retreats and family apostolates.
- More events that provide formation for parents and God parents to help them teach the why behind the traditions and sacraments. Intentionally accompanying and cultivating friendships with families.
- Parents need easy resources and we can often just share what is already out there. We can help the parents who need formation of their own. Walk with families. Engaging and simple tools and resources can be shared and handed out, but it helps to accompany and build friendships first to mentor and engage families. We can promote family life, podcasts, CD's (like the lighthouse ones etc). There are many resources but we don't want to overwhelm families. Connecting families, creating support and mentoring is important.
- Accompaniment for parents, RCIA type information, review of the faith. We need parent 'buy in' too. Familia was a wonderful program for this exact goal.
- Parish families accompany each other, conquest, challenge, family missions, parenting like Dr. Ray and Dr. Dobson, family traditions, retreats, marriage retreats and enrichments. Culture of vocations within families. Praying and cultivating seeds of their children's Baptism.
- And openness to help with formation and invitation or offer to engage parents, and this is to be done with love.
- Add to bulletin where they can get MagnifiKids. Some families who have success have books for their kids to follow. Parents who have success in Christian Formation to adults are surrounded by strong devout Catholics including parents, grandparents and relatives. One size doesn't fit all for Christian formation. Some children are receiving more Christian formation than what their parents are getting; maybe a book or pamphlet on guidance to continue to form our children.
- Realize what the child is interested in and start there. Encourage the parents to be an encouragement. Remind them of the power of the sacraments of marriage and baptism working for them. Keep traditions alive in the home.
- Continued formation for the parents and young adults. We discussed a gap between obvious milestones, such as confirmation and marriage preparation. There is no obvious next step in faith formation for young adults, so next steps relies on the person seeking it out. We discussed how other Christian faiths appear to fill this gap with young adult groups and parents groups/bible studies. With a strong faith, young parents will naturally gravitate to the resources available to for their children and guide them on how to raise their children with their faith as the anchor. Without this we noted that a lot of young adults fall away from the church or become non practicing or uninvolved until their first child is preparing for communion.
- In many cases, the Christian formation of the parents has been so poor that we need to go back to basics with them. There are many great online tools these days from many



different sources, but we think that accompaniment and building real friendships with other families is key. The Vibrant Families ministry is a great apostolate in this way. When parents live their faith truly thru the Sacraments, formation, apostolate and regular attendance to Mass, kids learn and start building friendships with other kids in that sacred environment.

- Evangelization of parents. Opportunities for parents to be catechized but truly a holy friend who can simply lead with humility through truth and actions.
- 4. How can we make the most of this stage of life to make Christ known and transmit the faith both to children and their families?**
- We must begin the formation in everything. What the children read, what we read to them. As they mature, more information about Jesus, the saints, virtue & the pillars of the Faith are introduced and discussed. We have to be aware of teachable moments and take advantage of them as they come.
  - Faith in the world & at home needs consistency & constancy. You can't give what you don't have--experience/live your faith with joy. Offer personally & connect with them.
  - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd from the ages 3-12: Important for grandparents to have a one on one time with their grandchildren, and with their own children, to dialogue in a quiet space, their faith journey.
  - We need to be better at identifying and meeting people where they are on their journey without judgement, continue hosting Open Encounters for parents, and other events, Mass in the Mountains, be examples in our words, our deeds, and sharing our hearts, being joyous, and attracting others to use to accompany them on their journey
  - We need to be more intentional with engaging parents and walking with them so that they can teach their children. We need to find the time to meet with parents in our parish. We need to keep our parishioners involved by letting them know what we need for help in this area - mainly through the bulletin. We could reach out to retired folk to help in this area too.
  - Family formation events.
  - Be the example as parents and expose them to other families with the same values so they don't think they are weird or different.
  - Grandparent and Godparents influence, parishes and family friends supporting and encouraging. Parents need to be formed if they are to value transmitting the faith to their children.
  - Early learning programs for parents to access for child care/pre-school. Support programs of other groups that are working - Alpha, Sophia Institute, Focus, etc.
  - Encourage families to make the religious part of their family life, weekly mass, family prayer in the home.
  - Keeping our faith and hope, so we can transmit truth to others. Create opportunities to read, reflect and teach the Bible. Encouraging opportunities to pray together, learn about the saints.
  - Feed their natural curiosity and engage them. In the early years it's the parents that provide the best and most of the faith transmission. But we can meet young families one on one, welcome them, and encourage them. We can live our own faith and be a witness



to all because you never know who is watching. We can reach out to the young families and youth letting them know they are seen and heard.

- Be kind, supportive and acknowledge how hard it is to raise children in this day and age. Be supportive of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.
- Order and prioritize what is most important: God, family, job/school, spend lots of time with each other in families...cultivate family life that reflect seasons of the Faith. Personal responsibility. Sports and clubs and activities should NOT divide the family and spouses.
- We have a responsibility to do this formation well.
- CCD Classes - kids have good values and the kids are thinking what they can give back. Some people purchase Matthew Kelly to give as Christmas gifts through Dynamic Catholic. Purpose of this is to give away books that will prompt conversation. Effective tool and suggest doing this with kids.
- Community support is needed. Offer activities to draw kids into the life of the church. Maybe movie nights, activities, small groups.
- Teaching young adults how to incorporate the church's rhythm's in their family day/week/season. How the Bible contains all the answers on how we should live and approach challenges, and how important and life changing the sacraments are.
- When parents live their faith truly thru the Sacraments, formation, apostolate and regular attendance to Mass, kids learn and start building friendships with other kids in that sacred environment.

Children love stories, so using stories about Jesus, Old Testament stories and stories about the saints is a great way to engage children. This holds true for adults as well. We can use the stories as a bridge to catechesis.

- Simplicity- events where there is much fun so people will come and then see our faith in action. Huge win for average people of faith to see joy filled holy people living their lives normally with great faith.

##### **5. What responses are needed to meet them?**

- We need to meet others where they are and bring them to or help deepen their relationship with Christ.
- Parents need to be formed--they don't know what they don't know. Pray, hope, invite, plant seeds & persevere.
- Sharing our knowledge with young families: Conversation over the liturgical displays in our home...ex.advent candles, Lenten center piece, A beautiful statue of our Blessed Mother on our kitchen table...etc
- We need carved dedicated time to meet with families of the children in our parish. We need designated family nights throughout the liturgical year.
- Parish community programs and experiences
- Making it easy for them: child care, day and evening offerings, brief meeting/activities.
- Unknown
- Again, we can live our faith, reach out and invite. We can offer resources and be open, always open with an invitation.



- Apostolates that promote family and faith. Family and Youth most important goals. Moms with young children huge population that needs nurturing, love, invitation, and formation. "The hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world".
- Love, generosity and openness
- One on one contact with people - invite them over for dinner and say Grace. Handing out books like Dynamic Catholic. Invite 5 or so couples to house to discuss formation videos. Prompt social activities to promote some type of formation.
- They have to be open to accepting what's offered. Keep it low key if needed
- Some form of direction and instruction would be helpful to meet this need and to be welcoming to the parents and children - joyful, peaceful, and engaging.
- Invite parents to different retreats and activities to have them learn and grow in their faith first so they can teach and guide their children.  
Leaning into existing apostolates such as Vibrant Families, Conquest & Challenge and others like Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Being present and waiting for opportunities, tangible things like May crowning if Mary then celebrations.

#### **6. How can we respond, as Regnum Christi, to evangelize in this area?**

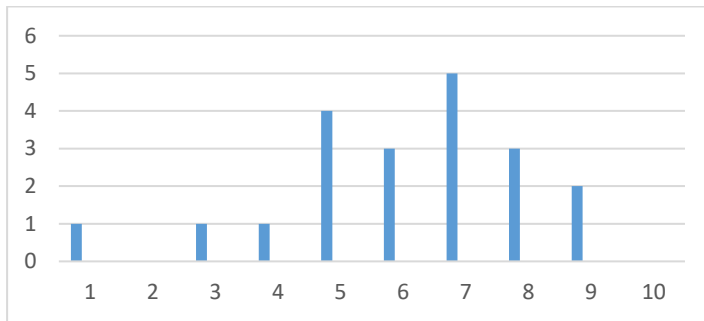
- As RC, we need regular, organized events to expose and offer others these tools. Our area is not consistent in offering these events. Thus, we are not good at truly evangelizing others effectively.  
Additionally, our area (Fort Wayne) is in the Detroit locality, but is in the diaspora. As a team or a group, we have lots of areas we COULD respond to the needs of people, but we don't. There is not a large contingent of women in any one parish where we can concentrate our efforts. The question opened a lot of discussion in our team. There are some members in our specific locality that still feel the baggage of the "old" RC and the stigma of the original scandal. We need to better utilize our time and talents to respond to others. More communication needs to happen on the local level to help us identify where we need to evangelize and action items to work there.
- ECYD, State Catholic Youth Conference & Youth Camps, Pilgrimages, Accompaniment. Form the Parents--so they will pass the Christian experience to their children. Monthly exercises & education. Perpetuate & be open: See people who are searching. Discipline. Habit. Role model, Own it!
- Invite families to activities
- We have many great events, programs, formation opportunities, schools, parish programs, retreats, etc. - we do not do a very good job of communicating or marketing ourselves to the rest of the non-members in the area. We also need to better match the gifts and talents of our priests and consecrated with the needs of the communities they serve.
- We need to examine the apostolates we are involved in and figure out a way to help the parents associated with those. We discussed having a parent's time to experience the atrium at the CGS (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd), having family nights at our parish throughout the liturgical year, women's retreats, book studies, etc.



- By offering families opportunities to learn about the faith through programming, social activities.
- Provide parent classes, help in our parish community with family programs. Continue to form our members, offering formation activities and supporting parish formation activities.
- Be the well-formed leaders of other programs, continue our Evenings of Reflection, etc inviting women to the formation events.
- Continue supporting ministries in our parishes help young mothers and their children. Bring Familia back to our parish churches. Try to place ourselves in the elementary and high schools with volunteering in their religious departments. Be involved in youth missions
- Holding events that provide formation for parents, godparents, and grandparents. Events that cultivate family time, family activities. Formation for those who are working, leading Conquest & Challenge.
- As Regnum Christi members we can keep our own prayer life alive so that we can be more effective (can't give what we don't have). We can tap into the parish and be supportive of the programs that are there - children's liturgy, youth groups, and young family groups. Give praise and encouragement and help connect families to programs. (this is for the next question) Here we said we are in need of outreach. We give it a 9 out of 10 if we lived in Calgary, but only a 6 out of 10 at best in our areas as we have very little connection with the locality other than zoom or events where we would travel. Would be nice if some things were brought out into our areas or visits were made out to us. But again, we are our locality, we're just so spread out and it's hard for us few people that are spread out geography to feel connected physically.
- Prayer and Support. Encouraging.
- Love Christ, unite to Christ, invite others to do so and meet the needs of our culture with RC apostolates or create ones where there is none.
- We respond with encouragement and support of children's activities within the parish and follow up with those in charge. We can also promote activities, classes and camps available within the school, the parish, Regnum Christi, and the archdiocese. We need to spread the word and get the information out to the people.
- Put items in the bulletin on resources. Contemplate taking on a new mystery you need to discern if God is calling you to do this and if you have the gifts for it.
- Prayer. Catholic sports, where the emphasis is on the person and not on the score, like the old CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) teams. Involve the family
- Our parish religious ed has just changed to a family centric approach this year where the families are involved/hands on throughout the lessons and there will be a family mass that engages the children as well. Explore how we can help, be welcoming and kind to the children and families when we see them at church, get to know them.
- Accompaniment and building real friendships with other families is key. Others may only be willing to listen and participate in apostolates if they know we truly care and love them.
- Create apostolates with this in mind.



**7. To what degree do you think Regnum Christi in your locality is responding to the needs of people in this field of evangelization? (scale of 1 to 10)**



**8. As a team, how can we collaborate with God in his work of growing the kingdom in this field of evangelization?**

- As a team, we can keep inviting others to current events and work on developing new events to evangelize to others.
- Form the Parents--so they will pass the Christian experience to their children. Monthly exercises & education. Perpetuate & be open: See people who are searching. Discipline. Habit. Role model, Own it!
- Work in our own homes, gifts of spiritual books for our little ones, support and encourage those who are interested in growing in their understanding of their role as their child's formator.
- We keep doing what we are doing and trust the Holy Spirit to lead us.
- Again, we need to be open to expanding current apostolates as well as starting new ones. We should always prayerfully consider God's guidance and be prepared for anything. He will equip us with what we need.
- Prayer, programming, one to one contact.
- Simply by inviting other families to get together informal and formal presentations.
- As an older group we considered: offering refreshments and serving them at parish activities. Trying to support local catholic education by speaking well of it or promoting school activities.
- Helping with programs already doing this already Alpha, Ablaze, Conquest,
- Consider a new apostolate "Family Together in Prayer" by guiding families with ways to pray daily through scripture, rosary, examen, sharing.
- Host a formation day for families.
- Live our faith, pray for families, encourage the locality. We can invite young moms to our retreat and invite to open SPEX. We can be present to develop relationships in our parish and love people where they are at.
- Start a Young Women's Group.
- Faithful to our team commitments, prayer life, ask our Lord and respond.
- Resolved to become more aware of what is available and to promote these through posters, bulletins words mouth. Also to let those in charge know that they are supported.



- Shouldn't jump into something or take on a new mystery; need to discern if God is calling us to do this and if you have the gifts for it. Our group is in the planning stages of hosting a Mission Sunday.
- Offer talks on the importance of family
- Yes, we have been called to have a parish welcoming/get to know RC event that we are in the exploratory phase and we will include young adults. We will continue to pray and ask for guidance from the Holy Spirit and be led on how to do this. We will pray about becoming more involved in different ministries.
- Building friendships with others, being willing to speak and invite. Being part of different apostolates, provide support and accompaniment to other parents as well.
- We are in the diaspora and have many great ideas.
  1. (RC-young mom) Kelly has taught her young children when they were caught lying or stealing to see what Jesus says about this and then let's the child (who loves tech) google search scripture on it. We as a team would like to do a talk to young moms on that. Sharing that idea. Separate or at the same talk 3 members (mom and two daughters) along with 3 other daughters (all adults from 24-39) not RC want to do a temperament talk (they did it once before at a Catholic middle school where the mom discusses the pitfalls of thinking you can raise each child the same and the daughters share how the mother could have reached them if only she did....and then explain. From middle school to high school to young adult and help parents navigate those time by RC people who have been through it.
  2. Charism talk - then invite women to ongoing formation talks gearing towards young moms.
  3. Marriage talk- bring Atlanta team to Knoxville.

## Discussion Guide 3: Christian Formation and Education of Adolescents

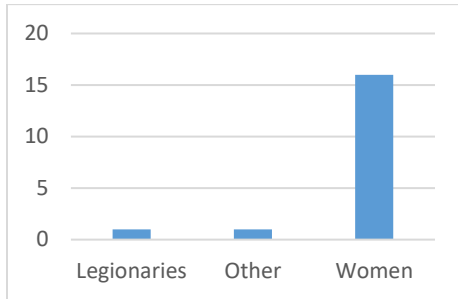
### Audience Analysis

#### Number of participants: 18

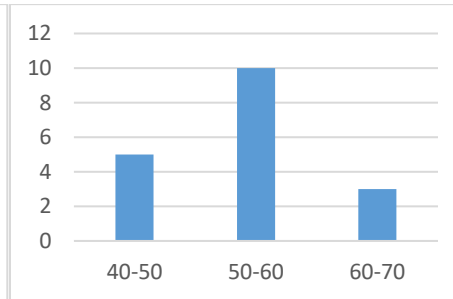
Atlanta (3)  
Calgary (1)  
Cincinnati (2)  
Dallas (1)  
Detroit (1)  
Diaspora (1)

Heartland (1)  
Houston (2)  
Ontario (1)  
Other (4)  
Raleigh (1)

#### Type of teams:



#### Team members' average age:



### 1. How important is Christian formation during adolescence? Why?

- Very.
- Extremely important as this is an age where the child begins to form their own convictions and separate from his parents (develop his own identity as an individual). Our obligation is to provide formation and guidelines which encourage a relationship with Christ and His church to counter the current cultural influences.
- Very! They decide who they want to be and how they want to live--it's a time of intense longing and they need a personal live experience of Christ. They are open to personally encounter. There is an innocence; wanting to be loved. Formation + prayer + Christ's love for them.
- Critical this is when they go off to college and need solid foundations in order to stay a rock for their faith.
- It's of utmost importance! Kids of this age are searching for belonging, meaning, truth, and a deeper intellect. They are vulnerable, self-conscious, impulsive, and looking to friends for approval and yet, they are receptive to listen. It's a beautiful age.
- Critical - it is a critical stage in life where beliefs are being formed and shaped



- It is imperative because we can speak to our adolescents in a more adult manner and adolescents receive different sacraments than children.
- Very important. It sets the foundation for their Faith. Having a good foundation in Faith is extremely important.
- Very important. This is when they form their own value system apart from their parents.
- Christian Formation of Adolescence is essential. It gives them the tools to know their faith more deeply, know Christ more personally & how those two realities can be applied in their lives in a dynamic way
- They are our future and so formation is paramount.
- Very important! Even though young people desire personal autonomy and value individualism, they have a hunger for truth and stability as they try to find footing in a culture that is continually shifting like the sands. The Christian faith provides this sure footing and a solid foundation on which to rely. It is in their formation received in love within the Christian faith that they learn to trust and gain confidence in their identity as children of God and thus are able to meet life's challenges.
- Very important, because adolescents need to know Christ, the friend as opposed to Christ the Judge.
- We believe it is vital. Helps them develop a faith live and solid formation for decision making. Groundwork for making decisions
- Critically important! This is where they form their values
- It's very important, especially for their identity, and the role it has in their lives. The theology of the body courses are an amazing tool to accomplish this objective and it will be with them throughout their lives.

## **2. What are the current challenges to the Christian education of adolescents around you?**

- Secular culture, affective immaturity, etc.
- Sports, entertainment, and social media are cultural gods which in addition to a lack of Catholic Christian education available challenge parents, grandparents, and others who strive to bring Christ to our adolescents. Our educational institutions often promote anti-Christian morals and behaviors, and encourage youth not to share the ideas presented with their parents. The literature provided in our high schools focuses on negative emotions and themes without providing discussion which would allow the students to see the situations with Christ.
- Media, instant gratification, only seen snapshots of life, unformed parents- not understanding the importance, competition for time and attention, human condition of sinfulness, relativism, and culture of liberalism, materialism and lack of receptivity.
- They are losing their faith in college. There is little support.
- Our culture is screaming at them to turn away from their religious beliefs via phones, social media, unchurched friends, peer pressure, broken families and marriages, relativism, and lack of imaginative play. Many kids aren't getting what they need at home.
- Christian education needs to be lived in the home. The faith needs to come from a strong home so that at this stage in life, the child is firm in Christian values. The Christian families are falling apart and the faith is not being passed onto the children.



The world has moved away from God, and adolescents in such a world are easily swept away

- Social media, society, culture, school. Failing marriages is greatly effecting our youth.
- The presentation of it has to change, ie to small group discussion, activity based, question and answer, all based on solid facts of faith and relevant to today's issues
- Providing opportunities; groups for peer pressure support. Keeping them interested. Sometimes their Christian education seems to "interfere" with other less important things.
- The media, schools, government. Faith is not allowed in these places. Gender ideology. Woke culture.
- The current challenge is that many in my parish community value sports more than formation. The few opportunities are CCD & a youth camp one week in the summer. Few adolescents are engaged and active in the community. Families/parents are under catechized so the youth are often as well. The value of a strong Christian community is underappreciated.
- Cell phones, the Apps on them and lack of interaction between youth and each other as well as their parents.
- Sin is minimized or excused. Parents are not well-formed. Adolescents often desire to please only parents and do not have a relationship with Jesus and thus desire to please Him. Some children have not witnessed the importance of the Sacraments within the family. Some zone out with the constant use of phones. Cancel culture and acceptance. Some schools teach values that are not Christian.
- Who is going to do it? Plus the consistency, and the continuity of Christian education of adolescents.
- Adults not formed in the faith. Social media often presenting the opposite view/values.
- The whole world seems to be becoming godless. The devil is constantly attacking. Specifically the problems are in public schools, what's allowed to be presented. Also the priorities of parents are becoming skewed.
- The world, technology, the ideology of gender, social media. Additionally, the society pressure of the anti-values and irresponsible parents.
- The formation of those educating them and the charismatic attraction they have is a huge challenge.

Adolescents need to be met where they are in their faith and they need the attraction to come to get answers.

### **3. How can we make the most of this stage of life to make Christ known and pass on the faith to adolescents?**

- There's this thing called ECYD.
- Parents and grandparents need to be attentive to the signs children present when they are struggling with something learned or acted on. They need to form themselves in the Truth and know what is being presented to their children. If possible, provide places for youth to gather with like-minded children to receive formation in their faith, and appropriate social interaction.



- Support groups for parents and kids. Learn to discern what is of God. Discuss real life examples of faith and virtues and compare to kids real life experiences. Communication. How to think about things. Meet them where they are. Be genuine and appreciate their value; don't just preach to them. Give them the joy and experience of Christ's love. Don't judge or shame them. Formation - - teach the truth with love. Relationship 1st!
- Have small groups and community life at the colleges. Like minded families that can be mentors and examples.
- We need to listen! We also need to be merciful and patient. We should never shy away from teaching the truth or watering down messages. The Church has all the truth and we need to share our own stories. Sharing testimonies are so important! Kids need to know that we have made mistakes - we didn't have it all together at their age.
- Have more communities gathering that include all the families promoting the Christian values - maybe talks and retreats catered to adolescents - include entire families to participate in church events catered to spread the faith as well as some fun to attract the kids
- Stressing that Jesus Christ is their best friend, but you can't push too hard. It helps if they have peer models who are faith filled (like what is available in Challenge and Conquest). Opportunities to encounter Christ. Parental Example and invitation.
- Need to show them there is life outside their phone. Activities that are whole family oriented, also that answer questions they may have.
- Daily religion class.
- Retreats and Youth groups. It has to start at childhood. Support for parents and families. Good leadership and they need a sense of purpose
- In our families, we as parents have to provide opportunities at home & away from home to share our faith. The activities must be dynamic. Also, the answer is found in meeting them where they are. Being available to listen & love them. Being formed as adults so the teens can be guided to the answers in a key ingredient.
- Meet the youth where they are with Apps but also education programs for youth and parents of media.
- Form groups like Challenge and Conquest that aid in bringing adolescents to Christ. Worship and celebrate the Sacraments as a family. Acknowledge, encourage, and give support to families that are doing their best to bring their children to Mass and the Sacraments. Support programs in schools that give Christian education and teach biblical principles during the school day through released time (if their intentions are not to draw kids away from their Catholic faith, which has happened locally!) Character building. Adoration for children. Take advantage of opportunities offered such as Catholic Youth Summer Camp and other such experiences. Since peer groups are so important, notice if the adolescent's friend groups are encouraging them on the right path. Have regular events scheduled to keep them engaged such as mission work or other opportunities to serve.
- Getting them involved in activities within the parish community. Start a mentoring program for example: 1st communicants and confirmation candidates.
- Prayer, volunteer to teach, support programs that are teaching the truth. Be a supportive adult to an adolescent. Be one who knows their name, prays for and supports them.



- Stress that the real question in life is not how can I become famous or rich, but why was I created, and what is God's plan for me. On a parish level this can be attempted through faith formation classes.
- Adolescents need a lot of motivation from parents and educators. Encourage them by inviting their friends over for activities and finding groups where they feel more accompanied. Also search for groups with parent involvement. Spending time with God shouldn't be boring, it should be a part of our life.  
The example from the parents is important like praying together and participating in missions.
- The example that we give to them as parents and grandparents; give the advice and sayings to take into their daily lives.

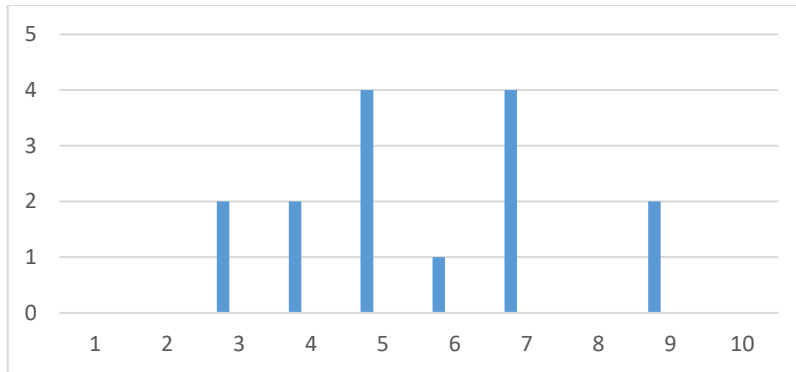
**4. As Regnum Christi, how can we respond through evangelization in this area? In schools? In ECYD? In the family? In apostolates?**

- Run the school with excellence. Make ECYD happen. Visit families. Do apostolate.
- Continue our own formation in faith and apologetics. Provide resources appropriate to age and stage of intellectual and spiritual formation. Grow in virtue ourselves to provide Christ to others.
- Form parents who teach children. Provide support. Form them so they can form others. Listen.
- Creating a mentor program and Student dinners in homes to give them a sense of our Catholic family. Ensuring Catholic community life at the local parish is supported.
- Listen to the needs of our adolescents! Most of our ladies on our team have kids this age, so they have started a youth group apostolate and they are getting more and more participants each week. This is in addition to the youth group our parishes offer. One of our members goes to the state youth conference every year with a group of teens. We have one Catholic School in our area that includes a middle school and I am one of the middle school teachers. That is my apostolate. We join the state's offering of a junior high rally every year. We don't have an ECYD or a Catholic High School. Another one of our members helps teach Confirmation classes in a neighboring town. He husband is in charge of the youth at their parish. We are passionate about this age group!
- Try and promote importance of parental involvement in the life of the adolescent - form the parent through talk / seminars - Promote picnics / hiking some fun activities that will bring families together around the faith
- Supporting all the apostolates in our area and helping where ever we can.
- The programs of Conquest and Challenge are good but too limiting. In our city we do not have them. In our section we have created events around area needs that are taken over by the parish once established, ie creating a gift shop, holy hour for vocations, and evenings of reflection/formation, mother/daughter event.
- Schools - Workshop for teachers; form the teachers; daily religion class. Release time as part of the high school curriculum as an elective. ECYD - introduce them. Family - Modeling as good examples. Apostolates - Fashion show for girls on modesty. Talk to people who are already teaching youth group or doing camps. Offer help where needed.
- Family camps, youth groups, prayer.



