The challenges of today (problem)

I. Many have said that perhaps the greatest threat to our world is the woke ideology. This is due to the fact that when you try to redefine the fundamental identity of a man or woman, and forgo the idea of "being created in the image and likeness of God, male and female", you are attempting to erase the human species.

II. Family

I. It used to be that families tended to stay in the same towns and cities. People knew and spent time with their extended families. Today families are scattered.

II. There has been a shift in men living in the home. In 1970, 67% of Americans ages 25 to 49 were living with their spouse and one or more children younger than 18. Today that share has dropped to 37%. There is another 11% that are homes with cohabiting men and women with kids and unmarried people with kids. This is according to Pew research.

III. Mental health:

I. 1 in 4 Americans suffer a probable mental health disorder[1]. Many Americans and members of developed countries have reported rising levels of distress, anxiety, loss of sleep and existential restlessness. There are not enough available psychologists to attend to these needs.

IV. Religious practice:

I. Aleteia's most recent poll in late summer 2022 showed 17% of adult Catholics reported attending Mass weekly with 5% watching Mass online or on television from home.

II. A Pew Research survey finds nearly seven-in-ten Catholics (69%) say they personally believe that during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine used in Communion "are *symbols* of the body and blood of Jesus Christ." Just one-third of U.S. Catholics (31%) say they believe that "during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus."

[1] https://www.kff.org/statedata/mental-health-and-substance-use-state-fact-sheets/

III. 63% of Catholics say abortion should be legal depending of time of gestation[2]. While there are many promising signs of progress in the pro-life battle, there are still way too many misconceptions about when life begins and the consequences of abortion on the mother. This is among the most horrendous realities of our time

V. Social polarization: There have been a variety of events and movements by politicians and activists to polarize the United States. It is nearly impossible to even have a conversation with people from differing political parties. There is barely any consensus on many social and family issues.

II. The work of the evil one

I. Give context: Denethor refuses, due to fear, to engage in battle against evil because he is greedy and self-indulgent. Gandalf video: war is upon us. ***After video #1: Are you going to be a man who goes to battle, or are you going to enter the battle against evil?***

II. Not the original plan: Adam

III. God gave Adam 5 titles: warrior, builder, husband, father and king.

I. Adam, is the model and prototype for all men. He was endowed with the responsibility to "till and keep the garden". God entrusted him to be the protector of human society.

IV. 1 Pe 5:8: "The devil is prowling like a hungry lion, looking for someone to devour".

I. Satan wants to take your family, destroy your marriage and your soul. Don't let that happen under your watch. We know from scripture that Satan has come to destroy the work of Christ. Satan tells Adam "You will be like God" (Gen 3:5), He is a liar, and the father of lies." (1 Jn 3:8; Jn 8.44).

II. How can this be solved?

[2] https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/05/23/like-americans-overall-catholics-vary-in-their-abortion-views-with-regular-mass-attenders-most-opposed/

I. **Give context: The Ring represents a mission. It represents sin and evil. Frodo has been given the mission to destroy it.**

After video #2: <u>Even the smallest person can change the course of the future. It is ok to have fear; it is not ok to remain in fear. You can transform the world around you, and this is a vehicle to help you do that.</u>

II. The world has lost men who protect the Garden. There is a need to recover manhood. The woke progressives are seeking to destroy masculinity. Men are seen as toxic, as tyrants, as something that destroys the good in society.

In reality Men are made for greatness. "Authentic masculinity" means to live for excellence. We need more authentic masculine men.

2. Your mission must become your passion:. A man is one acquires the character of a husband and father, protector, a warrior and builder, a priest and king. We need more men like this. Men for ages. A man is born with a task. He is born into a story that is underway. What a man does and how he lives will impact the destiny of the world.

III. RC: a place for your mission as a man

I. Christ gave each one of us 2 tasks:

I. Have life and joy (Jn 10:10) (God wants us to be **happy)**: God wants his children to live fully, to live happily, while enduring the crosses and hardship that He himself endures. Life on earth is a beautiful and challenging battle. Jesus was very clear:

I. "From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. [13] For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came; [14] and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. [15] Let anyone with ears listen! (Mt 11:12–15)

II. He has called us to evangelize. The great commission that Jesus gave to his apostles as he was ascending to heaven was to go out to the ends of the world and proclaim the Gospel. Pope Paul VI said that "The Church is nothing but a mission to spread the Gospel". "Woe to me if I do not evangelize" (1 Cor. 9:16)

II. RC

I. Regnum Christi Inspires men to have a fascinating **mission** in life, as Catholics. The way and spirit in Regnum Christi is to be alert apostles that are ready to identify the evil in the world. A Regnum Christi man is called to

help establish the Kingdom of Christ in the world, and fight against evil. RC gives us opportunities to be soldiers for Christ that see the world and are not content with how it is, but fight to make it the way it should be.

II. Regnum Christi invites you to a team of men (a band of brothers) and a charism. We are not alone. We have a history of evangelistic dynamism, creativity and out-of-the-box efforts to take the Gospel to the existential peripheries of the people that seem to reject it the most.

Man was not meant to "go it alone," but to be in communion with others. It is important to build close friendships with other men of faith.

III. Regnum Christi Offers initiatives called apostolates that create an experience. Through the apostolates, following Jesus' counsel to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves, like sheep in the midst of wolves" (Mt 10:16), we are to serve the Lord wisely, finding a way until we are required to take a firm stance.

IV. What can I do?

I. You can Know Christ **personally**, and follow him **unconditionally**. We follow Christ due to a personal encounter with Him. When a person encounters Christ, He never stops loving. This encounter is what Regnum Christi helps to provide.

I. Personal holiness

I. We grow in personal holiness by adhering to a solid charism. God inspires charisms to be places where men and women find a special type of resonance with their own character and interests. God provides charisms and movements all the nutrients they need to feed their men (women), equipping them to be holy and invite others to holiness.

II. Apostolic initiative

I. Faith in action = apostolic initiatives. We give off what we have taken time to deeply dwell on. We become apostles because we have been disciples first. We are first called to learn from the Master himself, in order to carry his fire, his light… to the ends of the world. All areas need the light of Christ: family, business, education, politics, law, medicine, finance, and society at large: Pope Fracis says **"I dream of a "missionary option", that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation." (EG #27)**

II. How can I do that?

I. RC offers you these 5 dimensions as a member:

I. Spiritual Life: Prayer: there is no true apostle without contact with Christ. Prayer is the source of all other graces. We cannot give what we don't have, and prayer fills the apostle with the energy for the mission.

II. Formation. We need to know our faith and give witness to what we have professed. This is done primarily in an organic way, based on the mystery of Christ the Apostle. Through personal contact, small groups, spiritual, intellectual and apostolic activities… The Catholic man grows in his faith and wisdom.

III. Personal Accompaniment: Spiritual