- As RC, we can encourage & support ECYD activities and retreats. We can encourage our youth to attend larger events like World Youth Day or NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) where they can see a larger picture of the church in action beyond their parish. School, ECYD, Family, apostolates.
  - Support training in social media, programs for parent and youth to explore the faith. Programs for parents that teach them communication skills with their children-evening of reflection with gospel and modern media focused talks. Work with already active programs - ABLAZE, Victory Sports, etc to support their work.
  - Work with our parishes and schools; support directors of religious education; make sure there is correct formation happening. Have conversations with students about what is being taught in programs and classes. Take note of those things that are being utilized in schools that may have non-Christian roots such as mindfulness, yoga, etc. and suggest alternatives. Have compassionate ears and hearts. Have calming and supportive conversations with adolescents; so many are distraught.
  - We feel we are a more senior group, and our response through evangelization would be to support those that are in charge and make them aware of what programs are available in our area.
  - As an older group we do not have schools, ECYD or youth apostolates. In families support grand and great grandchildren.
  - Challenge and Conquest. Members can mentor adolescents in public schools. Get involved in the school board. In the family, have as much involvement as possible in the extended family. Set good examples. Keep our tanks full so we can be the light that shines. Pray the rosary for kids in public schools (initiative that's starting up)
  - From the schools: sharing invitations for missions and camps, including public and non-Christian private schools. From ECYD: Groups of encounter, retreats, missions, camps. Search in the website for all of the available programs. From the family: inviting them, it's vital for parents to set an example, accompany them. Make it a routine for them to pass this time with God as a family so adolescents can see that we enjoy it! Discipline with love!  
From the apostolates: talking and sharing about our apostolates with our children, Including them in activities that are appropriate for them according to their age, talk and share the graces that we receive when we do our apostolates.
  - Examples, take them to church, attitudes of happiness and our choice to go and do these things in our lives. Show that it is important to us and a need.
- 5. To what degree do you think Regnum Christi in your locality is responding to the needs of people in this field of evangelization?**





**6. As a team, how can we collaborate with God in his work of growing the kingdom in this field of evangelization?**

- Honestly, legionaries have been dealing with these questions for years now, and it seems like they are being asked for the first time; moreover, they are much too abstract to take seriously any proposals that are listed.
- As a virtual team with members across Canada, specific collaborative initiatives are limited to families (potential to grow from there), and particular intersections with the culture in our own environments (Catechism classes, family days, school events). The team resolved to participate in Fr. Mike Schmitz's Catechism in a Year podcast, inviting members who do not attend EWC to participate as well.
- Volunteerism, classes, religious education establish roots. Be prayer warriors. Pray for those who are educating adolescence and that they are effective in reaching their hearts. Let the youth you encounter see your genuine love of Christ and that they are created in His image.
- We will reach out to Kennesaw State University to find out what are the Catholic programs there and is there anything that we might be able to do.
- Continue with God to work in this wonderful area of adolescents!
- Primarily with prayer and asking the Holy Spirit to guide and enlighten us - this is a very difficult area given that the world has moved away from God, and the family unit is breaking - we really need to educate the parents
- Develop a prayer that we pray for adolescents. Support any of the apostolates that might be in our area or might start up.
- Choose an area of formation for parents of tweens and create the event.
- Organize a onetime event - or Team is planning a Mission Sunday for the entire Parish as a way to get more people involved in the ministries of our Parish.
- Inviting younger women and new women to the annual retreat and other activities to grow Regnum Christi locally.
- We pray regularly for Sacred Heart Apostolic School. I make different camp & retreat opportunities available for my children, driving extensively to take them to events since there is nothing locally
- Walk/mentor with parents at adolescence. Work with current working programs. Next year's Evening of Reflections need to focus on the issues of youth.



- We feel blessed to live in a community that has close familial and faith ties and readily come together to respond to the needs of those around us. We support those things that are already established in our particular parishes and those evangelization efforts spear-headed by the Shrine of the Holy Relics and other organizations that are in our communities. We support our parish evangelization efforts and invite participation in those things that are already being offered and lend support to them as well. We are open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in taking action to provide what is needed through forming apostolate or giving assistance as specific needs of the community become evident.
- We resolve to find a resource either a video or a person to promote the Regnum Christi camps that are available in our area.
- Pray for and encourage families to attend Challenge Camp and Camp Eagles Cliff. Pray for and encourage those working with adolescents in our home parishes.
- Help the mothers of young children. Perhaps restart the Pure Fashion movement.
- Connecting with people who shares our faith. Sharing the graces that we receive from belonging to an encounter team, attending retreats, etc. Arrive home happy after participating on RC activities, give a lot of love to our children and teach them the love of God. Additionally, each of us need to persevere and commit to keep on learning and growing in faith.
- We are doing a Regnum picnic for just members of our parish. This will gather us to strengthen us to evangelize within our parish.

## Discussion Guide 4: Christian Formation of Youth

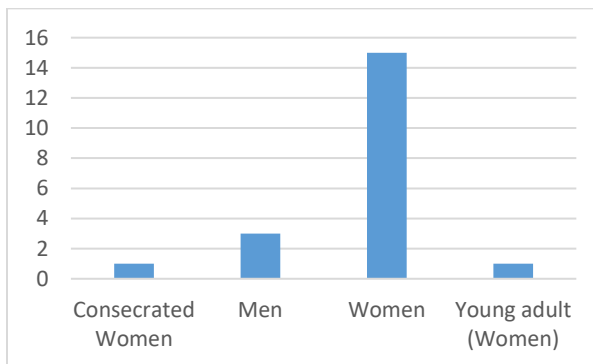
### Audience Analysis

**Number of teams that participated: 21**

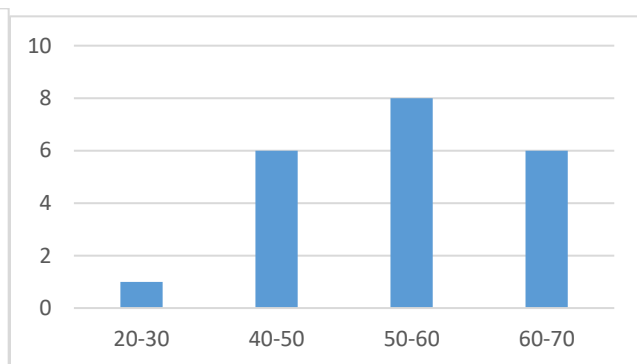
Atlanta (6)  
 Calgary (2)  
 Cincinnati (2)  
 Dallas (2)  
 Detroit (1)  
 Diaspora (2)

Heartland (1)  
 Houston (1)  
 Manila (1)  
 New Orleans (1)  
 Ontario (1)  
 Raleigh (3)

#### Types of teams:



#### Team members' average age:



### 1. What are the main questions that the young people around us are expressing?

- (Focus is 11-16 year old youth) Who do I follow? Who do I model? What is truth? Am I good enough? How can I find acceptance? Who am I?
- Who am I? How do i fit in to this world?
- Questions concerning identity in family, faith, and society. Where do I belong?
- Who am I? Where am I going? What am I doing?
- Why should I spend time focusing on God rather than the fun good things God gives us? They are also asking 'Who am I?' What does God bring to me? They are searching to feel their worth through social media.
- Who am I
- How can we place the teachings of the Church within a contemporary context? And how do we ground them/contextualize them into our 21st century reality?  
 How do we adjust to life after the pandemic?  
 In the context of a culture that's very traditionally Catholic, and often lived because it's what expected, it can make the youth ask: is it worth it to make my faith my own? And where and how can I find this?



- Personal relationship with God being a challenge; making enough time for God while juggling school/work/sports/social life; peer pressure taking them away from God and following the Church's teachings; false/negative influence of social media; thinking of God as only a God of Mercy and forgetting about His Justice and call for repentance.
  - Gender confusion, fear, the need for attention/recognition and how to find love and acceptance
  - Confusion about relationships, definition of family and sexuality. Not understanding questions that society is putting on them. Differences are good but knowing the truth and defining them.
  - Relationships with parents. Lifestyle--how should I live my life? Why do I have to believe in God and participate in religion? How do I know something is true? How do I know who should be an influence in my life?
  - They challenge the church teachings. Want answers to why?
  - How can I serve? Why should I believe? There is so much turmoil in the world, how can God allow all this to happen? Our observance is that young people are wanting answers now but are not wanting to grow in relationship with God. The 'me, myself and I' attitude is prevalent and youth are seeking instant gratification. If it feels good, do it. There is a lack of formation and the gift of faith is also lacking due to many negative influences in society. The addiction to devices is causing so much distraction that there is no space for youth to even feel the need for God. Thus, they become a slave to their feelings and there is no crack available for God to enter in. The question then is - why do I need God?
  - Young people are proposing identity questions. Why am I here? Where am I going? What is my purpose in life? Why does the Church teach this in regards to pre-marital sex? The culture teaches the opposite of the teachings of the Church. If everyone else is doing it, why can't I? What is the truth? How do we express our creativity in the boundaries of our faith as we know it?
  - A way to find a lifetime mate; how to live life in a postmodern society
  - Identity
  - Do I have a purpose? Do I make a difference? Is there a place for me in this world?
  - What's so important about church? Questions about the Fall. Is it OK to ask questions? They're floundering.
  - What is truth? How can I make a difference?
  - Why is God first and not the world? What is my vocation? Fear of missing out.
- 2. How do they understand and relate to the spiritual dimension of their lives? How is this expressed concretely?**
- They have an openness, and a thirst, but not sure how to fill it. There is a void, trying to grasp reality. They begin to question and doubt; they can grasp real truths if they are exposed to them in an attractive way we need to be able to feed these youths. Concrete expressions include turning to Jesus, or someone of influence, in times of challenge. Even if spiritual education is sound, youth will experiment due to peer pressure or curiosity. Particularly among those not well formed, there can be paganism and experimentation with the occult. Recognition of a vice can cause a turn towards virtue, like praying the rosary.



- They have a deep desire for spirituality, but they need a lot of experiences.
- Relate to spiritual dimension as modeled in the family and community. Attending Mass, sacraments, catechism, retreats, or other faith-based opportunities.
- Very casually, only spiritual when needed, ignore other times. Putting Spiritual life in a separate box, work in a box, family in a box, social life in a box.
- They don't put it as a priority. There is a lot of searching. A lot don't understand the spiritual dimension, are indifferent to it, or don't care about it. The intellectual and physical dimensions are so much more important to them. They may go to Mass as an obligation at times. This is expressed through a search for likes on social media and results in mental health challenges.
- They seek out Godly activities and are driven by a desire to bring this Godliness back into the culture. We are trying to figure this out in this stage of our lives: college, close to graduating, or graduating college.  
Maybe just recognizing that spiritual life and everyday life are not separate entities could be a start to reconciling both.  
We need to go from a super-traditional mindset to a faith that is contemporary and that we can incorporate into our daily lives.
- For those who are open and have "soft" hearts to hear Our Lord and His call, they are able to relate to the spiritual dimension and apply that concretely in their lives through a life of prayer, Sacraments, acts, etc. But those who are closed off to God are therefore not able to relate and then struggle accordingly.
- Some have no spirituality; they experience relativism, from the world and our church leaders; they don't understand the mass or the Catholic faith in general, they see the church as a bunch of rules
- They are confused. They look at the world and compare what the world is saying and they question. Questioning is good if they can be given the right answers. The move at the speed of thought.
- There is no spiritual dimension. I can find what I need and want on the internet. 2. Everything is visual, so it's difficult to relate to something that is not visual 3. Trying to fill the hole in their heart with anything--drugs, sex, food, and internet. 4. Looking for instant gratification. 5. Looking for satisfaction, not fulfillment
- Ask and listen to youth with the question - What are you seeking? Help them ponder and know Jesus wants to build a friendship with them. At very early age teach them how to be comfortable with Jesus.
- The spiritual dimension is lacking and this is expressed concretely by the absence at Mass and in prayer. Young people are hugely experiential and the faith must be relatable to them – to 'me, myself and I'. Our young people must have an encounter with Christ before being catechized.
- The spiritual dimension has to be experienced. God touches people personally and intimately. God is the doer. Sharing the personal stories and lives of saints affects kids. Through the work of the Encounter Ministries, Jesus changed the lives of high school students who experienced healing through prayer. We need to go to Jesus with our day to day issues.



- My children are aware of a spiritual dimension in themselves. They are also aware that some of the people around them don't have the same depth. The expression is Mass, Christian music and discussions in our family.
- What's the point/purpose? How do we meet a future spouse?
- They do not it is absent to their environment in about 60 to 70 percent of American homes.
- Most have no concept of the spiritual dimension of life. They are focused on the temporal.
- They have a fear of sharing their faith. If they have an identity of being a child of God, of being a Christian, they can be brave.
- By connecting with and serving others. Their spiritual and real life are very interconnected. Doing hands on projects brings them to connect with others and realize they are imitating Christ.
- The early childhood spiritual formation at home and school is seeded in their hearts; however, the environment (friends, girl / boyfriends) plays key in their current spiritual dimension. Believing in God will always be an anchor in your life.  
In some cases, they question the faith, they rebel going to Church, and in others they embrace the faith.

### **3. What experiences favor a personal encounter with Christ for them, and what experiences are an obstacle?**

- Favorable experiences: Face to face interaction with peers and mentors who exhibit meaningful Christian virtue; being loved by someone other than their parents, getting into the outdoors (or any surroundings without smartphones/social media).  
Obstacles: Smart phones and social media. Lack of consistency/integrity from role models
- Adoration, accompaniment, missions, formation activities, book clubs, pilgrimages. An obstacle is a poor and prolonged presentations. Negative influence of uninterested peers is an obstacle. Social media is a huge obstacle to living the faith.
- Favor: Parental/family witness of prayer, adoration, Mass, etc. integrated with the activities of daily living and life of virtue. Provide moments of silence, and opportunities to encounter Christ - retreats, camps, and volunteering.  
Obstacles: Lack of silence in our culture and lack of support for a faith-life.
- Favor: to witness or have the opportunity to witness; Joy, love, acceptance, help, active participation in community service, a sense of mission and purpose.  
Obstacles: culture, relativism, media, social media, socialism, selfishness
- Inviting them to Mass, youth conferences, Theology on Tap, podcasts, when people stand up for Christ (athletes, etc.), sharing personal experiences and how Christ works in our life.  
An obstacle is when the Catholic Church or families focus on the rules and facts, but not on having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and comprehending a living God present in the world and in their daily life.
- Youth group activities, Catholic conferences.  
The culture, social media, poorly catechized parents



- Experiences that favor:  
Community is what makes for a favorable encounter with Christ, because you can't live your faith alone. Our apostolates also help foster this community experience.  
Accessibility of activities and opportunities to experience the faith are also key.  
Obstacles:  
The culture we live in, and environment in general, can be an obstacle to a personal encounter with Christ.  
An example is social media, which can be distracting; it is tempting through it to consume more worldly things. It even conditions us to kind of seek more stimulation. We continue to look for experiences to fill this, and we don't always recognize that we're looking for God.  
Worldly things are normalized and sometimes so subtle: it's hard to tell that they are really obstacles to an encounter with Christ.
- A united family life centered around God; leading a life of prayer (personal and structured); daily/regular Scripture readings; Sacraments and regular Mass (at least Sundays); being in the right environment, social circle, Catholic groups or ministries; all of which serve to draw them closer to God.  
On the other hand, too many social, after school/college activities that are not faith-centered, but are extra-curricular like Sports, hobbies, etc. which prevent them from attending Mass, have time for prayer, Scripture readings, and are obstacles to empty themselves out to God.
- Retreats, adoration, rosary help to encounter Christ; the world (Internet, college, news and social media) are obstacles
- Service gives them an Encounter with Christ. A hurdle is often their peers. Busyness in their activities.
- To favor a personal encounter with Christ a. Weekend retreats with other youths. b. Being allowed to have the joy of an encounter with Christ while other youths are experiencing that joy c. Being in an environment where others are experiencing joy.  
Obstacles. a. Time. b. Distractions. c. Reluctance to commit d. Culture e. Materialism f. Friends, especially through the internet. g. No notion of delayed gratification
- Youth related activities can be positive... attending Adoration, daily mass, youth retreats.
- The experiences that favor a personal encounter with Christ for the youth are ones that are relatable to them – ones that involve peers that support their faith journey. Attending the annual Family Life Conference, where there is a special programs for the youth. What is the follow up? It is easy to get lost in the world again if there is not good, solid follow up. Can we incorporate ECYD in our parishes? Our young people need the faith to be exemplified to them, most especially in the family.  
The biggest obstacle that we determined is the lack of Christian formation and example in the family. Parents should, at the very least, be bringing their youth to Mass. Youth need an infusion of faith from school, family and church. Even though some youth have been raised in the faith, they still may choose to not participate in the life of the Church. This is very difficult for parents. Parents must trust in God's graces to bring their youth back to the faith. Many men and women have led lives of sin and are now, by God's graces, Saints!



- Retreats are a time to personally get in touch with Jesus. If kids have a quiet moment, they're on their devices. Kids don't know how to have quiet time. Adoration is a way to spend quiet time with Jesus. Kids use electronic sites to validate who they are.  
Favor: Catholic Heart Work camp, Challenge Camp, and some discussions at home when the opportunity arises  
Obstacle: Situations at school and in sports. One of my daughters is true to virtue, but she is odd ball among her peers.
- The running of programs for younger people, ABLAZE, World Youth Day, Steubenville, Theology on Tap, FOCUS, ACTS retreats. They feel the need to be around others if faith but there is little available.
- Acceptance. Accompaniment. The obstacles is the influence of the world.
- Mission work local or in another country infused with prayer, adoration and the sacraments. Making it Christ centered and not a feel good activity. Obstacles: time, poorly planned activities, extra activities i.e., sports, dance, jobs.
- Community or lack thereof makes a big difference. Challenge and Missions are great activities. A personal encounter is strongest at home and is formed in the Domestic church. We have to get them while they're young.
- Favor: Encountering those less fortunate who know and love Christ. Sharing time with a peer group who know and love our Lord. Being in nature....in silence.  
Obstacles: peer pressure, society, noise
- Finding an encounter team or youth group that have values coherent to the ones learned at home, keeping up with the Sacraments. The world is an obstacle, environment, loneliness and technology.

**4. What is most attractive to them in the Christian message? What is misunderstood or what has not been expressed well in today's context?**

- Most attractive: Forgiveness & grace, accompaniment through trials, being able to see Jesus as a friend, an answer to their identity uncertainty: a child of God, chosen, and given direction and a vocation  
Misunderstood: Charity becomes conflated with tolerance of sinful activities. Wrongly believing that we must be perfect, and that God is more justice than mercy. Freedom is misunderstood as being able to do anything desired, not realizing that they can become slaves to sin.
- Healing, truth, goodness, feeling loved, hope are the most attractive. The misunderstood elements are revolving around sexuality, morality, etc.
- Attractive: Joy, solid/consistent teaching, logical boundaries  
Misunderstood: A relationship not a list of rules; freedom vs fear
- An encounter with Jesus, the person and the God, and their relationship with him.  
What is misunderstood; They think Jesus is just a historical person. They don't know the role of clergy and active participation. The love of Jesus and how he reveals His Father, our creator and unconditional to love each one of us.
- Love. Kindness. Charity. Acceptance - loving you as you are. Mercy. Meeting you were you are. Made perfect in his image.  
It makes is look like you have to obey for the sake of obedience and not because God





loves you and wants the best for you. The truth gets twisted by social media and who you associate with (your circle of influence).

- That they are loved unconditionally. That they have infinite value. That faith and reason do not contradict each other.
- Most attractive:  
An authentic testimony: the youth are inspired by genuine happiness. They are attracted by those whose testimony demonstrates that they are not perfect, yet seek God anyway. This is encouraging to know that they have faults. It's attractive when so many different kinds of people can be Catholic: holiness is for everyone. When they see us being unapologetically ourselves, then the conversation about the faith becomes easier. It's attractive to have our questions answered in a non-threatening way. Sometimes we just want to know why, beyond just "it's what the Church teaches..."  
If taught properly, this aspect of the faith is attractive: acceptance and universality, because the core of the faith is this simplicity: to love and be loved.  
Misunderstandings/what has not been expressed well:  
The faith can sometimes feel judgmental and exclusive. Christians can sometimes portray this: if you're not following the Church's teachings perfectly then it's probably best if you fall away. Also, in Church history, people of faith have been involved in perpetuating so many harmful things in history. We cannot deny the part it has played in so many issues. This is something that can push people away from wanting to understand or assimilate into the faith. It makes it challenging for believers to see some actions of people in the Church, and to reconcile this with its teachings.
- God's call of love and mercy, and that He wants to have a deep relationship with each of us. What is a challenge is that God also calls us to repent and sin no more, otherwise He will be The God of Justice. There needs to be a balance.  
Youth also struggle with the question as to why their prayers are not being answered (quickly), esp. when dealing with their own suffering or that of loved ones: "Why not me?"
- True forgiveness and love that doesn't count costs is attractive; love is misunderstood as feelings, not as willing the good of the other
- Unconditional love of Christ. The concept of their guardian angel and the renewal of the Holy Spirit in their life. Social media distorts the truth in their eyes.
- Most attractive--someone loves them unconditionally, fruits of the spirit, the people they meet, the sacraments. Misunderstood--purpose of rules and commandments, the fact we live well now so that we can be rewarded later, the reality of death and how immediate it is or can be.
- Jesus' love of mercy and forgiveness.  
The church's teachings on marriage and Theology of the Body.
- Most attractive to the youth about the Christian message is that the desires of their hearts are met - most especially that of being heard and understood.  
The youth have misunderstandings when they do not feel free to ask questions. The toxic cancel culture is feeding them untruths about the Christian message and encouraging people to be completely self-centered. To combat this toxicity, we must always be invitational and willing to open up conversations where they can ask questions and explore the faith freely.



- Unconditional love is the Christian message that attracts young people. Christ loves us so much. Are we in a position to receive what God wants to give us? We need to free ourselves from anything that prevents us from receiving Christ.
  - Attraction for my 11- year-old is Jesus is my friend Saints are an inspiration. My 17-year-old is inspired by Christian music and the "refuel" she gets at Mass each week. Misunderstood or out of context is church's teaching on social morality—especially sexual dysphoria (same sex, transgender, co-habitation, etc.) Love the sinner, hate the sin is interpreted as judgmental or condemning the person not the action.
  - A select group of young people are attracted to the order, the beauty, and the blessings of the faith.
  - Challenge/conquest Mercy missions/ programs designed to allow them to meet Christ in others. The absence of family life as Hid designed it.
  - They are attracted to challenge. The teachings of the gospel and the Catholic Church are very misunderstood by youth. They believe the church hates many different people and views.
  - Attractive: Jesus is my best friend. He wants to have a relationship with me. Misunderstood: They feel they may be rejected. True charity is attractive but any hypocrisy drives them away.
  - Attractive: Truth, love, not being judged Misunderstood: Difficult to speak for them and really not sure. That in itself shows the need to try to understand our youth better. Possibly without a personal encounter with Christ all they may see is rules and sacrifices.
  - The message of welcoming, happiness and love that comes from the Lord attracts others. Unfortunately, religion is boring for some and demands limits that cannot be fulfilled willingly.
- 5. What action do you think we should carry out as Regnum Christi to strengthen and consolidate the faith of young Catholics, and to go out to meet those that do not know Christ or have fallen away?**
- Offer service projects that come with meaningful roles, beyond just showing up. Inculcate virtue...let youth build willpower to follow what they know to be right (reference the "Families of Character" program), Get involved in Conquest, and multiply our impact by getting more dads involved, ensuring that they are supporting the youth in the right way. Bring youth to Holy Hours and give explanatory formation. Live our faith in an exemplary way. Paying attention to the children around our youth. Stressing the importance of having families praying together and getting formation in the faith, with the dad's taking the lead role.
  - Create experiences that favor a personal encounter with Christ, like the ones we stated above.
  - Listen and respond to the needs as presented. Be steadfast in apostolates that are meeting the needs and willing to adapt as Christ indicates. Live joy in our daily life and be inviting to those we meet - open to discussion and meeting young people where they are at. Continue to form ourselves in the faith. Be not afraid.

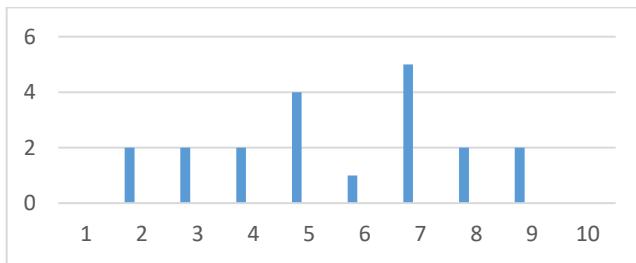


- Within the family, spouse, children and grandchildren. Be a joyful, loving person, be Jesus, witness to love them where they are at.
- Advertise things on social media like "God loves you". Pop up ads/comments on social media about love and forgiveness. Being aware of Catholic events and resources available so we can share them with young Catholics.
- Encourage them, reach out to them. Be a joyful example of giving. Pray, fast and offer sacrifices for them. Share an enlivened Faith. Help them feel needed. Make them a part of Godly/Church activities.
- It's important to establish relationship before rules. Rules protect relationship. Holy Hours, community encounters with God and one another contribute to this. Still, some good resources to understand Church teaching can be helpful; maybe even having our own resources and a forum to ask and answer these questions. This could answer the intellectual aspect of our faith. The best way to do this is to be witnesses. It never works to shove it down their throats. The invitation is enough when it come from an authentic witness...
- Be willing to provide our testimonies, the "reason for our hope", and be actively involved in our local Churches, community, schools, etc.
- Service projects that allow them know the needs of others in the world. Offer support and prayers. Any programs or Missions that they can participate in. By doing this they can see Christ in others.
- What should we do? a. Participating in and running weekend retreats that can appeal to youth. NOTE: A real problem with this team is that most of us no longer have young children in the house. b. Help out at Cardinal Gibbons. c. Look to recruit people with young children, especially Latinos.
- Be intentional to invite our youth to the many RC apostolates that will bring them together with others who want to grow in their faith. Continue to pray to the Holy Spirit in guidance in this area.
- On the RC Spirituality website, there are 'Uncle Eddy' emails available that are sent daily to one's inbox offering spiritual advice aimed at youth as they navigate through life's journey in today's world. There are so many wonderful resources available that we can share with our youth – send them an invite to check it out. Our job is to be invitational and not to take it personally when there is no response. Trust that God is working in their lives.
- In Regnum Christi, we have the formation to catechize families and have the Conquest and Challenge groups that young people can join. In today's society, families are under attack. We can bring back the small Christian Communities for different age groups such as seniors or empty nesters. We can provide education on the Theology of the Body for families. We can seek out radio spots or social media sites such as Catholics Come Home to re-educate Catholics. Regnum Christi members need to let the joy of Christ shine in them.
- Action is to encourage young Catholics to fully explore what the Church REALLY teaches not what they think it says. Offer classes. Engage in conversation based on study.
- Trivia night, Catechesis evening followed by socializing, field trips.
- More Apostolic outreach. Evangelization projects



- Offer mission experiences, from 1/2 day to week long. Meet them where they are at and at the same time challenge their misunderstood ideas.
- It would be incredible if we could equip young leaders. Strengthen and empower Catholic families. We need "youth hospitals" with Spiritual Direction and confession. A door in might be Catholic sports teams to attract those who don't know Christ.
- Setting up service projects and inviting youth to take part in them. Supporting each other to strengthen and consolidate the faith within our families. Knowing more about the youth programs within Regnum Christi and to invite youth to take part in them. To ensure that anything we offer is open and welcoming to any youth who feels drawn to attend.
- The youth with good Catholic foundation should start encounter teams in places such colleges and work and go out to meet those that they don't know or that have fallen. And we as parents should support and accompany them. Spiritual direction provided for the youth is very important. Keep accompanying even those fallen away just as Jesus would go for the 100th sheep.

**6. To what degree do you think Regnum Christi in your locality is responding to the needs of people in this field of evangelization?**



**7. As a team, how can we collaborate with God in his work of growing the kingdom in this field of evangelization?**

- After ensuring we have made an intention investment in our own formation, focus on making the investment in the team, and then the community. Concretely relating to youth, we should reach out to dads, explaining the value of the apostolic work in which we are engaged (Conquest or other), to see if they are interested in getting involved themselves, but also to allow them to explain what types of things they are involved with (which we can encourage)
- The renewed and intentional focus on healing and identity in our young adult work is essential to address the needs of the current population. Offering hands-on sensing experiences help them more profoundly touch the realities of faith and therefore break through the rationalistic and scientific barrier. If we intentionally work with YA, we can change culture because we can help them have a Gospel-based criteria regarding their ideologies and will counteract the polarization of culture.
- Virtual team spread across a large geographic area. Support one another with prayer, encouragement.



- Work with our parish and Archdiocese in the efforts for Evangelization. Reaching out to others as much as possible in the entire aspects of our daily life. See needs, meet the needs.
- Share opportunities we hear about with others (Theology on Tap, etc.)
- Be open to spiritual lights. Ask God to show us how we can effectively serve. Pray and fast.
- We can continue to be present in our Encounters with Christ and attend Holy Hours, with the aim of inviting a friend.
- Continue to pray and ask God to help us to discern our team apostolate, something that we need to focus on for the long term, leading us to the lost sheep/flock. Have more events, ministries, etc. such as the Healing one, where the Youth can "touch, feel, and see" for themselves God's Graces and work in action. And in addition to the local Churches, target schools, colleges, and large youth group meetings like Ignited By Truth (IBT).
- Living authentic Christian lives
- Prayer and look for opportunities to support youth focused service.
- Participate in and run weekend retreats that can appeal to youth. NOTE: A real problem with this team is that most of us no longer have young children in the house. b. Help out at Cardinal Gibbons. c. Look to recruit people with young children, especially Latinos.
- Learn to how to mentor the youth who are reaching out and searching. Include our elderly, those with so much wisdom.
- Pray for all our children and grandchildren as well as all the youth of the world. We can invite youth to our events, such as our Holy Hours and online retreats. Work with our parish priests to encourage youth to attend events such as youth groups and youth camps. Important to keep the focus on what we can do, versus what we can't do. To be about developing our own spiritual lives through team life, SpEx, prayer, and the sacraments.
- We need to support this area with more intercessory prayer for youth and families. As disciples of Christ, we are called to be his witnesses in the world in which we live. We should seek ways in which we can help others. Giving people our time affirms people. If we ignore others, we are sending the message that they aren't worth it. We should be welcoming, joyful and look for ways to be involved.
- I have made an effort to give my children retreat/camps with Conquest/Challenge. Encourage discussion on moral topics at dinner table so the family is well formed.
- Support missions
- Pray, support mission activities in our local parishes.
- To pray for our youth. To look at starting a social justice group within the parish. To volunteer and promote RC youth opportunities like the Arcatheos and Captivenia camps. To create opportunities for youth to come together to know they are not alone in their love for Christ. To search out ECYD - How do we encourage youth to Encounter Christ, live out their convictions and decide for themselves? (ECYD) What materials could we use? How do we offer it in our parish? Where do the resources come from? (The ECYD encounters we did gave us a great idea of who ECYD is but not about the practical, hands on information to move forward)
- Propose, start and support Catholic centers for the youth.

## Discussion Guide 5: Marriage and Family

### Audience Analysis

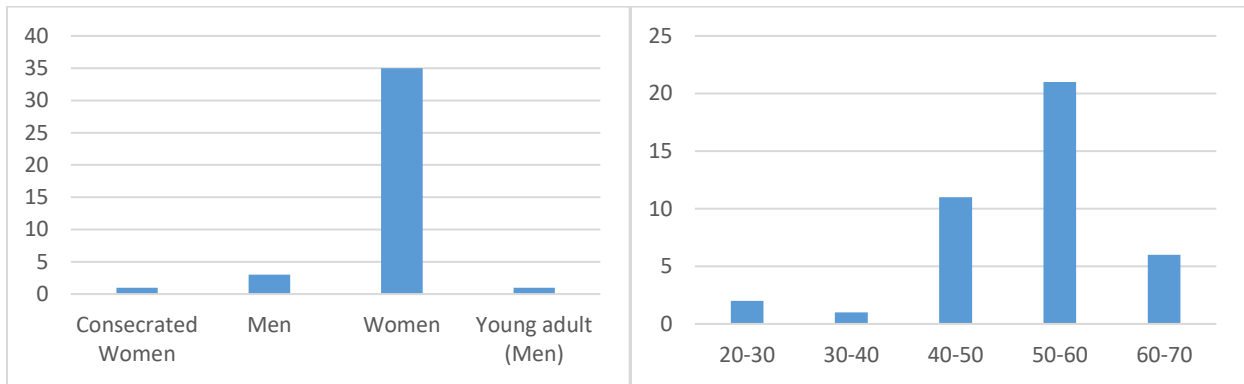
**Number of teams that participated: 41**

Atlanta (12)  
 Calgary (2)  
 Cincinnati (4)  
 Dallas (6)  
 Detroit (1)  
 Diaspora (4)

Heartland (1)  
 New Orleans (2)  
 New York Tri-State (1)  
 Ontario (1)  
 Other (2)  
 Raleigh (5)

**Type of teams:**

**Team members' average age:**



**1. What do the people around you think about marriage (family, friends, coworkers)? What elements of our current culture have brought them to this idea?**

- Young people and their parents think that cohabitation is acceptable and even necessary. Our own children bring it up, seemingly desiring to hear truth. Lack of formation and true teaching about marriage is immense -- one chaplain once mentioned that up to 50% of marriages are invalid because of lack of knowledge about what marriage truly is. People are getting married for the sake of being married rather than seeking a spouse who is living a life of virtue due to lack of understanding that true love is doing and sacrificing for the sake of the other person.

All education and entertainment consider cohabitation to be the norm, and waiting until marriage to be abnormal, despite the fact that statistics show that marriage success is higher when there is no cohabitation. The de-forming of our children on morality topics like marriage, sexuality and gender identity play into poor understanding of what marriage is meant to be. There is a lack of people talking about the truth, and a lack of parents accepting the responsibility of being the first educators of their children. People don't like commitment, instead looking for immediate personal happiness.



- In Dallas families live a fast paced life where both parents work full time, frequently travel for work, and are stretched by the numerous activities of their kids. While they value formation, they do not have the time to participate in events and programs. There is a rise in divorce, abuse, narcissism, addictions, and other needs for healing, even in the RC community. While all of the Consecrated work with couples and families in various capacities, marriage and family formation is not the main focus in our apostolates, nor are we trained as experts in these fields.
- Marriage is both cheapened... and an unattainable ideal. Divorce and failure in marriage is now extremely normal, and the debates and battles for marriage have shifted into more extreme areas like gay marriage etc. These are incredibly complex topics where it's hard to gain any ground in the cultural discussion. Winning and evangelizing through argument is next to impossible. We need to showcase the beauty of marriage instead.
- The immediate people around us, friends and family, think that marriage is a union between man and woman, in which they consent before God, to last all lifelong. We all live in areas where families are strong, but on the media we hear the opposite message that we follow. Marriage is just an agreement that lasts as long as both partners are comfortable or is not even considered for being useless since it takes away the "magic" of a relationship. This ideas come from not having God as the center of a relationship, lack of clear communication, selfishness, doing what feels right at the moment, lack of sacrifice.
- Some think it is "conditional" and "optional" to stay united after the fact depending on how unbearable or "toxic" the situation becomes. We spoke about a television show in which a separated couple decides to reunite and debates re-marrying. They conclude that they do not need to remarry if they instead "decide to choose each other every day". We joked that this was the way their marriage was supposed to be approached from the start...
- Marriage is "out of fashion", according to our culture, or unnecessary. Marriage has been devalued instead of valued as a sacrament. Society now sees it as little more than "dressing up in white". In our pragmatic culture there is a lack of commitment. Our culture is normalizing things that don't contribute to a healthy society with Christian values (ex. cohabitation or the culture of sex before marriage). There is much manipulation through social media that is destroying the essence of marriage. Within the circles in which we move we feel that we are in a bubble of people who uphold family, marriage and Catholic values. It's up to us to bring these to our society. In marriage Christ commits Himself with the spouses and in the decisions we make together.
- People who are around us represent the society at large. They encompass everything from supporting homosexual 'marriage' to not seeing the value of the commitment to a Christian marriage at all. We also have chosen to surround ourselves with people who do represent marriage and family as God has willed it for us.
- Many people around us no longer see the value of marriage. Much of this is due to the influence of our current culture, which sees nothing wrong with cohabitation and bearing children as a single parent, as well as alternative lifestyles. In some cases, the devaluation of marriage which we have observed seems to stem from relational loss and hurts felt and witnessed in their families of origin.



- Many people think having a large family (3+) is crazy. "Was this one an accident?" Statements like that are not uncommon. Culture puts more of an emphasis on material goods and comfort. The financial and personal sacrifice required in a growing family does not appeal to many young professionals. Couples are often not prepared for the real sacrifice that marriage requires. Once people stop being "happy" they look for a way out.
- Society approaches marriage as good when it works for them, but when it's not, it's not worth the sacrifice. Marriage is viewed as difficult, if not impossible, and doable only when it is not burdensome. Focus on ourselves, disordered priorities, fear of commitment and suffering. Our media influences our perceptions of marriage as well.
- They think marriage is a contract rather than a covenant. You can enter in and get out of it. Covenants are for life, contracts are temporary. If the marriage isn't "happy" or they are struggling, people can choose to simply leave. The focus is self-centered, not on the marriage itself. Society says that if you aren't happy, you have to leave. "It's not good for the children" (to stay together if they are unhappy) is an excuse people use. It's not about the good of the other person, it's focused on what just one person is getting out of the marriage. People believe that marriage isn't a commitment and based on the whims of the moment. It is convenient. Marriage is based on "love" (emotions) so you can marry whomever you "feel" love for. If those emotions change, you can leave the marriage. We are seeing a high rate of divorce. 85% of people in the UK cohabit before getting married. It is accepted there and in the United States as well. Living together is seen as a "trial period." Fidelity in some parts of the world is not even considered. It can be "natural" for men and women to have other partners outside of marriage and it accepted; part of the culture. Current culture is all about "me." Self-sacrifice is rare and "something is wrong with you" if you talk about sacrificing for others. Lack of faith is a contributing factor. If people see this life as the only thing, suffering and sacrifice are to be avoided and the focus is on grasping for comfort and happiness rather than something deeper. In today's culture, marriage is no longer between one man and one woman. There are all sorts of "partnerships" now: man and man, woman and woman, multiple spouses, multiple "genders," etc. These relationships are now accepted. They are seen as "normal" and the true marriage of one man and one woman is seen as abnormal. There is an agenda in the media and entertainment that promotes these false ideas of marriage, love and fidelity.
- Why not gay marriage? Why can't we live together before we get married? Marriage is a journey--we grow in it. Why these attitudes and questions: Financial concerns and a desire to build a career delay marriage. There is also a lack of trust in God, and increase in self-dependence, and fewer practicing Christians in general.
- Likeminded friends look at it as a vocation. Coworkers, acquaintances look at marriage as a convenience, a partnership. No fault divorce contributes to divorce.
- Relationships appear strong but varied. Marriage is central to how they live. Secular opinions differ based on the elements of faith, culture & generation. Living together has become the norm for many younger couples who see no difference.
- Many around us think marriage is about "duty" or "work." There is also a mentality of it being more about a piece of paper or what feels "right." We would guess that our Western mentality of independence and our fascination with novelty brought to us by social media has likely led to this short attention span and focus on attraction or good feelings rather than the true beauty of marriage.





- Among the culture in general, marriage seems to be taken very casually. People are blind to the effect the breakdown of the family has had on the culture. Basic human formation seems to be lacking, and marriage is seen more as a contract. However, there are committed couples and we're fortunate to see that because of the movement.
- Older generations - Marriage is for life. It is for procreation. Younger generation - Marriage is a partnership. You can try it and if does not work, ok to separate. They are ok with cohabitation. At the moment folks are marrying later in life, due to focus on building careers. Sometimes that is causing decisions to delay or don't have children. In younger generations same-sex attraction/gay relationships are being accepted although against the teachings of the church.
- People think: Family division-only a few believe marriage should be only between one man and one women. The rest believe (strongly) that homosexual "marriage" is OK (and to be celebrated). Younger generation accepts homosexual "marriage". Family members are living with their boyfriend/girlfriend before marriage. Some feel marriage means you're ready to have kids and buy a house. Engagements are long. They seem to value commitment, but not marriage. Some think that the Catholic teachings on marriage is beautiful, but not for them. Most of our nieces and nephews live together with their "partner" before marriage. Wedding ceremonies are not Catholic, no Sacrament, make up their own vows which are sometimes humorous. Remarriage after divorce is common with on annulment.
- Current culture: Inconsistencies within the Church (receiving the Eucharist while in the state of sin, Contraception. Entertainment used to only portray intact families. Now homosexual couples are celebrated, parents are put down by children. Incorrect view of feminism (my body, my choice). Pornography. The Church has been silent or divided on these issues as they were developing, but now there is a critical mass. Pope Francis doesn't correct sinful behavior publicly as opposed to St. John Paul II or Pope Benedict XVI. Misconception that to love someone, we need to accept their behavior. Person is shamed or cancelled if they don't accept the behavior. Children don't know how to dialogue with someone who they disagree with. Electronics, COVID. People keep to others who have the same beliefs- do not need to engage with others who have different beliefs. Health teaching has encouraged sinful behavior. Adolescent books featuring homosexual couples.
- There are various opinions about marriage. Some couples opt out of having children so that they can use their money for travel and to satisfy their own selfish interests. Some prefer living together instead of entering into a marriage. Some couples see marriage as good; yet, they don't know how to put God and His love at the center of the marriage.
- Some see it as a covenant, others as a partnership. the news media has brought many to this idea of a partnership instead of a covenant and lessened the identity of marriage and in some cases redefining it
- Marriage is not held in Solomon tradition or a sacred covenant. The current culture has lost its moral values and hence the strong tradition of marriage has fallen apart.
- Our close friends and family all support marriage, but sadly there are many in our community around us don't have a high opinion of marriage. Many people live together and choose not to have children. Our culture promotes the idea that self-interests come first.



- Marriage is at center of cultural storm. Focus of culture is on gay marriage. But attack on marriage also includes other issues- premarital sex, divorce, birth control, etc.
- They don't understand what it is. They think it a relationship of two people who love each other at the moment. Could be a man and a woman or two men or two women. They think that love is a feeling that can fade away. If you don't feel the love, you get divorced. Latch key kids felt they could do it on their own. They didn't need another person or even God. Self-absorption.
- Society sees marriage with an out always, divorce. Our group sees Marriage as a permanent commitment between God and two people. Divorce is not an option.
- People don't respect Marriage; they don't value it. Commitment is lost. Some are honoring marriage but misunderstood. There is no understanding that it is a sacrament. The element of our current culture has taken God out of everything. We don't hold marriage to what it is we make it be whatever we want it to be. There is no respect for God, ourselves and others...only selfishness.
- Most of our close friends see marriage as a sacred union between man and woman. However, we have family and others we know who do not view family/marriage in the same way. The elements of culture are the influence of media. The secular concept of freedom. The idea that ALL love is equal and that the euphoric feeling is the most important.
- We are surrounded with people that support our Catholic beliefs in marriage and family life and with people that believe that as long as couples love each other, it does not matter if they are the same sex.  
Much of the current culture does not value marriage as a sacrament and many couples are not laying down their lives in a lifetime of love and commitment. The attitude that says 'if my needs are not being met, then I'm leaving', is prevalent in society.
- Most people today do not see marriage as a sacrament. People view marriage as meeting their own personal needs: more feeling based vs faith based. God has been removed from most elements of our culture, the examples from our tv shows, music, movies etc all leave faith out of the equation.
- Feminism, Pope Paul VI Humanae vitea...slippery slope of contraception, transhumanism, "love is Love" no matter what combo that is.
- Today there are so many more influences that create hardship in marriage. The church in its wisdom recognizes things that are contrary to the covenant of marriage such as abuse. God created us with free will and he is crystal clear what he means about marriage.
- Many without faith view marriage as optional, or as a means to an end, or doesn't have to be between a man and a woman. Divorce and relativism have influenced the current mindset. Some truly value marriage and commitment.
- The fundamental goodness of marriage still resonates in a person's heart. Civil unions have opened the gates to destroying the sacrament of marriage. As young couples they do not fully understand the Sacrament.
- It varies. Growing number of people think it's whatever you want it to be and it's not founded in the bible. Feminism, relativism, social media; removing God from society; worshiping self instead of God.
- Our own families - do we feel like our own children and husbands have a similar view of marriage as we do? Our children definitely have a FOUNDATION. They've been taught,



they know. The culture that they are immersed in is tough though. It's confusing. Not only has there been a complete redefinition of marriage (same-sex attraction/marriage is now widely accepted, normalized), It's more common than ever to live together rather than get married, and there is also less importance placed on getting married in the Church.

Friends/ in the workplace - Things in the workplace have changed dramatically in recent years. An example: addressing coworkers by self-identified pronouns. Our response: to love, as Jesus loves. To continue to give testimony to marriage. The truth we witness quietly, through our actions, is very powerful. At the same time, we have to care authentically for all souls. We have to LOVE. We don't turn our backs on anyone. We never stop loving the person. We separate the person and the behavior. Jesus told us "Love on another as I have loved you."

What elements of our current culture have brought them to this idea - Technology / social media has been a powerful influence. An intentional agenda that has moved slowly and deliberately through culture has been powerful. Pornography, sex-trafficking, abortion, contraception, gender-confusion. Our leaders are not being truthful about these issues. They are not bringing these issues to light, or acknowledging that these things have a DIRECT effect on our men, and on our culture in general. There is so much being hidden in the dark, not being brought to light. Our secular leaders, religious leaders, and lay leaders (all of us!) must be brave and speak the truth, even at the risk of losing friends/followers.

- Scientific revolution, sexual revolution, media revolution have contributed to cultural disordered ideas about marriage and family
- Marriage is for as long as you love each other – not a lifelong commitment. Not a sanctification to bring each other to God.

Commitment to another person rather than a Covenant between God and two persons – therefore many civil marriages.

Not many people actually talk about marriage anymore.

It depends on those who those people are that are around you. Many think like us RC members because we are around them. But coworkers, they don't even really talk about marriage – no one wants to disagree, so it often does not even come up

Society doesn't really know what marriage is anymore....

Even now, young good Catholics that have gotten married are shocked at the reality of what it entails once they are married and how difficult it is, therefore we see a need to support our young married Catholic couples.

What elements of our current culture have brought them to this idea?

The rise of our current culture of me, myself and I – if it feels good, it must be right.

People let their emotions sway them – if this person/marriage, no longer meets my emotional needs, then I can just move on. People are replaceable, people are disposable.

Not seeing each person or even yourself as having value in God's eyes. There is not an openness to life - which truly affects marriage – the purpose of marriage denigrated by abortion and birth control. An attitude of, “no one is going to tell me what to do.” People are very hesitant to get married – I don't want anyone to own me (a distorted ownership). Long ago we used to have the support of having family around, but now families are



often far apart in distance. We've lost the whole picture of looking after our elderly and how they used to help us as young couples.

- Couples don't think marriage is forever. The elements from our culture such as feminism, self-centered, liberalism, disposable and discard mindset, short term commitments lead to this mind set.
- Older adults something to be valued. Younger adults no necessary to have a relationship or family. Younger adults a breakdown in society, lack of value for individuals, inability to commit.
- People think that marriage is no longer necessary. No rush. Or, they will give it a try, leaning toward a temporary condition. Our generation went into marriage with the attitude that it is going to work. Co-habitation puts an emphasis on the temporary state of relationships and their easy exit.
- Today marriage often does not include unconditional love – it is considered a “50/50” effort, with no mention of sacrificial love. Absent is the idea that marriage is not to be solely for self-happiness but for the happiness of the other.

## **2. What do Christian marriage and family contribute to the world?**

- Catholic marriages are witnesses of true sacrificial love, and the importance of praying together. Marriage shows a true community that reflects the Trinity, helping people know who God is. Christian marriages are also the source of advice and accompaniment to those in troubled marriages and to those looking to become married. Children of those marriages, with that witness, go on to have strong marriages themselves. Fathers who practice the faith show statistically that their children will follow suit. They teach people about human virtue; all human virtues can be forged by overcoming challenges in marriage.
- They are the bedrock of society!!!
- Faithful, fruitful, self-sacrificing love is the natural apex of human thriving... even without the supernatural thriving of marriage as a sacrament. That's what we can offer the world.
- Family is the domestic church. It contributes to stability, union, faith in God, presence of God, a community of love. It helps to come out of yourself and serve others in love. It a solid foundation of society where you learn to love, be loved, feel accepted, grow in charity and values and virtues. And these actions reflect to society. A healthy and God centered family upbringing forms emotionally healthy human beings.
- Exemplary children (ideally) and living examples of a fruitful union. They contribute to the stability of society and bring a transcendent hope. The Holy Family gives a great example to our world.
- Stability, life, marriage as GOD designed. The representation of the Holy Trinity, safety and security for all children. A formula and a path to heaven (if we can stay as close to it as possible), it makes life so much easier for us and our children.
- We believe Christian marriages provide stability, unconditional and sacrificial love, unity, commitment, and the passing on of virtues.
- Christian marriages provide examples of loving sacrifice. They exude a sense of security and constancy amid the culture of ever-changing appetites.
- Stability, values, community, love, faith is established in the family.



- The family is the foundation of a society. If the family falls apart, the church falls apart and society is a mess. Family provides stability. A well-lived Christian marriage is a light to the world of darkness. Some people struggle in the light of a loving family. It makes them uncomfortable because of their own pain and woundedness. The devil is attacking what is central to our lives with God. Traditional marriage is seen as "narrow-minded." Marriage demonstrates formation to society and it forms the children that come from the marriage. Formation in virtues, love and faith. This formation leads to a good, vibrant, productive, loving society. Without this formation, our children cannot create that solid society that is focused on God.
- Mom and Dad is the best environment for kids to grow up in. It provides stability for kids and for society. Models how to treat people of the opposite sex and how to treat other people in general.
- A strong society, built on honesty, hard work, self-giving. Protection for women and children.
- Teach values; compromise with compassion; share responsibilities & actively divide roles. Give witness to stability...love of Trinity. Contribute to a vision of unconditional & unbreakable love. Grace is given & received.
- They contribute stability, a place where people learn vulnerability, virtue, and the beauty of balancing weaknesses within a community with generous self-gift. The ripple effect of Christian values and love is essential in today's world.
- Children who come from intact families have a stronger base to fight the culture that's around them. It helps them know their worth. Also, parental love opens children to being able to feel the love of God.
- Family is the domestic church. The family that prays together stays together. Growth in population due to Christian beliefs on procreation. Christian marriage and family promote a Loving community which supports one another.
- It offers a model-something to strive for. It's counter-cultural. Gives children a place to feel safe and loved. Confusion for children in same-sex couple families. Large Catholic families are attractive. It's a place of prayer and community-should build up society.
- Social behaviors and the virtues of the Domestic Church learned at home teach you how to live and how to get along with other people. Unconditional love, charity and the social graces are first learned at home. Children witness the faith, love, and affection of their parents. A faith filled home where Christian values are practiced prepare our children to live in society.
- Discipline and direction in order to exist together in a social system; morals; values
- Stability - Foundation of society
- Christian marriages contribute God-fearing children, stability, and the perpetuation of more healthy families. It goes against what Satan wants - to tear and divide our families apart.
- Stability. Model of God's plan for the dignity of men and woman. Building block for society.
- Committed love; stability; good role models; children who are well-balanced and emotionally stable (less depressed; less drug use, less criminal)
- God gives these marriages stability, security, faith, happiness, and love. This feeds the world and makes it the place He wants.



- Hope. Joy. Stability. Continuity. Love. Caring. Christian marriage & family are a fundamental cell of society. It is the building block on which virtue is built. The society relies on families to have children to propagate society.
- Christian marriages bring stability to society. They demonstrate and model the ideal of what marriage should be. The strength of family life is a witness of God's love and serves as a haven for others. Christian families are a place of love, acceptance, responsibility and they live by example by pressing on through the hard times of life with God's grace.
- Hope, stability, children, security, example of service to others, commitment with things aren't perfect
- Order, goodness, beauty, Kingdom of God on earth; Domestic Church rightly ordered. all the virtues... spills over into society; building of the Kingdom...schools, universities, hospitals, art, monasteries...
- A man must leave his father and mother... Couples grow together as one in various ways. The witness of sacramental marriage is a light in the world. Marriage is an extension of your heart and soul to become one spiritual heart, manifesting His love. It's the continuity of God's love from creation to marriage and family, to live in oneness with our Lord. There is a freedom to be who we are, unafraid and totally free in a sacramental marriage as well as to grow through interaction with others.
- It contributes to the formation of well-formed individuals, and as a place to mold and develop virtue. They are a witness to the love of Christ in the world as a sacrificial commitment.
- Family is the basic unit of society. A God centered marriage can be a light and witness to those who have only seen marriages thru a secular lens.
- It's foundational based on Christ and morals that then grows to a larger family. They are building blocks to a healthy and good society. They provide a witness. They live by the virtues given by God, which are what is truly good, rather than each individual what is good.
- The Domestic Church has so much to contribute to the world. Witness - A big contrast to our culture's definition of marriage is our own witness of marriage - couples who have been married for decades are a beautiful reminder of God's plan for human happiness. We just have to be what we know we are supposed to be. The value of suffering - the world tells us "avoid suffering at all cost." We, however, see the redemptive value in suffering. Marriage isn't easy. Forgiveness - If we are more forgiving, we will be more relatable/attractive. It is so important that we check our judgment. Self-sacrifice - the good of other takes priority
- Examples of truth, goodness, beauty
- There is beauty in truth and people are attracted to beautiful Christian marriages. We all love, love stories - and Christian marriages are exactly that. They contribute stability - an anchor - older married couples who have gone through many trials. They contribute hope for other marriages and for families. There is a security that Christ provides. Christian marriages are Salt (preserving) of the earth and Light (hope). By living out our Christian marriages the way they are meant to be - we are reconciling the world to Christ. We are a signpost - Theology of the Body - mirroring the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Many hidden sacrifices for the world come from Christian marriages. "Every marriage is a silent homily for the world."



- Stability, solid familiar bonds, stable communities, children with positive self-esteem.
- Stability, role models, hope for the future.
- Stability, fidelity, faithfulness, an example of all virtues. Serve each other. Get each other to heaven.
- Current culture promotes to live for fun, travel, etc. Those married by the Church have families, but the culture of today brings the selfishness of the secular world. Absent is the value of marriage as Sacrament. It is considered “disposable”. The issue with the growth of divorce is in lacking a desire to give. Marriage is not a “trial”; it is dealing with a human being. Without the commitment of marriage each person is objectified. Without sacramental marriage, the couple is not on solid ground and marriage loses its fabric, is without inner strength and courage. The desire for commitment and public declaration of it still runs deep particularly for women. An unsettled feeling can exist until permanently committed through engagement toward marriage. The vision of marriage is changing and losing value. Catholicism is not the official religion in our country and therefore there is more freedom. When couples come to marriage prep it gives hope because they often want to know more about the Faith.

### **3. What elements help Christian marriages and families to live their vocation and mission fully? What difficulties do they encounter?**

- A dynamic, family-oriented parish helps marriages thrive. Gatherings and friendships with good Christian families are also supportive. Simplicity, faith, praying together, commitment of spouses to work through challenges such as an addiction to pornography no matter what, and knowing that we are supposed to help spouses and children get to heaven, and the knowledge that graces come from the sacrament of marriage are all helpful elements, Parents who know that they are their children's first teachers also helps spouses live their vocation fully. Robust knowledge of St John Paul II's Theology of the Body will also be a very helpful element. Difficulties include being a minority amongst the confusion of the world, ignorance of church teaching, and knowing how to teach the truth in love without seeming judgmental and turning people away. There is a lack of marriage preparation and a lacking in Catholic response to discourage divorce. Additionally, there are a lack of people interested in knowing what the church teaches about marriage, contraception, and divorce vs annulment, and a lack of people to accompany them as witnesses to the truth of Christian marriage.
- Even though evangelization works best when it's in their homes and on their terms, thus not being separated from spouses and kids, we do not have the bandwidth to be present at each of these smaller events thus challenging us to be more strategic.
- External difficulties like a culture that doesn't support marriage, or commitment. Internal difficulties like pressures to marry/not marry this or that person, to marry very young, to have an inordinate number of children, to live life based on duty instead of based on love and joy.
- Sacraments and prayer life in the family, mission work, participation in Church groups. A difficulty can be time management and children's activities like, school, sports, social.



- Leadership in the parish and Church. Healthy community.  
Difficulties: poverty, war, ideologies, pornography, escapism.
- God, individual and Family prayer, the 10 commandments, the Word of God. Both spouses need to grow together to maintain unity but they are two individuals. This means respecting the dignity of the other but giving themselves and loving maturely.
- Support at the diocesan level. A community of support such as Communio, Life Giving Wounds, Cana Family Institute, City on the Hill, etc. There is the commitment part of marriage. Surrounding yourself with families who ARE living out their mission. Welcoming families & having children's liturgies.  
The difficulties that they experience is brokenness, societal pressures, busyness, isolation, materialism, sports & extra-curricular commitments.
- Worshipping together, working on charitable projects, friendships and support of the parish and community and family friendly events all assist Catholic families to live their vocation. Difficulties include popular culture, relativism, social media, and the huge focus on organized sports teams.
- More mentorship and stronger community among Christian families. Everyone is so busy, it is hard to find time to foster these types of relationships.
- Focus on God, good formation, active involvement in a strong parish, Catholic schools, time together strengthening the relationships, opportunities for participation in various activities. Difficulties are schedules: travel for sports, social media, wanting time for ourselves.
- Being in a Christian community helps marriages. When you are around people with the same values, it helps you maintain those values in your own marriage and family. Christ-centeredness is important for a family to survive and thrive. The world tells people in good marriages that they are "crazy" for living as they do (having multiple children, being focused on sacrifice and love, etc.). Children are constantly being exposed to people who have values that are not Christ-centered and that is a big influence on them. Technology is a huge distraction in forming good family values. It breaks down loving communication and creates isolation even within close families. Long-term marriage is difficult. It takes perseverance (which is not valued in today's society). We are naturally self-centered as humans. The struggle against this tendency can wear people down and cause them to "give up" on keeping their family together and strong.
- Help: Mass and sacraments. Online RC resources. Difficulties: distractions, especially online. Lack of encouragement for the family in society.
- The Church, the sacraments. Support from good friends, family.  
The culture, indoctrination, scandal.
- Family foundation. Living a sacramental life, praying together, sharing Christian community.
- Movements and families like Regnum Christi, strong communities with like-minded individuals/groups in parishes, and regular prayer and sacramental life as a family help Christian marriages and families to live their vocation and mission fully. Additionally, having strong spiritual mothers and fathers to mentor and encourage couples would be extremely helpful. They face difficulties in the redefinition of sexuality and marriage, the distortion of God-given masculinity, and the world view of living and loving based on whims or emotions. We also believe that families that do not have strong communities to





support them will likely face the difficulty of isolation and loneliness particularly in young or struggling families.

- As couples, praying and receiving the sacraments together creates a strong bond. However, individual formation can really strengthen a couple. Small groups are great. Having likeminded friends strengthens the will. The biggest challenge is time, followed by the normalization of broken families.
- Sacraments, Community spirit, Active Clergy, Faith formation, God at the center, Commitment to sacrificial love, Sharing with others.  
Difficulties: Individualism - every person feels they can do what they will as long as they harm no one. Materialism: Our society is filled with people (many who go to church) who only ever see the material aspect of life.
- Elements: Learning about the beauty of marriage (Church teachings on marriage). Familia, Beloved, Splendor of Love are influential: stay at home mom. Programs that uphold true family values are really important. They provide teaching and community. Our Bishop will be requiring PSR families to take family catechesis. Vocation and mission are very contrary to our culture, so we need to promote the vision of marriage and family. We fall short in works of mercy. We take care of ourselves, but don't look to take care of our neighbors. As a family we should have that mission.  
Difficulties: Busyness: sports, school, activities. Keep us from sacred family time, serving others. Lack of support system. People moving. No availability of supportive programs going on at the parish level. Lack of other families living their Catholic Faith. Divorce is much more common. Immediate family (parents) did not model Catholic marriage.
- Christian love for God reinforces our place in the hierarchy of creation. We are creatures that must love and serve God and neighbor. Being selfish, inwardly focused and feeling entitled makes for a lonely and unhappy life. The sacraments of Confession and the Eucharist help us strengthen our marriage. In the Regnum Christi Encounters, we see couples who are happily married and children who are well adjusted. The Church gives us annulments in cases of emotional or physical abuse. Families of faith need to come together to show how marriages and families make a difference in the world.
- God's grace, community, examples; difficulties: financially life is more difficult, the media influence makes it more difficult, immorality and consumerism being the norm
- To go to mass together as a family - to pray together - to invite the clergy over for meals - to eat together. Difficulties encountered - long work days, work commitments, children activities; also the way the world is moving regarding moral issues - it feels like an upward battle and that the Christian marriage/family are the minority
- Church teaching, going to Mass, building a solid relationship with the Father, prayer, living united with God and loving each other to will the good of the other person are all elements that will strengthen marriages and help them live their vocation. Difficulties in marriages are all tied to our broken natures - too much time spent at work, not spending enough time together, taking each other for granted as well as financial strains, pornography, substance or alcohol abuse, even our genders can be used to tear people apart. The enemy will attack at every angle.
- The fact that marriage is a sacrament is forgotten or ignored. To help with this pre Cana programs, Familia program, walking with purpose program for women, men's groups.



- Helps: Small groups, Familia, coed studies and retreats; 3 to get married (there needs to be follow-up group to help them form relationships with other Catholic couples and to persevere) Three to Stay Married. Difficulties: They don't hear about Catholic Marriage from the pulpit. Lack of support; lack of other Catholic couple friends; the culture; lack of or price of babysitting to attend programs
- The church, Study groups, Community and comfort amongst each other. The difficulties are the same as the world in these marriages but God gives a resolution through these elements in a Christian marriage.
- Love, the sacraments, prayer, relationships with other families, connection to a parish community, and support with other Christ centered people, husband and wife relationship with God, What are the difficulties they encounter? Pressure from the culture and its secular thinking. Dual income vs parental accompaniment, technology, wokeness, lack of Godly priorities, selfishness, the education system, indoctrination. Raising children in a culture of death.
- There is a sense of order when families & marriages are guided by the principles set by the church. The elements that are essential are prayer, sacraments, solid instruction in catechesis & morality and a community that embraces and encourages these values. The difficulties encountered are the lack of formation and solid catechesis in parishes. An ever encroaching secular society that undermines the values of the church.
- The witness of other Christian families who may struggle and then persevere and adhere to the teachings of the Church. The grace of the sacraments and the acknowledgement that God is an integral part of their marriage. Couples that have a prayer life are much more able to live a life of hope and love. Being around other healthy Catholic families, such as at the Family Life Conference is such an encouragement to persevere in Catholic family life and marriage.  
Some difficulties encountered are the lack of strong Christian families and becoming too involved in activities that pull them away from sacramental life.
- Get married in a church, don't live together before marriage, no artificial contraceptive, pray together all contribute to strong marriages. Spend time with couples who have strong marriages.
- Normalizing God and Church life in home and outside home. Being a Domestic Church.
- From the beginning, before we were broken by sin, marriage was sacred and holy. Yet, some couples enter into marriage blind. Moses allowed divorce due to our hardness of heart, the same as annulment. Christ didn't plan marriage to end in divorce but to understand that marriage is a covenant. Understanding that God has called us one body, one flesh, one church helps us live out the sacrament of marriage as a reflection of God and His church. Parents must allow their children the freedom to establish their own family and support that relationship.  
Marriage statistics are down and the culture is okay with it. Cohabitation is easy and perceived as less expensive. There is a problem with broken families and an absence of male role models, exacerbated by men becoming powerless when a woman wants to have an abortion. Men need to be built up and treated as head of the household. Women in their quest to be equal strips them of their femininity. We don't value differences as a society. There is a uniqueness to being male and female. We can relate to each other, but there men can speak to other men in ways that women can't and vice versa.



In the culture of gay women, they mimic male and female roles in the relationship. It's disordered but still mimics God's plan for male and female. Many people view marriage as giving something up vs. gaining.

The gift of self, unconditional love, children, working through tough times. The formation of community with like-minded families. Laws can negatively impact the way people view marriage. Christian witness speaks to other couples and flames the longing in their heart. The longer a couple is married, the more of a witness they can be to others. To be a witness in the public place. Be together with your spouse, be a witness in dealing with troubled times as well as good times as an example of how to work things out. It's easy to let outside influences affect our attitudes. I could never forgive... (this offense). As Catholics, we enter into marriage for life. Christian marriage benefits from good Catholic counselors, from the church, Pastors, community, spiritual direction.

- Formation events for couples and families really help. Also finding community with likeminded individuals helps, as does living a sacramental life. Persevering through the cultures negative influences, as well as normal marital struggles, make marriage difficult. Outside and social activities and distractions encroach on building strong Christian families.
- God at the center of their marriage, praying together, praying for one another, talk and listen to one another.
- Mass, the sacraments, bible study, formation, spending time with Christ and in His word.
- Scripture - There is such power in The Word!

Sacraments - There is such superpower in the Sacraments! Living that sacramental life in the family. The fuel of the Saints is the Sacraments. Grace - Grace is part of the Sacrament of Marriage. Forgiveness - So is forgiveness. Importance of Confession, If we are going to give mercy, we have to receive it. The value of life - Couples who grow old together demonstrate naturally the value of life to their loved ones.

Believing in the power of the little things done with love - surrender - we can't control. We can only work on ourselves. We must surrender and trust that God has it under control. We have to be patient.

- Programs provided by church, truth about marriage from the pulpit. Mixed messages from church, culture.
- The power of prayer from our team when our marriages are struggling; Seeing other Christian marriages (as above); Support from other couples; Laws that protect marriage and family - we have this in Canada so far; Having friends that value marriage - encourage one another to put each other first; Retrouvaille - having others to go through your marriage struggles with you; Sacrament of confession - allowing God's light to shine through where we are broken; Programs that are offered through the church. What difficulties do they encounter? Outsiders would sometimes have us leave our spouses when difficulties occur - not being understood that we are trying to live out our Covenant fully. Not wanting to be vulnerable with others because on the outside it looks like we have a "good marriage." Not having support from other couples. When people/couples don't attend Mass regularly - then they will not find out what is available for them through the Church. Also, they often have the attitude that they don't want the Church to "tell them what to do," even though it is not imposed, but simply offered.



- Union, communication, faith, fidelity, healthy communities and happiness. The difficulties encountered are the flesh and sin from the world.
- Sacraments, events for married couples and families. Family members with different values.
- Familia, the Church requiring marriage prep and the example of other Christian couples, help Christian marriages and families to live their vocation and mission fully. We are made in God's image, we know what we want, and we have the desires of the heart. When real life comes into play, the struggles don't seem to have support from the Church. There doesn't seem to be a transition. If you require counselling, you feel you're viewed as a failure. There seems to be shame in struggling. Accompanying should be expected.
- Grace through the Sacrament, the truth and love of the Gospel, and Faith formation all help Christian marriages and families to live their vocation and mission fully. There is a supernatural strength to draw on. Parents don't have to be perfect; just kind, considerate and supportive. The "glamour" presented by the secular world can bring challenges in resisting sensual desires, comforts, luxuries and peer pressure. Marriage relationships require true consistent humility to look to the interests of the other and to be forgiving. Sacraments and closeness to God (living out the Faith) are elements to help sustain Christian marriage during difficult times. Couples encounter trouble when they run away from God. Other couples with the same beliefs / vocational commitment can strengthen and support and help resist the secular force to let go.  
Being surrounded by broken families can tempt divorce as a way out.  
Formation is important, to keep on track with faith and have it in common. Couples need to be aware of the need to build a domestic church so that children will also learn.

#### **4. As Regnum Christi, how can we concretely bring Christ into the marriages and families around us?**

- Be a witness to others -- praying together, kneeling together, attending daily mass. Speak about the gift of marriage, reminding others that it is a gift and not just a challenge. Demonstrate through showing love and patience for one another (1 Cor 13:4-7), always seeking the good of the other. We can accompany those with struggling marriages, and recommend help for them from a good priest or program (Cana Uncorked (RC Apostolate in the NE United States), Retrouvaille, Marriage Encounter, Alexander House). Couples' Nights also help bring Christian truths to married couples. We can also suggest to, and accompany people in marriage prep programs like Three to Get Married. We should also work to re-implement marriage retreats locally.  
Regarding the next question (the scale of 1-10), Dallas was much higher on family (due to the school, Conquest and Challenge), compared to really just one offering about marriage (Couples Nights).
- We are all involved indirectly with families but we don't have the manpower to start a family apostolate so it is imperative that we take advantage of the moments we DO have with families.
- It starts with better RC support for young families. Our locality has very strong young adult sections, but there is a gap when it comes to young families who are busy, tired and



stressed but who can also be experienced apostles with lots of talents. RC could cater more to them/us.

- Strong formation, apostolates for every member of the family and family activities.
- Apostolates
- We can pray for families and marriages, be a good example and witness, and collaborate and welcome. We try to participate, live humility and simplicity and other virtues and fruits of the Holy Spirit. One of the greatest gifts has been the availability and accompaniment of religious for spiritual direction and retreats. Those who seek find. These give us tools and strong foundations and this is the greatest gift.
- Marriage renewals, educational programs about what marriage is and what it is not, bringing more people in to the truth as God has presented it to us. We need to be taught how to be brave and at the same time being transparent of how God works in our life.
- Our witness of service and worship, as well as our weekly Encounters with Christ, help us bring Christ to our families. Apostolates such as Familia and Splendor of Love have also helped us to do this.
- Offer mornings of reflection for couples where child care is offered. Also, more events where the men and women are not separated. Date night opportunities.
- Being willing to be more neighborly, by inviting those around us especially those that don't share our mindset. Be more intentional and generous to ask others to go with us to parish events. Be willing to share with others that our faith holds our marriage together. Make the opportunity to look outward and create fellowship with others.
- Pray for marriage. Be Christ-like in your marriage and your family (children). Be an example of living virtues including forgiving each other's' weaknesses, faults and imperfections. Continue the support of marriage and family being a primary vocation. Mary and Joseph are our example of how family life should be. Marriage renewal weekends are helpful in our own marriages and can be an inspiration to others with whom we share that experience. Forming men and women for life in the principles of living a holy life is key. The formation that Regnum Christi offers affects our marriages and families in positive ways. There are many opportunities for formation for all members: men, women, children, teens, Consecrated and Priests that help form disciples and strong families.
- RC date nights, couples encounters. Pray together. Gather together socially with other married friends.
- Defend marriage at every opportunity. Sponsor events like Beloved. Recognize married couples' successes.
- Live our vocation & give witness. Be real. Always be ready to answer Q's & give explanation of why Christian marriage is important. Be a light in our own lives & to the world.
- As RC, we can bring Christ into marriages and families around us through centering our family lives around the Lord thus bringing our joyful witness and encouragement to others. Additionally, praying and sacrificing for each other and our spiritual family would bring Christ to those around us as well.
- Regnum Christi schools and programs like 3 to Get Married are great. There are other programs lie formation in childrearing and praying the rosary for children in public schools. We need to begin with formation for women - get them into retreats so they can



carry this to the world.

The above programs are great but we feel it's very localized and if you don't live in the area, there isn't much happening. Also need to better promote what's happening for families. This is the reason why we have the low score below

- By sharing our testimonies on a god centered, loving, "All in", give 100% marriage. Have events that promote marriage and families with Christian values.
- Strive to keep Christ at the center. Familia profoundly affected many marriages (program was many years ago.). Pilgrim Queen of the Family-praying the rosary together as a family. Trying to live authentically. Involvement with Walking with Purpose (touches on marriage but isn't the main focus). Supporting parish/diocesan initiatives helping marriages. How do we go beyond our circle of friends (like minded)? Will parish marriage programs be well received? Some may feel that the parish setting is intimidating. Regnum Christi should be out getting the lost sheep (not coming to the parish for things anyway).
- We can invite others to Regnum Christi functions. We can nurture friendships and share our faith. Spiritual Direction helps us stay the course. Participating with others in church events brings Regnum Christi into the church community. Just as Jesus accompanied his disciples on the Road to Emmaus, so he is present to us in the Eucharist and in Adoration.
- By example, opportunities for support in marriage like marriage renewals and retreats as well as reflections for married couples
- Church communities / gathering bringing people and families together; Anniversary blessing for couples; Talks / Seminars / Retreats for families; Family dinners
- Reach out to women by having a Women's Retreat or have a married couples retreat.
- Invite them to events geared to their needs
- Support programs for married; retreat for mothers of young children.
- By example is the best way to bring Christ into families and marriages. Prayer.
- We can by example, we need to have more events for the family and/or marriage which invite them to grow in Catholic/Christian formation. Offer Families support and they will hopefully see our relationship with God and search for it. Greater marriage prep/marriage mentorship
- We can bring Christ into marriages around us by being a good example. By sharing with others that which has helped strengthen our marriage: prayer, sacraments, strong communication.
- By living authentic Christian marriages and by sharing with others our views of Christian marriage and family life - not shying away from speaking the truth. There are so many great resources to help us prepare for difficult and challenging discussions so we can share the love of Christ confidently. We can witness and share our family with other families by inviting them to our homes.
- By authentically living our marriages well, inviting people to marriage retreats, evenings of encounter for couples, invite families to pray a family rosary, pray for families
- Our young mom's retreat, souls around us in subdivisions; wherever we are. Seeing needs and addressing using our pedagogy.
- Programs such as 3 To Get Marries, gather couples preparing for a sacramental marriage, in union with teachings of the church and the catechism. Our witness shows them that a happy marriage is possible. Christ is the glue that holds marriage together. There is a great deal of sacrifice in marriage and in a general way, we can share the problem and

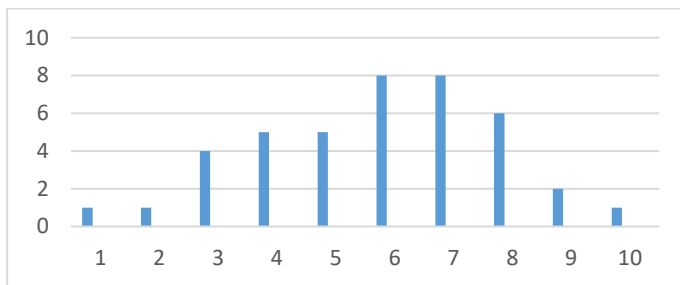


resolution (topics like don't keep score, and communication). Resources such as Retrouvaille are available for troubled marriages. A strong commitment to marriage, and working through challenges can strengthen marriage. We are each responsible for our spouse to heaven.

- By providing formation events and inviting families to these. Spiritual Direction is also a blessing. Building community with likeminded compassionate friends.
- Marriages and families can be personally influenced by the ministry and counseling of our Legionaries and Consecrated, in both joyful and challenging times.
- Inviting to EOR, witness, safe haven of love, praying in public
- Scripture, Sacraments, spiritual direction, staying united to the Vine (There is so much that is being offered in Regnum Christi), Community/accompaniment, keeping our own marriages strong - intentionally WORKING on our marriage, meeting/friendship with other strong married couples, elevate the masculine genius - Bring men together! Encourage Spiritual Leadership! An example: "That Man is You"
- Modeling good marriages, mentoring, providing programs to community
- My life in Regnum Christi helps me be who I am supposed to be and this trickles down to my marriage, my family and into the world. As we gather as friends, we can share about marriage, support each other, and reach out to other couples. EG. Look after a couples' kids so that the couple can have time together, and even work on a marriage course together. EG. Having couples and families being included in Sunday brunch in homes so that natural support is there, couples in our circles etc. Be who you are, allow our family members to see our struggles and how we are growing through the struggles, displaying that this is a normal part of marriage. Letting individuals and couples know what is out there. Communion – all the ways that we as RC meet together and be refreshed, renewed, persevere – we see Him in all these moments, and the fire can then keep spreading. Living out my relationship with Christ, with an emphasis on receiving the Sacraments. Sharing in community. Opportunities to bring couples together.
- It is – we form the apostle and then we go forth (one member teaches marriage prep and was able to share the Desires of the Heart). Live what we are called to live. RC is forming us – God chose us to be in this time, and this place. We come together faithfully and then go forth. I can evangelize to the degree of the depth of my relationship with Christ – if I am grafted to the vine, then He WILL work through me. God is simple, it is often us that complicate things. Where we see potential for growth in our locality is the lack of formation for our men. We ladies are all being formed individually (very well!) but not so for our men, for married couples, as well as our youth, formation opportunities are needed. We need integration for couples – e.g. Theology on tap for couples – a fun evening for couples but includes a spiritual element.
- As RC by providing marriage formation, counseling and prayer support. Theology of the body is important for our children.
- Offer activities that support marriage.
- Our witness, and our example, we have gone first. We should try to maintain a positive attitude in our marriages and speak well of our spouse to others.
- We can surround the couples with our own lives -- spread the secrets of commitment – show the joy in sacrifice and faith in Christ in our marriages; We can show contentment without particular expectation; Create / infuse positive, healthy activities with all couples

(including couples who are living together outside of marriage); Marriage Encounter invitations, Vibrant Family apostolate participation, where formation and experiences are shared; Apostolates including all family members (Missionary Families, Formation sessions for the whole family).

**5. To what degree do you think Regnum Christi in your locality is responding to the needs of people in this field of evangelization?**



**6. As a team, how can we collaborate with God in his work of growing the kingdom in this field of evangelization?**

- Praying for marriages, especially young marriages, particularly during the Wedding Feast of Cana Luminous mystery of the Rosary. All of us should make sure we have at our fingertips solid Catholic programs that we can offer to those we encounter with marriage struggles.
- We don't need to look for more platforms for evangelization because in the Highlands school alone we already have an untapped pool of families that we are not reaching out to.
- Showcase marriage - preaching by our joyous witness instead of through culture war.
- Promote family activities and formation for the young. Conquest is strong in Dallas. It would help adding more activities for all the girls in the metroplex.
- More apostolates! Couples Retreat?
- Forming men and women and having more couples activities. This is why we are organizing a couples retreat locally.
- Pray for strong families and marriages, have marriage adoration, support for people who are divorced, having a speaker come and talk about marriage, give people resources to help marriages, a marriage weekend or something along that line with things such a mass, confession. Something with free babysitting would be incredible.
- As most of our team is already very involved in various apostolates, we determined that putting more effort into our "little AFIRE" apostolates would be the best way at this time.
- Work to help with weekend retreat for moms with young kids. Also, get together socially with the couples on our team to foster a stronger bond.
- Participate together as a team in various parish retreats or events, using the opportunities to share our experience of RC and of faith. The challenge is time and availability!
- Planning and execute the door-to--door mission, which we have found can help bring families together. 2. Schedule date nights where can invite couples and give talks on marriage. 3. Learn why couples should get married rather than just live together. 4. Learn why waiting until marriage for sex is better all the way around.





- Reach out to a special couple that exudes positivity and generosity in marriage and comment them for their example.
- Pray & spend time preparing to answer why Christian marriage is important.
- We will invite God into moments that feel like work within our marriages and families this week to transform them into moments of love to create space for the Holy Spirit to inspire us to make a specific request of our Section leader regarding support for marriages in our community.
- Our team is hosting a series of talks not directed at RC members (although they're welcome). The recurring theme is "In His Image" and we're discussing various ways we as a culture need to recognize that God created men and women with certain roles and responsibilities.
- Create events such as date nights, family fellowship, bible study groups with family. Accompany other couples as couples. Small groups of families.
- Watch the way we speak. Focus on the joy of children rather than the difficulties. Continue praying with husband even if it's not "perfect". Collaborate with a parish group or other group because our numbers are so small. Offer Familia? Have the Bishop reinstate us in the diocese and offer to help with family and marriage life. Look into Cana Family Institute.
- We can have Open Encounters for those who are not Regnum Christi members. We can invite interested people to the Sojourners sessions. We can facilitate the First Saturday Holy Hours by guiding the congregation in a Meditation, in saying the Rosary and the Adoration prayers. Share the opportunities that we have with others.
- Prayers for families; Acknowledge catholic families with children and help them grow their faith with the children; Invite people to Encounters / Sojourners; Take time to talk with people welcoming them in conversation and asking if there is anything we can pray for them or pray with them
- We all already have apostolates in the area of families - we teach Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, we have had a Covenant of Love Retreat last summer, many are involved with Teams of Our Lady (as married couples), and we scheduled a Women's Retreat on March 18th. We plan to continue making new opportunities for get-togethers to support families, women, couples, and children.
- Our team is discerning a one day retreat for women or married couples
- Give suggestions on how to improve existing programs; share announcements about programs;
- By hosting events, a picnic to invite other encounter groups within our church in Regnum Christi in order to evangelize. First gathering would be within our own team.
- Host smaller events that we can invite people to which has babysitting. Get our RC families/couples together more often
- We have discussed having a family event with marriage renewal on a regular basis. In general, our region/section (Fort Wayne) has been more open to these types of events than other ones.
- As a team, we can talk to young families and make them feel welcome at Mass. As a team, we pray for family life. We can offer retreats that are specific to families in the parish, such as the retreats by Fr. John Bartunek. We can invite and encourage people to attend the Family Life Conference. We are a beautiful witness when we live our vocation



of marriage and family life well in society; always ready and willing to share our faith with others.

- Investigate diocesan offerings for marriage events and see how we can support them. Additionally, plan an evening for RC couples to get together and watch a formed video on marriage followed by appetizers.
- Focus on moms and young families' needs. support, invite, form, commission,
- Creating and supporting supper clubs; supporting 3TGM program, Supporting Mom's with Young Children retreats and sharing our resources (books and children's resources).
- We can revisit ministries that were offered by Regnum Christi members in the past. This is dependent of acceptance by local Pastors. Maybe try to get involved in more activities with other families.
- As a team, we're hoping and planning to introduce 'Cana Uncorked New Orleans' an apostolate for young married couples. Helping them grow in their love of God and each other.

Work with our Legionaries to encourage engaged couples to attend solid and concrete Marriage Preparation programs. Work to prepare young couples for marriage.

- Personally invite people to EOR, encourage marriage renewal, figure out ways to support other marriages
- Re-visit the idea of the Domestic Church. Establish a clear definition. (Lisa will do this and get back to the team with this); Bring men and women together - not just at the young adult level, but at older ages as well; Marriage Encounter at St Brendan's (Teresa will do research and get back to us on this); Marriage Reset - Marybel and Bruce Carlisle; Three to Stay Married; Don Conklin would like help with Baptism at St Brendan's - once a month commitment. There is also a need for visiting the elderly; Meet with parish priest to offer help in providing sound programs
- Be: Examine and recommit to our prayer life (in particular our Examen) and Sacramental life. Do: Do what we can to help facilitate the upcoming evening for couples with Fr. Kenneth Leblanc LC (we do not see a Legionary very often!), but also keep in mind for the future what we are truly thirsty for – something for couples!
- With our family testimony, praying for marriages, providing family consulting and directing couples in trouble to experienced counselor.
- Participate in parish activities that support marriage. Invite others, praise married couples young and old.
- There is great value in being vulnerable enough to share the hard stuff. Let people know that it is ok to struggle, its ok if you need counselling. We are integral, we are body and soul. We are fallen. We have original sin. We know we are loved despite all of our weakness.
- Make Vibrant Families apostolate, book studies and marriage retreats known. Encourage participation of spouses and children in Adoration.

## Discussion Guide 6: Vocational Culture and Ministry

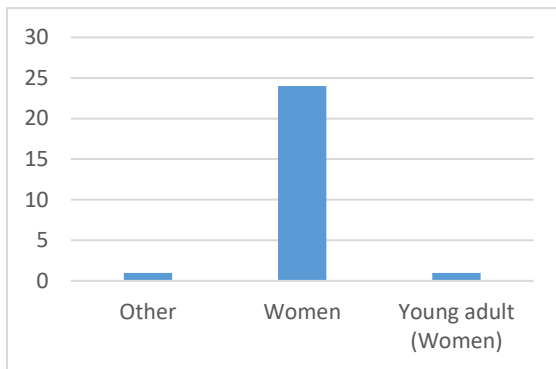
### Audience Analysis

**Number of teams that participated: 26**

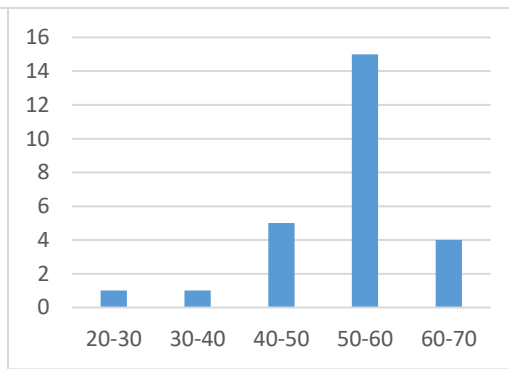
Atlanta (4)  
 Calgary (1)  
 Chicago (1)  
 Cincinnati (8)  
 Dallas (2)  
 Detroit (1)

Diaspora (3)  
 Heartland (1)  
 Manila (1)  
 Ontario (1)  
 Other (3)

#### Types of teams:



#### Team members' average age:



**1. How do we understand the Christian vocation? How do we see that the personal call of God is manifested in a concrete way according to one's own state in life?**

- It is universal, it's a call for everyone to be holy and be an apostle; It's a call that includes my whole being. A Christian is someone who is a "Christ-bearer" who seeks to be filled by Him and wants to bring others to Him.
- Manifestation: Has a lot to do with our personal freedom. The call isn't the blueprint for our life. God wants you to be in relationship with Him. He delights in seeing you be His follower. How can I be me, what does that look like? The Christian calling is always in freedom. Before seeing it in a state of life, you see it in the uniqueness of each person, in your very being. It's not necessarily the state of life, there are so many paths of holiness that are personal. There are as many paths to holiness as there are people in this world – Pope Benedict XVI. CS Lewis speaks of Heaven – every single person that reaches that state will gaze on God and see a unique aspect of Him, and it will be a symphony of people seeing God.



- Our Christian Vocation starts at our baptism. We see it as our calling, our life's work and our mission. Upon receiving a call from God which is individual, we will live out our vocation as directed by our call to holiness.
- Living the married vocation of the Church with in our families which is drawing us closer to God and lets Him lead us which will allow others to follow God in their state of life.
- To work to know, love and serve God and to help other persons do the same based on who God has placed in our lives. Our discernment in our state of life helps us know where to serve.
- Christian vocation begins with Baptism, when we become a beloved daughter of Christ. God has created us for some definite purpose - our vocation. God gives us our vocation as an opportunity to love. We all have a calling that we need answer. Because we have a sacramental marriage and are mothers, we can manifest our love of God through our families. As a mother we bring our families to mass and the sacraments. In our professional lives, we can make choices that demonstrate our Christian values. We are called to love others through works of mercy. We need to work hard at loving those who are difficult to love.
- To follow Christ & to share His truth with others. To witness through our married state to our children and grandchildren. Also, one of us is a Deacon's wife so she has a call to fulfill certain duties in connection to that.
- The Lord 'sows' and 'plants' us in the place where we are, among the weeds. At different stages of life we may take different roles from the parable... home owner, slave, weed... God is always 'knocking' - approaching us. In order to fulfill our vocation we must respond to His call, 'open the door' - Prayer is a concrete path to hearing God's 'knock'/call.
- We are called to evangelize right where we are; we can't look at our past and regret-we can be at peace with where we are now and continue to move forward; always lead by example; as a married person, helping get my spouse to heaven is my primary evangelization; the more I work to be a holy wife & mother in the home, when I am out in public, I will be that good example for others.
- How God is calling us; each of us w/our gifts to bring others to Christ. Bring Glory to God using our gifts and attributing that to God. The gifts that He gives us is our gift to give to others. Personal call in a concrete way is our daily activities--seeing Christ in our day to day. All of us as a team, our Christian vocation is marriage; being a mother, and families and our extended families.
- Christian vocation listening to God's will in my life. It is the calling of God to follow his example and share his love where ever he wants to take me. It is taking the opportunities in front of me and praying so God can show me how to make them part of my life. It is to carry my cross and let hard situations take me closer to God. When your heart is in peace and through prayer you know what God wants for you.
- Vocation is a call from God, a desire of Christ's heart, and God's blueprint for our lives, a role for which He supplies the talents and support needed by which we bring His light to the world, most particularly those in our lives - both regularly and in passing. It is also a role through which we find fulfillment, and through which we are reassured that God chose us to work with Him, and not as slaves, nor because we chose Him. As wife, widow, mother, grandmother to actively bring His light to those in our lives



through our witness of prayer, kindness, outreach, acceptance and love of people where they are - though standing firm in our faith and not encouraging behavior that our faith teaches is harmful (physically, mentally, or spiritually).

To actively be aware of situations God provides/permits and be ready and willing to step in to speak and act in love (small acts with great love) and, when appropriate, speak up, to support organizations as we can, to be lights that attract others to Christ.

These include - all within the means our state in life permits (as discerned through prayer) - prayer in our lives and our families' lives, encouraging the sacraments for family, being a joyful presence, sharing faith stories, building relationships with strangers we see regularly, leading Sunday school programs, pro-life ministry, prayer ministry, bring the Eucharist to the home bound, invitations to faith acts (prayer or reading saints' lives to children) and faith events, encouraging our RC sisters, and we or our cars/houses wearing or displaying positive religious items or messages, sharing that we need God's help to live with the right attitude - including humility - and through difficulties, sharing positive stories and extending invitations to events in person and electronically, employment in Catholic organizations, and more.

- A call from God. Using our gifts to enhance our state of life. By choosing a vocation of the married life.
- To love as God loves. Concretely we are all wives, mothers, daughters and Catholics in our parishes. And as we care for our husbands, children, parents and are actively involved in our parishes, we live out our vocation as Regnum Christi families.
- Christ is the light that leads us in our vocations
- Our vocation is the call to spread God's love and message of salvation to those in our communities. The personal call of God is manifested in a concrete way through our state in life as a Wife, mother, RC member, family member and child of God.
- We see it as a call by God from baptism. The group see it changing over time. Parents of young children, caring for adult parents to living with and/or caring for a spouse
- ALL are called to vocation through their Baptismal promises. There's a universal call to holiness as the 1 Body of Christ. (a gap exists in many people's thinking that it only applies to Consecrated Religious)
- We live our call by serving others with love. We see our personal call through vocation statements, and life maps.
- We understand Christian vocation as a call from God to a particular way of living out our life. Each vocation is a sacrament from God and as such has many graces given to it. In order to live it to the fullest extent possible and to become a saint in doing so.
- We understand that the Christian vocation encompasses the different states of life. Most team members have been in Regnum Christi 15-20 years.
- Our vocation is our calling, we each have one and they change according to our season of life.
- The Christian vocation is something God calls you to do. He doesn't call us to do something we don't want to; in this way, it correlates to our personal desires.

How you live your life is a product of your relationships with people. That's how I approach the idea of vocation: it is your identity as a daughter of your parents, as daughter of God, as the wife of this person (referring to married life), etc.

Vocation comes from relationship. Being a Catholic and making commitments to serve



can sometimes be seen as "something I do on Sundays" and not who you are as a person. But if you really believe and listen to Him, it will automatically make you want to follow Him in every aspect.

- Christian vocation is our path to holiness and doing the will of God. There are 4 options—married, single, religious, priest. It is a personal call that God lays upon a person's heart. Those trained to discern & listen to this calling find the fullness of Christ in their life. The vocation in one's life may change slightly as their state of life changes—small children, grown children, widowhood, etc.
- Vocation is a summons from God, our path to the Kingdom, according to our various states in life. The personal call of God is manifested by using our gifts to do the work that God has put before us in each of our vocations.
- We are all called to a vocation and it changes as we age. We become children of God at baptism and are all called to a life of holiness in all stages of life.
- A personal mission God has for me & Charisms help dictate that.

## **2. How does our vocation unite all the aspects of our life? What elements help us to live our vocation fully?**

- The Christian life touches the WHOLE person.  
When you're in a good place spiritually, being in tune with God, that unites every aspect of our life. We can only seek God with our freedom.  
Community is a helpful aspect of living your Christian vocation fully. To live in communion is important because to disconnect from relationship, you may miss opportunities to grow in holiness. Our relationships are part of who we are. In relationship, I give the person a say in who I am. They make me something I cannot be on my own. You are called to respond to what YOU notice. All the event/encounters are a platform for seeing God's call manifested. Bible is "game film for life" -- it shows, throughout all of salvation history, how God works in the lives of people, and how we respond...
- Holiness isn't about becoming less and less yourself, but the holier you are, the more unique you are and you end up with this unique insight into who God is.  
Elements: Prayer and Sacramental Life, Apostolate, Team Life, Community Life
- Our vocation does not start and stop - it is ongoing and present in every aspect of our life. The elements that help are: prayer, the sacraments, spiritual direction, Encounter, surrounding oneself with faith-filled people, retreats, meditations (basically, our RC Commitments).
- All parts of our vocation is embodied in all parts of our lives. Lives encompass many aspects which the Sacraments, mass, prayer, radio stations and retreats help enrich us to fully live our vocations.
- Our vocation is a gift from God and part of God's will for us and when we cooperate with God's will, all other aspect of our lives will be ordered properly. The sacraments, prayer time, and especially the Eucharist help us to live our vocation fully.
- Our relationship with God is the key to fully living out our vocation. We need to be fully connected to God in our spiritual life through prayer and participation in the sacraments.



The five elements within RC help us to stay connected with the vine and to participate and be witnesses in our faith. We live by and through Christ's example.

- Living in accordance with our beliefs & the teachings of the Church. This demands that we learn the teachings of Church well enough to teach our (grown) children, to practice speaking the truth in difficult situations and to know when to keep silent.
- We are called to holiness, but have a 'call within a call' such as wife, mother, helper, and encourager. Prayer, Mass, spiritual guidance and community of Christian believers all help in living our vocations.
- Eucharist; reconciliation and the sacraments; RC formation; support of other holy women; community of trusted women within RC; sacramental marriage and the Trinitarian relationship with spouses & God; the example of other holy women living their vocation well; the pull of the world is tempered by the sacraments.
- Our Christian vocation unites our different roles in our lives. And looking back recognizing different moments of maturity and conversions and how it helped us growing in Christ. Elements that help us to be fortified in the sacraments, and RC, and saints which in turn feeds our vocation.
- Our vocation unites all the aspects of our life living coherently with our faith in all we do and acting with conviction. Elements that help us live our vocation are prayer, sacraments, church groups, charity, and family time.
- Embracing the idea of vocation place faith - seeking God's lights - at the center of everything in our life. Our vocation colors our perspective of everything we know, learn, hope for and experience, and how we interact with the world - in prayer, thought, feeling, and action. Our vocation affects how our talents are used, nurtured, strengthened, or possibly weakened and undermined in negative situations. It affects who we meet - to influence or be influenced by - and who we better relate to for meeting people were they are at. Our acts affect the world, we are ambassadors of God to the world in every aspect, and can unite people. So the elements that help are all those related to growing spiritually in relationship to God, as mentioned earlier, but also the relationships of those in our vocation. Those who are like-minded in seeking a close relationship with God help us live our vocation more authentically and those who do not are those we could be called to evangelize, simply by how we live or possibly also by more direct invitations to other ways of thinking and acting with the intention of drawing closer to God. Remembering the "little ways" that fulfill our daily vocation (e.g., making dinner, listening to a friend) are pleasing to God also help us by elevating every act to an offering.
- Being open to God's will in our married life. The Sacraments, encounters with Christ and adoration and prayer help us to live our vocation fully.
- We care for our families and pass on the faith to them by educating them in what it means to live out our Regnum Christi charism. Staying close to the sacraments, daily prayer, regular team encounters are the elements that help us live out our vocations.
- The graces of marriage help us over the bumps & make us grateful
- Our vocation to spread God's love encompasses all of the roles of our life in that we are integrated in our call to evangelize. Prayer and formation are the elements that help us to live our vocation fully.
- The belief that this is what god called me to, faith, prayer and team support.



- RC charism & resources permeate everything. Growth & depth of RC makes us more holy & whole. Prayer, sacraments, living/role modeling faith is our testimony. We unite via honesty, kindness & living virtues. (There is a tendency to compartmentalize w/ family, work, community.) Our state in life changes and our vocation evolves but our holiness remains strong & stable. (ex. Pope Benedict XVI's life & vocation cycle).
  - We become who we are meant to be. Our vocation gives us boundaries to live in and our marching orders. The Catholic Church gives us sacraments and Baptismal commitments to help us live our vocation faithfully. Regnum Christi gives us team life, Spiritual Direction, Spiritual Exercises, Program of Life, Vocation Statements, and a Spiritual Family that encourages to use our charisms for others, forms us in our faith and then gives us the means to evangelize to our friends and family. Again to spread the Kingdom of Christ.
  - Each vocation when fully embraced and lived helps bring life to the Christian community and to all other vocations. They help each other to fully bloom and as such they help make the world a better place.
  - Our Christian mission, unique for each one of us (in our situation, as mothers of children at all stages of life) calls upon us to proclaim the Gospel and live the virtues at all times, with our families, friends, & community. Formation and spiritual direction definitely help us to live our vocation. Discerning our own unique charism mix has been an element that has helped us to recognize and respond to our personal vocation.
  - From our birth to parish life to vocation of marriage, parenthood we are united by the calling God has chosen for each of us. The sacraments and support of RC sisters and leaders help us to live out our vocations more fully.
  - It helps to be accompanied well, by people called to the live the same vocation; and even those who have different vocations. We complement one another (lay and religious), using our different gifts and the different roles we play. If you are so grounded in your relationships, then you automatically apply the relationship with God to everything you do.
  - The elements that help us live our vocation are the sacraments, a vibrant prayer life, and at times the community in which we live. When we live the vocation God calls us, we are able to live with the vocation in mind at all times and in all areas of life—public private, professional, social. Seeing life through the lens of our vocation should help us understand and relate to others better.
  - Our vocation is how we are living out our state in life and helping those around us to get to heaven as well. Participation in sacramental life in the church, and our Regnum Christi formation help us to live our vocation more fully.
  - We live out our vocation when we pursue God's purpose for our life at different stages of our lives. As we participate in the sacraments, receive God's grace and pursue Him in all that we do, we should be able to live our vocations fully.
  - Our Charisms once discerned help us whether we feel capable or not to what God calls is to. We must first go to the mountain to hear His voice where God summons us.
3. **Do we know and value all of the different states of life in the Church? Do we consider that all are equally important and that they complement one another? How do we live and promote this?**





- We, as a local council, can say that our locality does value all of the states of life -- we are blessed in Dallas to have LC and CRC communities.
- We do definitely value all of the different states of life. We need to be both complimenting and helping however situations presents themselves in order to promote all the different vocations. Example - tell a family with chatty toddlers "Thank you for being here at mass". Invite a widow or widower over for a Sunday supper. Drop your pastor or a religious a little note of gratitude. Babysit for a young couple that might be tested in their marriage so they can go on a date or retreat.  
We need to make all four possibilities equally appreciated and valued.
- We know and understand the different states of life in the church. All are complimentary of each other. All offer support to each other to create a well-balanced integral part of our lives.
- Yes, we know and value all of the different states of life in the Church and yes, we consider them all equally important. We know these things because of our formation. We understand that it is not just the responsibly of the priests and bishops to evangelize, so we as laity also strive to evangelize. We are also conscious of our need to spiritually support priests and religious.
- The states of life in the church are the priests, religious life, and the laity. We recognize priests as providing us with the opportunity to participate in and receive the sacraments. Those in religious life bring us formation and evangelization. With the support of priests and religious, we as laity are God's witnesses in the world to our families and in the work place. The single life is a gift to our faith community and we would like to see this state of life supported through more opportunities. We are called to work together and use our complementary gifts in our church communities and in RC.
- Yes. We stand up for the truth regarding marriage & family, honor our parish priests.
- We value the different states by speaking positively about our priests, consecrated, others. We live and promote the various states of life through participating in the sacraments, supporting the religious financially.
- How we think and feel about vocations is communicated in how we speak about them to others-either positively or negatively; for some, the single life is more a default than a vocation that is chosen; we understand that all vocations, single, married or religious, are equally valued by our Lord.
- In RC we are able to have relationships w/the consecrated and priests and helps us to see this and appreciate our parish priests. We can promote w/in our families to our children on how it may vary w/what their vocation may be and that there is a discernment process through prayer and retreats through catholic schools--this turns our hearts to God in what God's calling is of us. Asking, "what do you think God's plan is for you" instead of what are you going to be when you grow up--changing the prospective. Recognizing our deacons and nuns and the speakers that come and visit.
- We think that all states of life in the Church are valuable because each one of us has been called by God to serve him in a different way and we all help and complement each other in that way. We promote this by teaching others to be open to God's calling in prayer.



- Yes, we do for the first two questions. We share positive stories of the religious we know and, when appropriate, encourage people to consider that vocation - some with children or grandchildren, some through Sunday school classes, and some through supporting evangelistic organizations that promote it. We also praise and express gratitude for the consecrated women who have been so beneficial as spiritual directors to us and support them as we can. We promote, through conversations, by supporting people trying to live God's vision of marriage, and supporting organizations promoting that vision. This includes sharing awareness of that vision through conversation and electronically. We express appreciation for all states of life and the inter-connectedness and interdependence between them.
- Yes we appreciate all the states of life, especially our priests, consecrated, and other religious. Pray for vocations, especially our priests.
- Our team agrees that we value all but are more aware of marriage and priestly life since they are most prevalent. We don't think of single life or consecrated life or religious sisters because they are not as prevalent in our community. But we all feel all vocations are important as each is an integral part of the body of Christ. If someone has chosen a single life for example, we should encourage that person. In our area, single people are misunderstood and people are always trying to find a mate for them. We all agreed we need to be kind to single individuals and let them know how valuable they are to the body of Christ and our parishes.
- Laity must evangelize too
- Yes, we recognize the many states in life, including Priest, Consecrated, single, married, etc.  
Yes, we know that we are all one body with many parts and each part is integral in the body of the church. We actively talk about the value of each state of life and seek opportunities to promote them and the integral role we each play in the church.
- Yes and yes. It is not uncommon for a team resolution to be related to different vocations. i.e. attend the Holy Hour for Vocations in a parish, pray for priest, compliment and support families with young children you see in church.
- With maturity & witness. When we all "engage", there is a synergy (united in Christ). Judgement of others' "perceived" value is our human weakness.
- We do value the different states of life, consider them equally important and we believe that they complement each other. The revamping of our constitution has helped us respect each other and appreciate what each group does.
- Yes as RC Women we know and appreciate the different states of life in the church. Yes we consider that they all have great importance and are very interconnected. You cannot have one without the other, and if one is sick and not doing well, they all suffer.
- We feel that there is greater recognition now, within Regnum Christi, of the different stages in life, as well as different states of life in the Church. One team member remembers when all her children were little, and living her vocation and mission was very different then, compared to now, when she has little ones still, but also has empty nesters. We appreciate the greater recognition of different ways to evangelize, sometimes within our own families, if that is where God is calling us when small children consume all our time and attention. To promote and maximize complementary roles, one team member had the personal light to strengthen personal connections with individual



Consecrated and Legionaries, sometimes based on personality and/or interests. Another team member recalled how effectively she has worked in communion with Legionaries whom she knew well. We need to strengthen personal connections between lay members, Consecrated, and the Priests.

- We fully support, especially in prayer, the priests and religious in our parish/diocese and RC/LC. We are typically available for anything our priests ask of us, we pray for and support our seminarians, especially when in town, we pray for an increase in vocations and for those we know discerning any religious life. Participate in holy hours for vocations.
- There's marriage, single-blessedness, and religious life...I believe we're at a place where we understand the consecrated vocation isn't a "better than" vocation than marriage. RC does a good job at making the vocations complement each other, by the nature of our apostolates. In theory we know that they are equally important. But in practice, sometimes as a lay person you can feel in comparison that you don't hold as much responsibility. So it's important to empower lay persons to know they are important in evangelization. Because typically we see religious with the responsibilities on their shoulders. Better formation programs can help address this: to let the lay persons know they have an important and significant role to play. RC Youth section is a good example of this, because we work closely with the Consecrated and Priests. This naturally helps to know the vocations better.
- For those exposed to the different vocations, I think it is easier for them to understand their value in the church better. There is a complementarity among the vocations, but most people are only exposed to the priest and married vocation. Single and women religious are rare in my rural area. Educating our children to discern God's will and leave the door open for all options is essential. Also, striving to expose our children all states of vocational life is important.
- Yes we recognize and value the different states of life. We value all the lay and religious with the ecclesial community of the church. One is dependent on the other, just like the parts of a body. We support all vocations and the various initiatives of the church.
- Yes, we believe this. We can promote the value of all states of life through our actions and our words.
- We are in the Bible Belt in Knoxville and part of the diaspora. This makes it hard to promote because people do not get much of a chance to experience consecrated life!! We try by bringing them from Atlanta to here through retreats and talks.

**4. What challenges do we find in making known the vocation to the consecrated life and accompany those who feel called to it in their discernment?**

- It's a struggle to explain consecrated life in a quick statement (kind of like the charism). God put the call in people's heart. Intimacy is something so rarely experienced in today's world. People confuse intimacy with exclusivity. Everyone is called to intimacy with the Lord but exclusivity is proper to consecrated life. There not at a place of freedom to discern because woundedness dulls the call. We are challenged because of the competitive voices of the rest of the world
- The main challenge that we see is that we do not have any consecrated in our parishes.



- They are an integral part of our formation. We are exposed and speak about these consecrated members to others who don't have knowledge of their lives and contributions to our community. We pray for them and financially support them.
- The number one challenge we find in making known the vocation to the consecrated life is the general unawareness of this vocation. Lack of access to consecrated and plain clothed appearance are two contributors to this unawareness. Our locality has a strong support system from laity and religious for those who feel called.
- Many do not understand who the consecrated are. The understanding of consecrated life should extend into schools and work places where questions can be answered and understanding of this vocation can be gained. Some people do not realize that consecrated life is a blessing. We need to recognize and share the joy that the consecrated life brings to those who enter it. Those entering into consecrated life need more support from the laity.
- Challenges: parents of younger children are not exposed to religious vocations, practice of not wearing habits makes them less visible.
- Our society today doesn't understand consecrated life. It is very difficult to try to explain to others. We limit our accompaniment of others by failing to reach out and invite women to RC which is the mechanism by which laity interact with the Consecrated women and LC priests. These religious are attractive because they are radiant with joy - many lay people would be happy to interact with them if they only knew about their joy!
- Our young do not know how to discern; we need to teach the skills of discernment; we learn discernment from well-formed individuals and the church; our Blessed Mother and her humility are a powerful teacher of discernment; suffering, which we tend to avoid or shield our children from, can be a tool for discernment; an obstacle to discernment is the messaging from the world which can be overpowering to our young; silence can be an opportunity for God to talk to hearts; keep messages short.
- Hearing the priests at the parish level talking about being a priest and their call and how they were called. Trying to share what consecrated life is w/others, even w/in our own families. There isn't any promoting in schools about anything religious, mainly the professional jobs. Society thinking that consecrated life isn't useful. Especially explaining it to this culture that lacks a presence of God.
- The challenge is that, as human beings, we sometimes have the misconception that the consecrated lose their freedom. It is a matter of valuing this calling in the sense that true freedom is following God's will and following his path; this way, even if times are hard, knowing you are doing God's will, will give you peace and fortitude to keep going.
- Culture and society are the biggest impediments - the accepted belief that we exist for our own personal pleasure and satisfaction and that any suffering is bad, the lack of awareness of God - of being created, much less created for a purpose. The sense that regardless of how we feel, there is a loving God with a Plan that might involve self-sacrifice and suffering, but for which all is directed toward our ultimate greatest good. And so, the lack of stability this provides - or is even considered a possibility - prevents consideration of long-term impact. Also competing activities for time and consideration - school extra-curricular activities that consume parents' time - sports and community-based (Scouts, 4-H); the many other organizations - for personal satisfaction or to benefit others; existing personal responsibilities (in addition to employment): spouse, children,



parents, and possibly neighbors and friends. Promoting such a vocation is met with sense that we expect people to "give up" having a life - rather than possibility that, for this person, it is gaining a path in life of greater fulfillment than they will otherwise find. Another challenge is a lack of awareness of the many people who ARE joyfully and eagerly discerning - from youth at camps to those making final vows, AND hearing from those who attend then discern out - and their sense of God's will being fulfilled by their "briefer" time there - it was intended and valuable, not wasted. And... very few have the opportunity to meet someone beyond a parish priest - overwhelmed with duties - who is discerning or has been ordained.

- We don't have a consecrated presence here.
- Our team all agreed that we have many challenges in trying to promote consecrated life to our parishes. We decided the best way is to talk about it is within our own families to our children and grandchildren. And to encourage them to be aware and how to listen for the call. Vocations begin with encouragement from the immediate family.
- Our secular, godless culture does not help us. There are no nuns or Consecrated in our area.
- The culture is not supportive of the religious life with the many negative stories that are circulated and the thought that young people don't want to give up the family life. In our diocese they have done a good job of promoting vocations but the culture is not supportive.
- We lack contact with young men and women.
- Noise & expectations of the world, closed mindedness, views of zealots/fanaticism.
- We haven't had much experience with the Consecrated (which we are in the process of changing) so we don't know what is involved with being a Consecrated. We do know that they live together and are supported by the Regnum Christi laity.
- One of the big challenges today is that our young people no longer see consecrated people so nuns, brothers etc. in their communities. Also many families no longer have religious in their families ie Aunts who are Nuns, Uncles who are Priests or brothers. Also many of our priests are older and this makes it more difficult for a young person to seem themselves in that vocation. We as RC must bring up the subject of consecration to the religious life when every opportunity presents itself. Also we should consider having a day for consecrated to intermingle with young people.
- One way to make known the vocation to consecrated life -- we are doing already by making our children's participation in Challenge and Conquest a priority in our busy weekly schedules. We support the consecrated and priests who run Challenge and Conquest as well.
- Aside from praying for those discerning we don't have a lot of attention on religious life in our area. We are vocally supportive and accompany those discerning when we get to see them.
- When people tease someone because they are more religious and active in the Church - it used to bother me. But now I feel "if I'm called; I'm called." I'm at a point now that I want to go where God calls me. There's a lot of confusion about what the Consecrated Life is about. There's a weird misconception that if you're so active in your faith, then you're called to be a consa or something like that.



- The challenge is twofold.
  - a. The prominent notion that all people will get married or not having a boy/girl friend is a sign of something wrong.
  - b. Exposure to people who are willing to accompany those on the discernment path. Our youth might be more open to vocations if there was a person who was also discerning in their sphere of influence.
- Our post Christian culture distracts and promotes immoral living, instant gratification, and discourages any type of sacrifice. It is hard to find out who is discerning. We have to promote and talk about values of becoming a Priest or Consecrated. We need to educate our parishioners of the value of having children who go into religious life. The scandals of the church have discouraged many from encouraging their children to consider religious life.
- We need to make sure that we are not putting pressure on children or grandchildren for what we think their vocations are. We need to encourage, support, and discuss all viable options for their vocations - whether those be marriage, consecrated life, or the priesthood.
- Again our location is hard however within our families we certainly can help our children to know. To stir questions.

**5. Do we believe that Regnum Christ offers an environment that helps to understand life as a vocation? What elements facilitate discovering and embracing it?**

- Probably the ideal environment, particularly when all states of life are present
- All of our Promises, Commitments, etc. have lead us to a greater understanding.
- Yes. Regnum Christi allows us to interact and be a part of the vocational family on a very intimate level in our lives. Spiritual guides, sacramental celebrations, education, and community gatherings all add to our understanding of their vocations.
- Yes, we believe such an environment. The Encounter with Christ, retreats, study circles, spiritual direction and access to the Consecrated and Legionaries facilitate discovery and embracing it.
- Our vocation is to be a daughter of God. RC promotes this through its five elements. Christ the king, thy kingdom come!
- Yes, the Cana Program, Conquest, Challenge ECYD. Parents promote the idea of a vocation in the home.
- Yes the priests and consecrated women encourage and support the laity in their vocations and vice versa.
- RC was the first occasion I had to learn that married life was a vocation; vocations to the religious life were never presented as a possibility when I was growing up; Familia was the first exposure I had to motherhood as a vocation which then led to an understanding of married life as a vocation.
- Encounter helps w/community and our prayer life; retreats, marriage retreats; focusing on the whole family. How RC is focused on the whole person and not what religious activity are you promoting but how your WHOLE life can serve God.



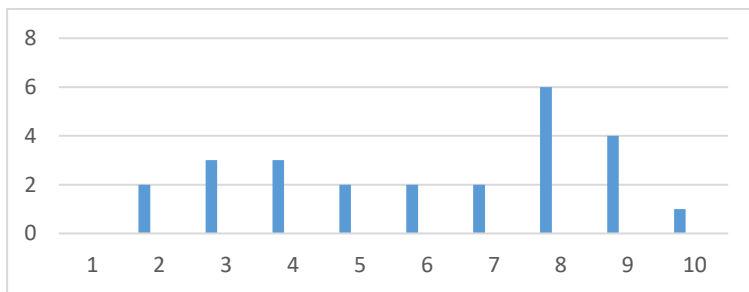
- Yes we do. Where ever it is spoken about truth and putting prayer and friendship with God in the first place of our lives, vocation comes as a natural discernment in a personal dialogue with God.
- Yes. Regnum Christi gives us the tools to help us grow – spiritual direction, monthly retreats, Encounters, daily prayer, the apostolate, promoting meditation. What facilitates it are open monthly retreats to all, being open to some being able to do less or more at times based on state in life, spiritual direction, personal invitations to join, sense of obligation but understanding for life situations, awareness of the group and its nature, and others' sharing how they've been affected.
- RC has opened our hearts and minds to live our vocations with virtues. Spiritual direction helps us in our vocation to keep on tract.
- Yes. We feel the ECYD and Conquest programs all promote vocations and educate our children about them and seek awareness.
- Our weekly Encounters and yearly Sp Exercises are a big help in organizing our prayer lives etc.
- Yes, Regnum Christi does help us to understand vocations in every sense of the word. The elements that support us are the prayer life, encounters, Triduums, Evenings of Reflection, Virtue Party, etc.
- Yes, the group often stated that in RC we make know the various vocations and encourage youth or their parents to be open to all possibilities.
- RC foundation, environment, reinforcement. Life as a vocation is often unrealized until the exposure & formation of RC. Programs at each state of life: conferences, conventions, SPEC, retreats, resources abound. Lifelong formation & growth. Every state in life is a vocation--life in Christ!
- We do believe Regnum Christi does offer an environment that helps us understand life is a vocation because RC stresses that we are not a social club or a ministry but a call from God to be contemplative and evangelizing.
- Yes we believe that RC offers environments to help foster understanding of vocations. Meeting young people in love with their vocation and willing to challenge the youth of today to consider what vocation God might be calling them too.
- Yes, as lay RC we definitely see that we have a vocation to be well-formed, to know our faith well and to evangelize, not just the purview of priests and consecrated. The elements that facilitate discovering and embracing our vocation include spiritual direction, ongoing formation, and team life -- all that is encompassed by "accompaniment and formation."
- Our locale doesn't have an environment for CRC or LC, we are encouraged when we get to participate in zoom meetings and retreats with them.
- Not sure as of lately. We have friends discerning their vocations, but personally I don't feel called to discern the religious life. There is a space to discern, but it depends on your context in RC. Some do a missionary year, or other ways to discern. The main thing that helps: personal accompaniment especially in spiritual direction. First of all you get to see and experience the different vocations. Knowing that you want to discern your vocation, you can have someone to guide and accompany you through that. Yes, we see it in different sectors for different phases of our lives: exposing us to married couples, apostolates for single women, family missions. These allow us to explore the different



vocations available. Exposure to religious in RC helps to know the vocations more. RC definitely offers an environment that helps understand vocational life. The camps & retreats provide a space that has sacraments and the quiet required to HEAR God. The LC & Consecrated show the joy & fun when embracing Christ will. All too often vocations are looked as dull or extra solemn.

- Yes, through formation and apostolates like Challenge and Conquest.
- Yes, we do. By supporting all vocations - whether it be single, married, consecrated, or the priesthood, Regnum Christi offers avenues that support those areas.
- Yes, RC us what woke in our whole team this understanding. By being around priests and consecrated helps us to discover this.

**6. To what degree do you think Regnum Christi in your locality is responding to the needs of people in this field of evangelization?**



**7. As a team, how can we collaborate with God in his work of growing the kingdom in this field of evangelization?**

- We can all promote and attend the upcoming vocation related events
- We need to do a marriage renewal with a 'retreat'. Pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit in how He wants us to work in our area. Share what is going on in our different parishes. Invite people. Appreciate our Legionary priest who visits in concrete ways.
- Praying, speak out to those we come in contact with, teaching others, being aware of God in our lives, to live out our values in all aspects of our lives and with our children's lives.
- In the short term, commit to reading and preparing for our next study circle on the Encounter with Christ Essay so that we will have a fruitful discussion and better understand our importance in evangelization.
- We can accomplish this by supporting our RC locality and our churches. It starts with holding strong to our own personal and spiritual commitments. If we grow as individuals and unite ourselves with Christ, it will affect all other aspects of our life. We will work on developing our relationship with God through extra prayer or adoration and share the fruits from this prayer time with others.
- We have a proposal to pray for vocations in adoration, to commit to asking young people whether they have considered a vocation, affirming families in their vocation, affirming priests, affirming consecrated & deacons.
- Team Prayer resolution: Pray to the Holy Spirit to discern who would be thirsty to invite to Regnum Christi. Team Action: Choose one way to invite someone to consider RC team





life (open retreat, monthly retreat, discernment process) - long term possibly host a "come & see". Question that surfaced: How are young moms/women being encouraged to be a part of Regnum Christi?

- Up our efforts at one-to-one evangelizing of the most basic nature - God love you! We made a team resolution to remind at least one person what the true meaning of Christmas really is and to pray for the strength and courage to speak up. We can promote what we already have to offer, we don't have to reinvent the wheel - just invite. Use the tools we have (handouts, website, retreats, youth events, etc) to reach out to others. Come up with a one line "elevator speech" about RC to share when asked - too lengthy an explanation tends to turn others off.
- Loving and serving as Jesus and extending more invitations; connecting others w/opportunities as an act of love w/our various ministries.
- Keep planning retreats, spiritual exercises, missions, adoration
- (For the previous question, the consensus was that we don't know. It is not something we have paid attention to, but we do know others are invited to retreats.)
  - 1) Pray - Ask God what He wants us to do - Be inventive (T-Shirts/Jackets...)
  - 2) Get info about what RC is doing for youth
    - a. Become familiar with that
    - b. Promote in our parishes
    - c. Share with others
  - 3) Join Sierra Club Adoration Hours at Holy Spirit center - have Adoration for Vocations
  - 4) Hold holy hours before a retreat
  - 5) Invite others to efforts like dedicated Holy Hours - we plan and invite others to it
  - 6) Find ways to increase evangelization for vocations, including lay consecration
  - 7) Try to coordinate with the Athenaeum - for Holy Hours and Adoration
- We will all sign up for the program that Archbishop Schnurr is promoting about The Mass from the Word of Fire. In our own families, we will all talk about vocations and make our family more aware of them. We will all share any snippets of information that we think is valuable in the area of vocation awareness via social media or other technological means.
- We plan to invite a priest to speak....to encourage us in Adoration for Vocations in our local parishes
- By looking for opportunities to serve the young adults in our Parishes and diocese.
- Praying for vocations, sharing vocation stories with others.
- Bring formation & Team support, acting as witnesses in our respective parishes. RC Spirituality materials/online courses. Live as who & what we are called to be.
- By accompaniment, we show one person at a time how much he/she are loved by God and how the person can show God how much he/she can love Him. We do this by sharing the tenets of our faith, showing how to use his/her charisms to evangelize and pray and work together to bring about Christ Kingdom.
- Speaking up about the beauty and wonderful gift the different vocations are when ever we have the opportunity.
- Our team will support Jackie Gonzales in her efforts with vocations. We will brainstorm with her for input on Vocation Action Network materials, and encourage people to become vocation apostles.



- As our RC teams grow we may possibly spread the word about vocations to RC and LC, including our children or the youth/young adults in our area.
- Live out our state of life right now well: as daughters, students, etc, and continue to be active in our respective commitments & apostolates: whether it be RC LIFE Loyola, missions on Sat, Holy Week Missions.
- I have actively searched for challenge and conquest clubs for my children. I have encouraged my children to attend retreats/camps so they can be exposed to a place where vocations are encouraged. Discussions happen though not as regularly about priest & nuns.
- Build relationships with Priests and Consecrated, and pray for them, and support them, and support vocational ministries in our parishes.
- We need to continue to promote holiness and vocations in all states of life.
- Support diocesan things as well as our own initiatives.

## Discussion Guide 7:

# The Evangelization of Professional and Cultural Environments

### Audience Analysis

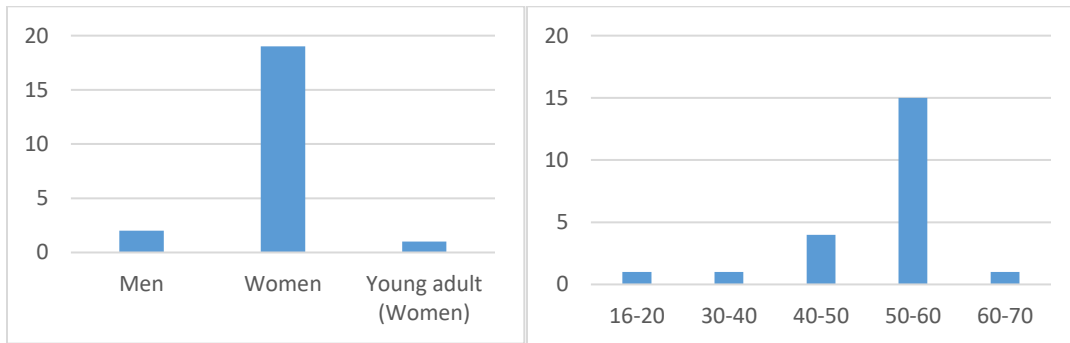
**Number of teams that participated: 22**

Atlanta (9)  
 Cincinnati (2)  
 Dallas (1)  
 Diaspora (1)  
 Heartland (1)

Manila (1)  
 New Orleans (1)  
 Ontario (1)  
 Other (4)

**Types of teams:**

**Team members' average age**



### *Regarding the Culture*

**1. How do we understand the call of Christ to be apostles in our own professional lives? How do you integrate your professional life with your call to be an apostle?**

- Be honest, treat others with charity, don't swear, work hard, and don't talk badly about others.
- Stand up for Christ. Look for opportunities to evangelize and to witness
- We are always looking for ways to share our faith and the Church's teachings in all spheres of life.
- Avoid gossiping and bad language, foster wholesome relationships with customers and coworkers, be willing to challenge initiatives that go against our gospel values.
- It's challenging with social media because we learn obvious details of others but it's not personal. We have knowledge, but not depth of knowledge. In order to develop interpersonal relations, we need to ask questions when face to face as if we don't have foreknowledge. Our culture is damaged because we have an artificial view and filtered snapshot of people's lives, a masked view from the perspective of the poster. What we learn from social media posts, both personal and in business gives us insight on what's important to that person based on common themes of the posts themselves. The church



is a cultural reference point especially within Regnum Christi as we have spiritual leaders to consult with and have our children consult (consecrated), study circle keeps us grounded in learning - God is Love, Love is God. We always return to the church for that truth.

- We understand the Call but implementation at home (mostly housewives) is difficult. We should be who we are always.
- We need to speak the truth in charity, being courageous and prudent in the face of the current culture.

## 2. What opportunities for evangelization do we find in our professional environment?

- People notice when you don't swear, when you act with discretion, when you tell the truth (no matter what)
- As a counsellor we can open the door to faith support. Being of face Christ. Developing friendships.
- We can invite others to retreats and other events. We can pray before meals in public. We can share the Church's teachings about current issues.
- Sharing personal testimony with individuals when deemed appropriate. Celebrate Christian holidays when appropriate.
- Focus on community. Dorothy Day couldn't buy into the truth that you could be spiritual and not religious. She lived in community and wanted community. We have many opportunities to live in community within the Regnum Christi family through team life, through supporting our parishes with Small Group Bible Studies, Fish Fries, Welcome (CHRP).
- Endless opportunities in work place. Do all things without expecting recognition. Do for God's glory.
- In the secular world, we can talk about our faith but it is a delicate balance. We can't be ashamed of our faith but we do have to take care when working in a secular work place. We need to be witnesses; to invite others to be in a relationship with Jesus. It's a responsibility. Sometimes it can be easier to talk openly about God in a secular workplace than in a faith-filled workplace. Judgment plays a big part in this. Wherever we work, we need to be Jesus for others.
- The opportunities exist all around us, but we need to be open to the promptings of The Holy Spirit, looking for and praying to God to guide us to the lost sheep. Be approachable so that colleagues feel comfortable opening up to us; offer to pray for or even with them.
- Lots of time for sharing in a day, several clients in & out of offices, and others with several co-workers. We are all interested in sharing the faith or even aspects of the faith when appropriate, Open to where the Holy Spirit leads us.
- Engage with care & loving attention. Ask questions. Live who we are & accept/encourage the dignity of others.
- There aren't many. It is easier when our liturgical holidays come around. Readily sharing with others especially that I am a 'Practicing Catholic' does give us opportunities to at least be an example. There is so much misconception, we do periodically get opportunities to profess true Catholic teachings.



- Answering questions that are addressed to us about "Lent" when they see one wearing Ashes on Ash Wednesday. They have to Christ in us, in our behavior and actions, work ethic. Let them know there are boundaries between work and church do it is understood that is a priority in your life.
  - Being kind, loving, patient, forgiving, trustworthy, - all the ways in which a Christian must live as St. Paul and the Saints encourage us. We need to stand up for what we believe, be careful with our words, etc. There are many ways we can evangelize in our professional environment!
  - The church us the bearer of the most important things; God & Neighbor. Church is a field hospital to the world. People feeling not good enough to go to church because of a divorce or abortion or other issues.
  - One answer was someone who worked as a counselor for troubled middle school girls. It was a camp. She never said out loud her faith but comforted the girls if they needed it and listened as they spoke their preferred pronouns without pushing Christianity. On Sundays she s as Jesus left and said I'm heading to church. One night the girls played around with doing a séance. They scared themselves and ran to find her so she could pray with them!! So living our faith and being patient for the Holy Spirit to give the right opportunity to act.
    - [ ] We are called to identify, and employ, our own set of unique God-given gifts/charisms/talents.
    - [ ] Are we willing to go into places that might appear outwardly scary? Are we willing to stretch ourselves and enter into difficult places?
    - [ ] We need to be strengthening ourselves with the Sacraments, our community in Christ, and prayer! We cannot do this on our own!
    - [ ] What is it that we are willing to give up? What is it that we are willing to lose, in order to fulfill our mission?
    - [ ] We need to be detaching, allowing ourselves (and our kids, our loved ones), to suffer, so that we can encourage the pruning necessary to become more dependent on Christ.
    - [ ] The servants who chose to multiply their talents likely went without, sacrificed, in order to store treasures for Heaven. We need to be living like them: sacrificing and living without.
  - There are not many opportunities. Perhaps religious holiday displays or daily responses to interest in our upcoming personal activities (Mass and other events). There is someone from the Team who is part of a weekly bible study group at work. This is something rare but still happens.
  - Our conversation about the parable of the talents was enriching. Are we afraid that if we are vulnerable, or give a little of ourselves, that God will rob us of our talents? Are we afraid to be generous because we don't know how much He is really asking of us? Will He "take me where I don't want to go" or ask me to do what I didn't ask to do?
- 3. What resistance do we find in ourselves to being apostles in our work (interior conditioning, limitations, fears, lack of tools, etc.)?**



- It is unpopular to use your role as wife and mother when it comes to setting boundaries around work expectations. Many companies provide free birth control or access to abortion as a "benefit" to working there. There can be a fear of retribution when you stand up for your Catholic values in the workplace.
- Fear that it could affect promotions or even keeping the job.  
Fear of what others will think.  
Not knowing how to respond.
- Fear of being ridiculed. Fear of conflict.
- All of the above! It is intimidating and challenging to go against the current narratives.
- We are surrounded in society that has grown insensitive to moral teachings. In life issues, the existence of the church is often ignored (living together, taking the pill, In Vitro Fertilization, gender confusion, etc.). The church is looked at as outdated. In the world of counseling, psychologists don't have a reference point to the moral compass. End of life issues exist and the healthcare industry is making the important decisions. Language is being changed, the meaning of words are changing (Marriage: the definition; Gender: they, them, it; satanic symbols are everywhere and often go unnoticed).
- Fear of knowledge, insecurity,  
Fear of being different. It's lonely being FAITHFUL.
- Our fear to be judged or fear of not knowing the "right" answer play a big part. Society has made faith/religion a taboo subject. We were raised to not talk about our faith. Many leaders at the workplace have made it clear that we are not to talk about religion, creating barriers to being open about our faith. However, our actions can speak louder than words (wearing our Crucifix or medals, etc.). It is an interior aspect of most people not to want confrontation or to bring up topics we know may be controversial. We "go along to get along" at work. We can "chicken out." There is also a fear of losing our job (and source of income) because of speaking up. We may not want the continual fight that goes along with speaking about our faith in certain circumstances.
- Interior fear, breaking up of friendships/relationships, being labeled as a bigot or zealot. Coming on too strong (have to be careful not to be an all-out apologist).
- Fortunately we are able to be bold in our faith in our work environments. Able to share easily what we read, watch or listen to according to the faith.
- Closed mindedness, political correctness, cancel culture, liberal radical woke influences. Busyness, conditional merit-based relationships.
- The fear of human respect and not feeling like we are being the example that we should be. Even just being tired or crabby can be 'our cross'. We feel like we have to be politically correct and not offend ANYONE.
- Fear of Human Resources retaliation. Fear of exposing our inner convictions. Fear of losing your job if you speak up for Christ or are thought to be evangelizing at work.
- This varies on each person and workplace...
- No support for abandoned spouses. Need to support them in Fidelity to their marriage vows and help them bear their cross of being abandoned by their spouse.
- Individualism, as well as other contemporary values that fail to acknowledge and safeguard the dignity of all people. Many also struggle with loving themselves wholly and wholeheartedly, which leads to many external challenges. Social media has also made us forget the value of human dignity, with issues of objectification, cyberbullying, and cancel



culture. Many fail to understand that there are people on the other side of their screens, feeling the security of anonymity online.

- Vulnerability is important but opens yourself up to much hurt. The world does not want deep relationships yet it is there the the devil is exposed. Also the world expects you to brag about your accomplishments on resumes but if you speak about your charisms which are Gods gifts the world thinks your bragging. Interior gifts vs accomplishments.  
[ ] Time - We all sacrifice ourselves, in time, to serve others. There isn't enough of it, it seems. We can feel stretched, limited
- In professional work there is the fear of losing a job or being labelled as prejudiced. At home, there is fear of breaking relationships. However, actions, words and joy can transmit apostolic spirit. Also, one example of acting out of courageous principle can be contagious (e.g., a professional hockey player did not to comply with displaying symbols which offend his faith and many followed his actions.)
- NOTES from "case": Social media- and the problems/consequences of this new part of our lives- came up quite a bit in discussing culture and professional environments. In general there was a strong sense of a loss of boundaries. Through social media there is an increasing loss of freedom. Ex: When we used to go home, we were finished with work. Now we can be contacted (through e-mail, texts, etc.) at any time, day or night. We feel we need to respond promptly. Now we even receive phone calls at inappropriate hours. Expectations must be clearly lined out. There is a sense of pride that people can't manage without us. Obstacles: dress, entertainment, social media, "nothing is sacred." Busy-ness= norm, value. We need silence! Down time to honor Sundays! How do we make that happen in our culture today- for ourselves and for others??

#### **4. How can we respond, as Regnum Christi in order to bring the light of the Gospel to public, cultural, economic, political, academic, and social life?**

- Personal testimony which encourages and affirms God's presence in our trials as we strive to live authentic Catholic lives.
- Participate in pro-life activities. Vote for prolife politicians. Provide education for Catholics so we know about the issues and how to respond
- We need to first become holy ourselves and set a good example of what it means to be Catholic. We can create programs to address issues in our culture and invite others to them.
- Supportive team life can help encourage us to do the right thing and take action when prudent. Discernment on areas that we should engage in, can be supported by groupthink.
- Stay true and proclaim the Truth. In public, encourage intellectual formation on major issues. Participate in and help facilitate Mercy Missions especially with the youth (hygiene kits, lunch bags, card games, smile missions). Culturally, we can meet people where they are to educate them on important truths, we can do presentations both in person and/or online to speak out on the Truth. We can be subtle witnesses, use simple scriptures that people could seek out privately (public figure example: Tim Tebow).
- Be out in the world but not of the world.



- Love everyone! Good formation to speak Truth. Overcoming our fear of judgment or losing our job to let our actions speak louder than words.
- Cultivate an approachable personality so that people feel comfortable reaching out to us. Learn more about our faith and how to respond (with compassion) to common questions, concerns, etc. that people may have. Work on our personal stories/testimonies to share with others, esp. our conversion stories.
- Working on public apostolates, community as well as parish. Being vocal in pro-life arena, city and state, being supportive with refugee care, being informed and vocal in education platform. Be Informed!!
- Love with an open heart & mind, Learn about issues & hold retreats. Educate. Offer unconditional love. Invite them to pray, Mass, meditations.
- Pray first of all. USCCB has some things that you can plug into to support our faith. By utilizing our person-to-person methodology to spread our beliefs and be leaven in our cultural. This will have the ripples in our society. Parents need to be involved with the education of their children.
- help others to understand church teachings; help others to know that a relationship with Christ will bring peace
- Stick up for your own viewpoint - Begun by asking them questions where they have to defend their point of view. Ask them, "Did you know Catholics were the first to start hospitals, to take care of the poor, to found universities, hospices, relief to underprivileged countries." Use the Socratic Method...did you know...do you think God is ever wrong...
- Living Christ-like lives, having Christian friends, loving your family, participating in youth groups, creating healthy work environments, etc.
- Media that promotes pro-life and Christian values. Series like "The Chosen" and other Christian movies draw many souls to God. Homilies from our LC priests that enlighten us about truths of our society and how we are called to stand up for God's and His teachings and not accept the "woke" culture
- Live in the truth and practice vulnerability. Take the risk of being hurt.
  - [ ] There are many Apostolates within the Movement that we are so grateful to be able to participate in (Familia, ECYD, Challenge, Conquest, marriage retreats, monthly retreats, annual retreats, spiritual direction, Encounter with Christ and team life, for example).
  - [ ] The way we respond is so important. We must rely on God to help us through every event, every challenge, every crisis, and every political and cultural agenda. Prayer, prayer, prayer!
  - [ ] We need to ask ourselves: "Is it true, is it good, and is it beautiful?" We need to know our sacred Scripture so we can respond in an appropriate and loving way.
  - [ ] Sometimes we lose our peace when we consider all of the illness of the culture. We should be focused FIRST on our own families. If we are called to do more, in addition to that, God will give us what we need to extend outwards past the parameters of our family if He requires this of us. We aren't always called to be the ones on the front line, but we need to support those who are.
- We can integrate more young people into sacramental and catechetical activities; Cease supporting efforts, platforms or organizations that offend the Catholic faith; Engage in



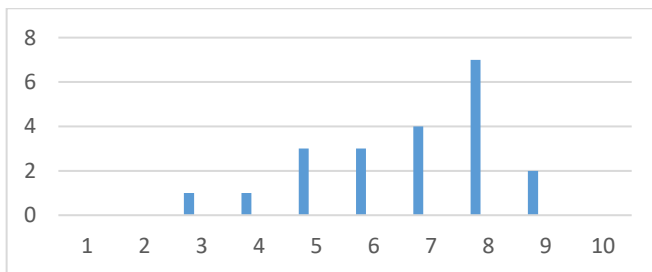
open ended questions in conversations to encourage thought, discussion; Vote for candidates supporting Christian/Catholic faith and family values.

- The Church, in many ways, seems to be irrelevant in our culture. It doesn't seem to be a reference point at all. (However, in many underlying ways, it IS a reference point. (Eg. BC and AD and other terms that the Church developed and most of society follows. We also have conservative journalists, popular podcasts [Eg. Michael Knowles of the Daily Wire], etc. in which the commentators are Catholic and bring their Catholic values into the conversation). Our own small communities are reference points for US. We are grateful to have them!

Sometimes we fall for lies, eg. "It would be arrogant for me to think that my belief is true but not consider someone else's opinion/beliefs." Well, is it TRUE? Is it GOOD? Is it beautiful? We should be confident in "our" truth if it is "the" truth. We work hard to seek truth and we should be faithful to it. Have confidence. Let God work through us. (We can be docile, humble, but courageous when speaking truth.)

- Inviting in a non-threatening way (coffee shop, different activities that are non - threatening; Have programs or events at different levels of formation; Be collaborative with parishes.

**5. To what degree do you think Regnum Christi in your locality is responding to the needs of people in this field of evangelization?**



**6. As a team, how can we collaborate with God in his work of growing the kingdom in this field of evangelization?**

- Continue to encourage and affirm our husbands to speak up in truth when necessary. To pray for our husbands.
- Prayer. Inviting people to retreats, parish talks and social events. Formation through Regnum Christi as a team.
- We can support agencies like Holy Family Counseling, the Pregnancy Aid Clinic, and KSU Newman Center.
- Bring this concern to daily prayer and items from the Holy Spirit
- To continue to be a witness in our work environments, in our parishes and in our families to be a living witness of Christ's love. To work within our many apostolic activities especially in our schools and support their programs (youth formation, retreats, mercy missions). Engage and advocate for the elderly.
- Be joyful at work and in our social lives. When given the opportunity, witness to our faith. There are many opportunities that come up; leverage those and take advantage of them.



- Becoming intentional apostles, being open to The Holy Spirit, meeting people where they are at, and not being afraid of rejection.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire us to be active evangelizers. Don't be afraid of where we may be led. Be energized by the sacraments to make an impact.
- Seek better understanding of the culture. Form ourselves & transform with the power of God's truths. Work within our capacity to meet the overwhelming needs & challenges within our circle of influence.
- Encourage one another. Pray for the opportunities to be Christ in our environments. Attending our Encounters and Evenings of Reflection.
- pray for the young women who are coming to gospel reflections
- Participating in Regnum Christi and Church evangelization ministries
- Continue to work on our spiritual lives and pray for opportunities to share Christ with others in our workplaces.
- Need to to out of our comfort zone to see and/or encounter other communities in our society to see what difficulties of challenges other outside our circle experience (i.e the poor, college students, young mothers, etc.)
- Keep putting forth great apostolic works!!
  - [ ] Staying close to the Sacraments
  - [ ] Staying close to each other - staying "united to the vine."
  - [ ] Being intentionally aware of the talks that are being presented, of opportunities that are coming up, (both within the Movement and within our community) that we can attend/promote/invite
- Find a means to teach St John Paul II's "Theology of the Body" in various groups. Catechize adults in the full truth of the Catholic faith. Build authentic personal relationships in all environments.
- \*\*Maybe RC could facilitate talks/education series that highlight the dangers we face while providing alternatives! We need to educate ourselves on hot topics and issues, and we need RC to help us with this!!
  - \* I will be contacting Vicki Klocke today to tell her our team would like to suggest using our Cincinnati monthly retreats next year to do just that.
  - \* We also decided to try educating ourselves as a TEAM at future STUDY CIRCLES. We think that Formed would have enough resources that we could use this as a starting point. We look forward to educating and equipping ourselves to navigate these confusing times and to gently and appropriately educate others when controversial topics come up.
- Continue to support each other in our Mission; Grow RC in our locality: invite others to learn more, talk about RC at monthly retreats, be more intentional regarding talking about RC; Responsible citizenship-prolife issues, gender issues-education; Pray about our role in the culture.

### ***Regarding Professional Environments***

1. **How do we understand the call of Christ to be apostles in our own professional lives?  
How do you integrate your professional life with your call to be an apostle?**



- We believe the call to be apostles is critical to impacting the work culture. Don't hold back from speaking about your faith life or apostolate if you are provided the opportunity.
- We are always looking for ways to share our faith and the Church's teachings in all spheres of life.
- It is part of our vocational statement. To remain authentic in our Christian calling.
- At work, we are expected to highlight our accomplishments and promote ourselves which must be balanced with our desire to be humble. In relationships we learn to remain interiorly silent about our works.
- In professional life, we can forget that we are Catholics in every part of our lives. We spend the most time in our work place and that is where God wants us to live out our faith as well as in our personal lives. "Work should be a witness of the dignity of a person." "Let love be sincere." (Romans 12: 9-11) Our witness at work demonstrates our call to be an apostle. The testimony we give at work is another way. Our performance and how we live out our faith at work demonstrates our call. How we work (how we participate in gossip, our mindset, how we honor God, our work ethic, balance, etc.) is an integration of our faith and our professional life.
- Living our faith wherever possible, don't be afraid to pray, say Grace before Meals. Look for opportunities to evangelize, but be gentle like Christ and tailor it to the individual and situation. Stand up for your principles/beliefs, don't be afraid to speak up.
- Being vocal about our faith and beliefs. Standing firm in truth as well as being gentle in discussions. Inform ourselves in hot topics and rely on the gospel truth to stand convicted in Jesus, the Church and what she teaches.
- Pray for that specifically, on the way to work, to be an apostle there.
- Don't be afraid to stand firm upon your convictions and don't be afraid to express an alternate view to the "woke" view. Lead by example.
- Love people as love is what will draw people to you/Christ. Be the bearer of Christ's light to others, even in the workplace. Don't be afraid to show your Catholic faith.
- Authentically live your faith. It will shine. People will notice without you saying anything.
- Please see above 6 responses where we combined both culture and professional
- There is a feeling of not being allowed to speak in some ways. Building real and authentic friendships allows evangelization to happen through conversation.
- Apostolate comes clear here and everywhere I am. Together with a lot of prayer, joining various initiatives – prolife, school, church, and spreading the good word of God wherever possible.
- It is difficult at work to resist "diversity", "gender based" surveys and other corporate initiatives. We can remain principled and witnessing to faith with regards to participation or not. We can be true to ourselves and God; and learn to be prudent.
- Take opportunities to proactively represent religious holidays, culture, within communications where appropriate; for instance, expressing views through anonymous platforms that are offered, or sharing amicably when asked about religious symbols, displays or articles of apparel.

## **2. What opportunities for evangelization do we find in our professional environment?**



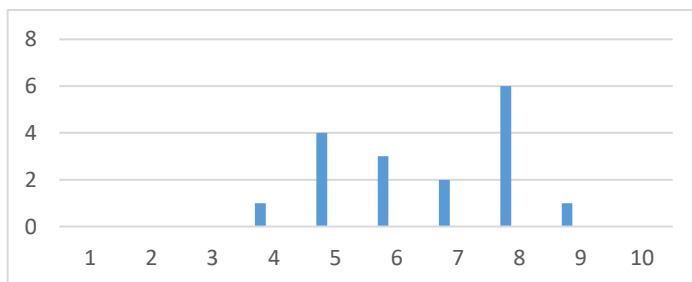
- Much training that is considered "mandatory" runs counter to the dignity of each person. We are asked to "affirm", for instance transgender ideologies, while confronting those that object to the training. We need to hold firm to our convictions, finding the opportunity to meet people to person to person.
  - Going to Mass, especially on Holy Days of Obligation. Setting boundaries around Sunday work and family life priorities.
  - We can invite others to retreats and other events. We can pray before meals in public. We can share the Church's teachings about current issues.
  - Anecdotally-engage in conversations that don't compromise our beliefs.
  - To be a living witness without being overbearing. We can accompany our colleagues in their live journey as they open up to us and share their views.
  - Conversations with other people
  - In the secular world, we can talk about our faith but it is a delicate balance. We can't be ashamed of our faith but we do have to take care when working in a secular work place. We need to be witnesses; to invite others to be in a relationship with Jesus. It's a responsibility. Sometimes it can be easier to talk openly about God in a secular workplace than in a faith-filled workplace. Judgement plays a big part in this. Wherever we work, we need to be Jesus for others.
  - The opportunities exist all around us, but we need to be open to the promptings of The Holy Spirit, looking for and praying to God to guide us to the lost sheep. Be approachable so that colleagues feel comfortable opening up to us; offer to pray for or even with them. If people are open or searching, suggest that they watch "The Chosen".
  - Many opportunities. Teachers with children and their parents and co-workers. Professionals that have contact with several clients each day. Grandparents that get to help educate young grandchildren in the faith.
  - Offering intercessory prayers. Something concrete would be great such as an RC card for something like a spiritual bouquet card. More along the line of a mass card. Doing a holy hour for someone, etc. something tangible.
  - Reach out to co-workers to ask how they are doing. Get to know them as only a friend could influence towards a relationship with Christ. Ask others if they need help.
  - Opportunities to invite to RC events, grace before eating.
  - Cresting moments of vulnerability
  - There are not many opportunities. Perhaps religious holiday displays or daily responses to interest in our upcoming personal activities (Mass and other events). There is someone from the Team who is part of a weekly bible study group at work. This is something rare but still happens.
- 3. What resistance do we find in ourselves to being apostles in our work (interior conditioning, limitations, fears, lack of tools, etc.)?**
- We rightly may fear for our jobs if we don't "play along". We also don't necessarily have the appropriate responses (peer-reviewed data, teaching on the natural law, evidence of the "slippery slope" that we are on). Also, ideologies that run counter to Catholic doctrine are becoming cultural norms, resulting in those practicing religion being branded as intolerant.



- It is unpopular to use your role as wife and mother when it comes to setting boundaries around work expectations. Many companies provide free birth control or access to abortion as a "benefit" to working there. There can be a fear of retribution when you stand up for your Catholic values in the workplace.
  - Fear of being ridiculed. Fear of conflict.
  - We have to be aware and ready for opportunities.
  - Overcoming expectations that we should be "politically correct" and not speak about God. Also, figure out how to balance the need to self-promote to advance in business which is contrary to our desire to remain silent.
  - Our fear to be judged or fear of not knowing the "right" answer play a big part. Society has made faith/religion a taboo subject. We were raised to not talk about our faith. Many leaders at the workplace have made it clear that we are not to talk about religion, creating barriers to being open about our faith. However, our actions can speak louder than words (wearing our Crucifix or medals, etc.). It is an interior aspect of most people not to want confrontation or to bring up topics we know may be controversial. We "go along to get along" at work. We can "chicken out." There is also a fear of losing our job (and source of income) because of speaking up. We may not want the continual fight that goes along with speaking about our faith in certain circumstances.
  - Interior fear, retaliation if it goes against company culture, being labeled as a bigot or zealot. Coming on too strong (have to be careful not to be an all-out apologist).
  - Different cultures and religions. Different lifestyles and beliefs.
  - fears, uncertainty of how
  - Retaliation, discrimination, shunning or being marginalized. Human Resources restrictions.
  - \*Same as above...\*
  - Fear of being reprimanded by Human Resources department. Too timid to share with others who are of different religions
  - Being rejected. Fired. Cresting uncomfortable relationships
  - In professional work there is the fear of losing a job or being labelled as prejudiced. At home, there is fear of breaking relationships. However, actions, words and joy can transmit apostolic spirit. Also, one example of acting out of courageous principle can be contagious (e.g., a professional hockey player did not to comply with displaying symbols which offend his faith and many followed his actions.)
- 4. How can we respond, as Regnum Christi in order to bring the light of the Gospel to public, cultural, economic, political, academic, and social life?**
- We can (and should) embrace formation opportunities in the areas of speaking the truth in charity, along with Theology of the Body. We should also welcome specific case studies in our Regnum Christi teams' Encounters with Christ, and drive those case studies towards locally actionable resolutions. We should form apostles in accordance with Statute #8.
  - Personal testimony which encourages and affirms God's presence in our trials as we strive to live authentic Catholic lives.

- We need to first become holy ourselves and set a good example of what it means to be Catholic. We can create programs to address issues in our culture and invite others to them.
- Promote respect for life, charity for one another. Paying attention to people who come across our path.
- Ask for prayer, and offer prayer when others are suffering. Be a witness. Identify with those in the public eye who are living witnesses (sportscasters, professional athletes).
- Love everyone! Good formation to speak Truth. Overcoming our fear of judgment or losing our job to let our actions speak louder than words.
- Cultivate an approachable personality so that people feel comfortable reaching out to us. Learn more about our faith and how to respond (with compassion) to common questions, concerns, etc. that people may have. Work on our personal stories/testimonies to share with others, esp. our conversion stories.
- By bringing joy to those who struggle or despair. By remaining strong in Christ as we endure our own struggles, giving all glory to God.
- See Above
- explain teachings of the church and how a relationship with Christ provides peace in our lives
- Bring others to Monthly Retreats to be exposed to the Word of God. RC members can mentor college students and reflect their personal values to the youth.
- RC brings the light of the Gospel to the public and culture through Mass, homilies, retreats, monthly dinners, encounters.
- Having more efforts targeted towards young professionals helps us to address the need of such people to rediscover the faith through the RC charism. It's also interesting to consider having more initiatives targeted towards professionals of different industries and careers (e.g. politicians, businessmen, development professionals).
- Great apostolic events
- We can integrate more young people into sacramental and catechetical activities. Cease supporting efforts, platforms or organizations that offend the Catholic faith. Engage in open ended questions in conversations to encourage thought, discussion. Vote for candidates supporting Christian/Catholic faith and family values.

**5. To what degree do you think Regnum Christi in your locality is responding to the needs of people in this field of evangelization?**



**6. As a team, how can we collaborate with God in his work of growing the kingdom in this field of evangelization?**



- Be courageous and prudent in our discussions with coworkers, since many probably share our views but feel like they have no support. Work to find like-minded souls in management that will listen to reasoned arguments.
- Continue to encourage and affirm our husbands to speak up in truth when necessary. To pray for our husbands.
- We can support agencies like Holy Family Counseling, the Pregnancy Aid Clinic, and KSU Newman Center.
- Promote the use of the Mediatrix app from our local Catholic radio station at the upcoming women's morning of reflection.
- Same as above: To continue to be a witness in our work environments, in our parishes and in our families to be a living witness of Christ's love. To work within our many apostolic activities especially in our schools and support their programs (youth formation, retreats, mercy missions). Engage and advocate for the elderly.
- If we can remain connected to The Vine, we can evangelize everywhere: our own homes, our families, our friends, and our workplace.
- Becoming intentional apostles, being open to The Holy Spirit, meeting people where they are at, and not being afraid of rejection.
- Help to inform each other. Strengthen each other in prayer. Encourage one another to remain active in RC for interior growth.
- Pray for young parents to be enlightened to raise their children in faith
- Suggest a yearly team project such as writing letters to people in jail, visiting senior centers, bring Christ to others, donations to St. Vincent de Paul. Inviting "outsiders" to RC events.
- "If not us, who?" We have to be "out there". We have to get "charge up" through RC encounters, events, and formation and be leaven in society. Evangelization is our families first, then in our wider circle.
- Our resolution is to make space for rest and reflection in our lives, especially in our very fast-paced culture
- Just living authentically
- Find a means to teach St John Paul II's "Theology of the Body" in various groups. Catechize adults in the full truth of the Catholic faith. Build authentic personal relationships in all environments.

## Discussion Guide 8: Social Justice and the Practice of the Works of Mercy

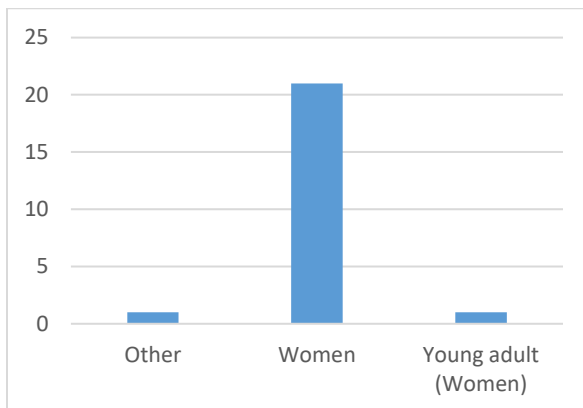
### Audience Analysis

**Number of teams that participated: 24**

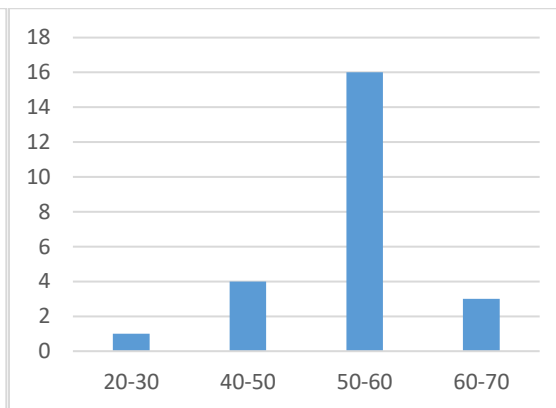
Atlanta (5)  
Cincinnati (4)  
Dallas (3)  
Diaspora (1)  
Manila (1)

New Orleans (2)  
New York Tri-State (2)  
Ontario (1)  
Other (3)  
Raleigh (1)

**Types of teams:**



**Team members' average age:**



**1. Among the basic needs of humanity, which ones are not being met and most call out to us?**

- Basic needs in this locality (focused on the school, but extending outward) are that many families have both parents working (work is paramount and the parents are only looking for the education, and have fled the public schools.) Many young moms at the school do not know Jesus because of a different faith or no faith. This extends to the "nones" in our lives that don't know Jesus at all.
- Mental health and well-being has emerged as a need, especially during and after Covid. College campuses are experiencing a crisis in students suffering from depression, anxiety, fear, loneliness, and other mood and mental disorders. Local communities have experienced an uptick in homeless individuals and families. More school-age children are living in temporary housing, which impacts their learning. Parents are struggling now more than ever to provide basic needs for their families, such as housing and food, which creates more stress and anxiety.
- The human and psychological needs must be attended and met. It is not only a matter of attending to the material but also to what the eye does not see. For example, at times learning to manage emotions is essential to avoid uncontrolled reactions that wound.





Now there is much more talk of expressing and getting emotions out rather than suppressing them. Example: respecting the dignity of the other and have healthy boundaries. Example: understating the affective part of the person better so as to help them better.

- Crisis pregnancies; prison ministry; those isolated from others.
- Loneliness
- In our area, affordable housing is becoming more and more difficult to find. Many people are reaching out for help with utility and food bills as well.
- Their material needs; it is one thing to be with people and offer your time and such, but it's another to also provide people with sustainable help for their actual basic needs.
- Homebound, shut-ins, those without a relationship with Jesus Christ, homeless, the poor we could share our overabundance with, those who do not feel safe, those in war-torn nations and the people who suffer from natural disasters, the vulnerable who become more vulnerable because of war & natural disasters, those who can't afford to take care of medical and mental health needs, those who are trafficked.
- In our country, the temporal needs are not as urgent as the spiritual and temporal needs. The need for human dignity; the need for love and support; the elderly are lonely; teens and young adults are lost. As a Regnum Christi member - the elderly, the mentally and emotionally challenged; the youth. We should gear our apostolates toward these things.
- Need for love and companionship, more spiritual works of mercy to help others understand truth and goodness. rise in homelessness
- After discussing many different groups and what ministries our Parish covers, we feel like the stranger or the Nones with no faith background really call out to us. They are the largest growing group out there. We are not sure how to help this group other than our family witness in public.
- People are lonely, isolated and lack faith
- Relationships with one another; with youth, the imprisoned, the elderly, the unborn, those struggling with mental health
- respect for life as manifested by the epidemic of abortion and euthanasia
- Employment, employment skills, parental education, affordable housing, food, shelter and clothing are not being met and most call out to us.
- Worldwide water crisis, Loneliness (increased suicide, lack of community, social media distractions, elderly being devalued), slavery (human trafficking), unsafe medical facilities.
- The need for being loved and accepted the way we were created to be by God. There is judgment all around us every day. It seems like everyone is an expert on everyone else so that we are all left feeling "less than" or judged. There is so much confusion about our identity and we are being asked to accept people "how they believe they should be" but our basic core identity is being watered down/diminished. Love is being redefined as: "accept me for whatever choices I make and if you don't, then you are hating me." Love is desiring the best for the other. The best thing (the true thing) is the truth of who we were created to be by God alone, not our own choices based on wounds. War and violence. People don't feel safe anymore.
- Personal touch/"connection"...Listening & understanding...hearing the other's pain. Dignity, need for nurture: grace, mercy, compassion without judgement or strings attached. Truth & trust are critical.



- Pregnancy aid and solid spiritual resources for people who are not given the proper support and guidance. Childcare and the build-up of families and acceptance of children in society. Isolation from extended family and community for people who are raising children.
- homelessness, hunger, connectedness causing issues with mental illness
- Spirituality, education and opportunities for everyone.
- To be treated with dignity and respect, whatever the circumstances.
- Homeless and Poverty
- Mental Healthcare and Accompaniment: Those suffering from mental illness and those experiencing profound loneliness stand out to us as most in need.

Those with mental issues have no one to help them, having to endure long waiting lists to be assisted thru government programs. Loneliness can be one aspect that may contribute to mental illness. Accompanying others is needed; we are made body, mind and soul and need spiritual healing as well as physically. We should strive to bring those who are marginalized into community, maybe offering some fun activities and exposure to many more people, especially seniors.

**2. How do we approach and react to the injustices and suffering of people who are in need or abandoned? What are the attitudes and responses of the people around us? What are ours?**

- When people feel the love of God, then they are drawn in. We must attract them with love and fellowship, often through apostolate. We acknowledge what Mother Teresa said: "The US is the most impoverished nation because of our lack of faith. We need to offer the love of God, and it starts with the family.  
Attitudes: Culture fights against what we are trying to do with our own families, which we are trying to raise with a strong Catholic faith. Consequently, often our own families are pulled away from the faith. God uses our children to form us; when our children express their own will, we are helpless, so we must turn to God and trust Him. We must become like children to him, and humble ourselves -- through prayer, hope and trust. As older people, we feel crippled by a lack of technology abilities.
- Many people avoid these situations and the people suffering them. They may have political beliefs that prevent them from supporting organizations that give assistance to people in these situations. They may think these people have created their own problems and should just work harder to overcome them. Others may want to help but limit their help to certain times of year only, i.e. Thanksgiving, Christmas, Holy Week. RC provides support via Challenge and Conquest activities and missions.
- We seek to help not only materially but also by truly taking interest in the person. The world is generous but often impersonal, not seeking the integral good of the person. Some support given has its own agenda. Our attitude should be different, sincere interest in the good of the whole person (spiritual, physical and mental).  
We support parish ministries to feed the poor and assist the elderly. Those who are being served are grateful.
- We sometimes approach cautiously, busyness - not having time to help or getting involved with those in need or abandoned. Fear, and that many times is mental illness,



drugs and dysfunction of the family, not feeling equipped.

In our locality, many churches and local organizations help those who are suffering. Many people don't want help. In this area...we help others, it is a part of our culture to help those in need or when tragedy strikes.

- We feel compassion for people who are suffering and want to help, as we believe most of the people in our community do. Because we are in a more affluent community than others, it is sometimes too easy to write a check and give from our excess, rather than our need and to not make the person to person contact which is desirable.
- Desensitized to what is happening in the Philippines, disconnected from the realities of our society. There is a big gap between us and the rest of our communities, leading us to not to be as empathic as we want to be towards the poor.
- It can become overwhelming seeing all those in need, focusing on the needs in our immediate sphere of influence, show love and provide community, personal and family apostolates formed to address these specific needs, attitudes in society are self-serving - "helping/advocating for" certain groups based on their own agenda.
- Most people tend to say "It's not my problem. I can't do anything about it." Some of us tend to do too much and neglect our own families. Others of us are too focused on our families and don't do enough for others. Many people have no clue about others' suffering
- We often pray for people if we cannot physically be present to support, RC members are often involved in non-RC apostolates that have been created to serve these needs more effectively, but our formation, etc. helps create an apostolic heart. More apostolates for these needs are at the Territorial level or individual parishes/societies.
- We have a lot of beautiful ministries in our parish for the homeless, pro-life, migrants, refugees, and we could always tie a place to a special event that we are having. Like at meetings, we could bring items for the Sage Women's Center, the soup kitchen, La Posada, etc.
- Be a good listener, press a conversation to a more intimate level. Don't shy away from connecting with people. Sometimes people don't want to engage. We should always look for opportunities to show we care.
- We try to respond through apostolates. To discern who may need support. Society as a large doesn't want to see those in need. As we grow in our locale we would like to be able to be more active in ministries that support the forgotten or unwanted.
- Acknowledge those suffering as unique individuals, pray, form apostolates. Often see disregard from others to suffering of those in community. we believe our RC members are very attuned to seeing the suffering in others and trying to find a way to address it
- The needs of others are sometimes overwhelming that there is so much to be done and so much to pray for. We are guided by the promptings of the Holy Spirit. What are we praying for? Abandoned people with salaries spend it and are wondering what to do next. When these people cross your path, you show them love and compassion so they know that someone cares. Allow God to touch them before we can. We need to pray for the enablers.
- Mercy missions, unused gift card initiatives, support St Vincent de Paul, address Gender Confusion, Live and offer assistance where we can. Organize rosary groups, support and participate in programs such as Walking with Women in Need.



- We pay attention to the needs of those around us. We accompany them to the best of our ability. Acts of true charity usually involve some sacrifice on our part. We may not have the power to "fix" an injustice, but we can "stand beside" and accompany others. We can provide words of comfort. We can see the person and what is going on and simply walk with them. We can unite with them in their suffering even if we can't alleviate the cause of their pain/suffering. Going out of our way/comfort zone is a struggle at times. Most people really do have a charitable heart when we gather together in the same mission. It just takes one person to get the idea going to make a big impact. When we see people respond to needs, it gives us the courage and ability to also help.
- Fear, compassion, sadness...care but wariness in lending a hand. Some pass them by. Some opt for short term or feel good responses. Some (we try) with Christ-like charity.
- Emotional reactions are usually met with others saying that these things are not our problem. Overwhelm is a common response, feeling helpless leads to shut down. There is so much more need now than years before and the problems seem insurmountable. Prayer is always an action to be taken.
- We try to give to the organizations in our community that support homeless and provide food; we pray for them; Attitudes range from apathy and obliviousness to empathy and concern. Fear and avoidance is also common
- There are opportunities to participate in missions and associations that care for the needed. People around us come up with different apostolates that take care of some of these needs. We should do mercy deeds without discrimination or judgement with everybody.
- A focused approach that entails a deeper commitment to a discerned cause.
- One person at a time - the one that God has placed in front of you. This is how Jesus loves - from down to where a person is not from above where they are not.
- We strive to have a genuine encounter, where the person feels truly seen and heard. While others around us may see those on the margins as a waste of time, our approach is to accompany them, help to identify and fill their needs in mind, body, and spirit and to bring them into genuine community.

### **3. How can we live a life of prayer that brings us to go out to meet our neighbor and to live the works of mercy?**

- Invite people to mass, especially our families. Once they start attending, they receive the grace, and it becomes easier to encourage them to attend mass more often. We can't give until we put ourselves into a place of prayer. The RC charism honors prayer, for example The Highlands School, rather than just having volunteer hours, always go out on mission, which includes prayer. We can encourage all to pray together when we authentically introduce prayer prior to whatever service we are doing. When we do service, the charity must begin with God and be done for God; we must thank him for allowing us to do the service. We must always remember that we need God, he does not need us. It is a gift for ourselves to do his work.
- We can commit as a locality to pray about the apostolate, asking God to guide us. For example, dedicated locality Eucharistic Hours for this intention.



- Works of mercy are a prayer. If we cannot physically help or reach out we can pray. For example, gives ourselves to the needs of our family, as a prayer. Dying to ourselves to be more available to others is a prayer. Leaving our routine at times to accompany someone is prayer. Being more flexible to make ourselves present.
- A life of prayer is our food, encouragement and inspiration from the Holy Spirit to help others, bring and be Christ to others. We meet our neighbor and live the works of mercy.
- The practices recommended by Regnum Christi keep us grounded in constantly trying to build a deeper relationship with Christ and embracing His will. We know Christ needs to be the source of all our efforts. Prayer needs to be the basis of all our apostolic work and the needs of others must be part of our prayers of petition.
- A life of such prayer has to be supplemented by an environment that encourages that; people you surround yourself with and opportunities that provide you with such avenues to act on your prayer (e.g. Holy Week Missions). There is a need to further reflect on how we can pray for this better.
- See Jesus in each person, try not to judge by externals or what we see, be prepared with tools to use and things to give and acts to perform for those we meet, through prayer life and as a result of our EWC's we are more attuned to see, hear and recognize in those we encounter needs that we can meet or issues we can help solve, through our prayer life we are enabled to get out of our comfort zones, we can be that one person who speaks up or acts and encourage others who want to do the same - be that example.
- Keeping up our prayer commitments, monthly and annual retreats, etc.
- Living our RC prayer commitments allows us to reach out to others.
- We can do Holy Hours for those people, pray for them, and get involved in one of the ministries that our parish has if one feels called.
- Commit to regular prayer, make resolutions, stay active, be involved.
- Being in prayer and close to the gospels we can be inspired to where God wants us to go out and work, performing works of mercy. RC helps us to come up with practical ideas.
- if we are praying effectively and intentionally, then we should naturally be reflecting the light of Christ in our interactions with others, seeking to serve should be instinctual
- Within your prayer life, there needs to be commitment and structure. The Examen Prayer helps us to see where we saw Christ and where we did His will in our day. The Holy Week Door to Door Parish Mission at St. Joseph's Parish in Raleigh brings prayer and food to the people in their neighborhoods. We need to be in a state where we can receive the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Be there for the person mourning the loss of a loved one. God will give you the words. Pray to be open to receiving the theological works of mercy of faith, hope and charity.
- Educate others through organizing speakers, particularly to seniors about church teaching, medical directives, power of attorneys and will/estate planning). Be aware of the absence of people at Mass and see if they need help.
- When we go out to the world, we encounter Jesus. In helping others, we are helping Jesus so the work is our prayer. When we help the needy, we are praising God. By taking time to meditate and grow in our relationship with God, that fill us up and allows the Holy Spirit to inspire our work. Time spent in building our relationship with God is what gives us the energy, inspiration and gift to keep going and persevere in that work. Being connected to The Vine is the only way that the branches can function. If they are ever



separated from The Vine, they are completely ineffective and die. There is discernment and listening that is needed so that it is God's will and not our own plan that we are living out each day. Times of silence and listening truly give us the inspiration for what Jesus is calling us to do.

- Pray for the grace to "go out" and live with loving mercy. Persistent Prayer! Grounded in Faith, Hope & authentic, genuine compassion. Avoid political solutions and reach out with prayer--faith in action. The closer we come to Christ, the better we are prepared to be His hands & help others.
- Regular adoration and partaking of the sacraments to develop awareness of Christ and the needs around us. Inviting people to partake in Mass or come to religious event, or even reaching out for secular invitations to build a foundational friendship. Discerning volunteering for something like meals on wheels or a soup kitchen to bring Christ to people.
- We can pray and keep Jesus with us throughout our day and call on Him to ask Him to show us where we need to be His hands and feet. We can be more generous to those in our lives who are struggling.
- Living the Sacraments, silence and prayer, ask the Lord to make us humble, see Jesus in the needed. Participate in Catholic movements to learn and to have spiritual tools to participate in works of mercy. Prepare ourselves to be God's instruments.
- Day by day, be mindful that each endeavor is in collaboration with Christ. Always pray before each activity for guidance and after for light in reflection.
- The Eucharist/Mass. It is our spiritual nourishment...it animates the spirit.
- To see others as beloved sons and daughters of God equal in human dignity, our prayer life must be intentional, disciplined, and intense. The graces we need to serve others come from consistent and persistent prayer.

**4. Can we say that our apostolic activity contributes to the transformation of society according to the values of the Gospel? How?**

- Big Yes! That is why we are doing our apostolate, and why we are doing our Encounters with Christ. They help us to fill our souls, to be able to then go out and spread his word. Even the people that aren't Regnum Christi, attending our Encounters, recognize this value. The Encounter with Christ helps us be more like Jesus, so that others can see Jesus in us, even if we struggle to see Jesus in others (pushing beyond our human weakness).
- Holy Week missions address these needs as do other activities. We need to develop or join forces with other established apostolates that are ongoing so that those in need have support throughout the year.
- The greatest evangelical value is love. Out of love we seek to bring others to experience the love of God. We can also transform through our example. That way others will experience being loved and better understand God's love. Our apostolic activity, such as missions or daily life, can lead others to experience the hope that people are good and lead them to desire to imitate what they have received. Examples: smiling, a positive comment or a greeting.
- Yes. One person at a time.



- Yes, Christ at the core with the "Works of Mercy", not doing just to feel good but giving our neighbor the due justice that they deserve, educating, accompanying...
- Yes, our apostolic activities arise from our love for God and His people. When we offer assistance, it is accompanied with prayer, and we try to tend to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the individual.
- The intentions are pure and are there, and the efforts are in the right place. However, it still feels lacking somehow, being unsure if it actually contributes to society. We need to complement our efforts to evangelize with the material things that people really need. Initiatives to help this would be a big help.
- Yes. Every apostolic activity directs others toward Christ.
- Trying to provide loving, caring environments and help transform their hearts, all of our family and marriage apostolates create opportunities to help transform society.
- Yes, it does, but our apostolic focus is more on the families, marriages, women, and children.
- We hope so, we conduct activities, (mornings of reflection) etc. and rely on the Holy Spirit to reap fruits. We have impacted our community greatly over the years with 100s of resolutions.
- We do try to be apostles and voices of God's Word in society. Others see the work we do and want to help or become involved. As a result our team has doubled in size and still getting more interest. They see the work God does through us.
- Yes, we see how our faith can change the attitudes of those we encounter, either casual interactions with strangers or more intentional service to those in need in the community.
- Yes, there are many ways in which our apostolic activity contributes to transforming society. In the Holy Week Missions, we go out into the surrounding communities and pray with them for their needs. Seeing people doing nice things validates them as a person. Spiritual Direction introduces them to God's love. We live in a culture that lacks love and we have wounds from not being loved. We need to see Christ in others and we have to be Christ-like to others.
- In RC, our work with families and youth have the impact of transforming society. Mission work opens the door for youth to get comfortable offering their time for others. Actions are witnessed by others as we cast our nets.
- We can ask: "What is my apostolic activity?" This question causes us to prayerfully ask this question. We try to help others and do our best but there are always ways to be more aligned with God's will. Helping others encourages us and can be contagious, affecting those around us. The Charity around us inspires us to be the same for others. Living the virtue of Charity affects people in a tangible way. We see it, recognize it as good, and keep it going ("paying it forward"). Regnum Christi (and the formation we receive) helps us focus our efforts in specific ways so that we can be most effective without "burning out" or contributing to things that are not of God. Regnum Christi provides us with tools (prayers, retreats, apostolates, encounters, Sacraments, support, accompaniment, etc.) for helping others. Through discernment, we learn what is truly from God and what "busyness." is We are Christ in this world so we need to make sure to represent Him well; to be His hands, feet, eyes and ears.
- Team formation strengthens us to go forth in prayer with an apostolic heart to meet the needs of a greater society.



- Yes, we discern individually and as a group where needs are and how to meet them. We seek opportunities to live out what we gain from weekly encounters. We are evangelizing our individual families to live Catholic lives in public and plant seeds for the people in our homes. Committing to Regnum shows people a different way of life than society says we should be living and also demonstrates our striving to have rightly ordered priorities by putting God first.
- We hope that we are contributing but we don't always see transformation so it is hard to say.
- Yes. Through the different apostolates in Regnum Christi, encounters, retreats and mercy missions. The Priest and Consecrated are committed to this labor; however, we need more vocations and lay people to contribute to this effort.
- Yes, by living out Christ's call to care for the suffering. This act seeks to imitate Him and the hope is those who do not know Him would see in us a light that draws them closer.
- Yes. In addition to our apostolic action in our section, we are all active in our parishes and their ministries.
- Yes, we seek to alleviate the suffering of those in need through apostolates such as Missionary Families. We also strive to bring the Gospel to our family through Vibrant Families apostolate. One of our members supports a local Parish with sacramental preparation for children's First Communion and First Reconciliation as a way to evangelize them along with their families. We all feel this work is very important and that we can do more. Thru apostolates, we can make people feel cared for and loved (approached with sincerity). We may not see the result, but it can bear fruit many years later. We can see that people may be suspicious and try to see through us, to see the motives and intentions behind our actions. If we do these works in Christ, then they will see and meet Christ in us.

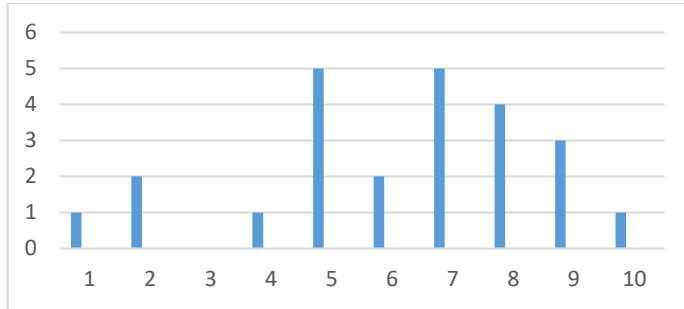
##### **5. How can we respond, as Regnum Christi to evangelize in this area?**

- We need to offer Jesus to those who are ignorant. With our desire to transform culture, we need to respond with love to those who don't know him. Acting in love, accompanying people first, before even making the invitation to join us in apostolate or formation events.
- We can look at parish ministries and local groups already serving in these areas. We can speak to parish priests and mental health care workers to understand the needs better and then act on those needs as whole sections or locality.
- Spiritual accompaniment through spiritual direction, retreats, encounter, missions. This meets a human need.
- Pray for those who are working with the disenfranchised. We make a concerted effort to spend time in adoration.
- Prayer and apostolic activity, bringing Christ in our workplace and communities. Be aware. Look around, take time.
- The "person to person" model of our Regnum Christi spirituality has formed us to truly accompany people in need. By helping to spiritually form apostles, Regnum Christi can spark apostolic zeal. Our formation also helps us to recognize needs and discern how best to respond.





- Same answer as above.
  - Our cases of life open our eyes to others having trials and suffering, a non-intrusive response of offering to pray for someone can lead to great conversations which then leads to a concrete response and evangelization.
  - We need to start apostolates for the spiritual needs of the elderly and the unmarried young adults.
  - We tend to lead others to get involved in works of mercy, could also work on sharing best practices and connecting small groups of RC people who are involved in these outside works of mercy which may also include non-RC members and evangelize to them
  - We are a very rural community and many of our members live on large farms. We generally help out others when there is a need. We are available to help when we can.
  - Continue to seek those in need, and ways to support them.
  - seek apostolates that already exist and donate our time to help in their service
  - Everything that we do is for love of God and love of man. People see the joy of Christ manifest through our actions and our words. Some examples are: making the sign of the cross, saying grace at restaurants or saying, "God bless you."
  - Coordinate resources. Develop a program to support seniors (folders to organize ID, medications list, insurance and important contacts). Emotional distress can cloud the mind and we can help organize their thought process by offering an objective viewpoint and accompany them as they need help. Be available and work within our own limitations.
  - Living out our Regnum Christi promises leads to evangelization naturally. If we fulfill those promises, we will evangelize as God calls us to. Living out the Regnum Christi vocation motivates us to become involved in our local parishes/charities and "see"/respond to the needs around us.
  - Regnum Christi gives us courage, initiative & support thru Listening, Teaching & Forming us to answer the apostolic call individually.
  - Hold some more open encounters. Personally invite people to reflections and open Regnum events with some hard copy info and individual, personal touches so people can understand what the community is about and feel welcomed.
  - We can have drives or raise money for organizations in need and have service projects. As RC we can multiply efforts.
  - Participate actively in the apostolates of Regnum Christi. Financial contributions are necessary; however, it's important to serve by using our charisms and active involvement in the mission.
  - To fulfill monthly a different Work of Mercy together as a team or section
  - We should continue to engage with the apostolates already available to us and consider ways to expand them.
6. **To what degree do you think Regnum Christi in your locality is responding to the needs of people in this field of evangelization?**



**7. As a team, how can we collaborate with God in his work of growing the kingdom in this field of evangelization?**

- Contemplative: Pray for the election coming up  
Evangelization: Spread word about the "entry" apostolate that our team is doing "Advent by Candlelight", which targets the school moms.
- I am responding as an individual. We need to be willing to see others with compassion and engage with them in charity. We may not be able to take away their suffering or even address their physical needs but we can validate their humanity and restore their human dignity.
- Young people have activities in which they help those in need. Promoting family missions or encouraging families to get to know people in their parishes. Evangelizing outside of Regnum Christi, inviting people to apostolates and adapting to the needs of outside groups so they also discover the person of Christ
- Prayer through Eucharistic adoration.
- Get to know others and build relationships, know their needs, filling other's needs. Sharing the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ. As a team by practice and exercise of the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy daily/weekly. We can make a habit of this and witness within our families the compassion for others because God loves us ALL.
- As we are all involved in apostolates within Regnum Christi, or our parishes and/or our communities, we believe the best way is to share our experiences and opportunities to serve, so as to inspire and encourage others to join in this work.
- Attending missions, being proactive in our individual and collective apostolates.
- Our team has resolved to: ACT - prepare goodie bags to hand out when that chance encounter is upon is & PRAY: meditate on Luke 6: 36 in our prayer time.
- Talk to the elderly that are on teams about evangelizing the unchurched. Perhaps they can do a small group (Gospel Reflection or scripture study) at an assisted living. Have social events for young adults.
- Brian's bags, maybe another throughout the year.
- Pray for God's guidance to see the people he wants us to see and help them.
- Follow up with an attendee of our recent morning of reflection with a couple of survey questions.
- Rely on the inspirations of the Holy Spirit to guide us to be the most productive evangelizers and apostles that we can be. Do not live in fear, but trust.
- will help with existing apostolate of visiting those in nursing home/assisted living facilities and those in the hospital



- We could do better by being more integrated in parish ministries. We can tap into other resources such as: Birth Choice, Habitat for Humanity, Oak City Cares, or a Doorway to Hope. We could provide babysitting for Adult Faith Formation. We could assist senior citizens within our community by providing one hour of free technical help or provide a cheat sheet on how to do something on smart phones or computers.
- We will offer prayer in support of Walking with Women in Need and particularly for the young families that are being helped within this ministry.
- Prayerfully discern and do His will. Remain connected to The Vine and branches/fruit will continue to flourish and grow.
- We pray to the Holy Spirit to inspire us to take charitable action. Then in Examen, ask if there was anything impeding us from carrying out our inspirations.
- We are discerning a Walking with Purpose group in the Fall. Hosting open activities to invite women to attend as a way to support people who are looking to grow in faith, especially young mothers or mothers of young children who aren't welcome in other settings.
- We can pray to Jesus throughout our day to ask Him to show us how we can be His hands and feet in our world.
- Participating and starting apostolates, listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit to see where to go and what to start. Humbly, using the charisms that each of us has to put into action according to what we can do and complementing each other. Within our team, help each other materially and spiritually. We are sisters and should give and ask for help from each other. Pray for grace and humility to serve others. Getting to know each other to serve better. There is always something that we can do.
- Discern and form a team apostolate
- Discerning as individuals with our spiritual directors, and as a team, to see which apostolates we should focus on.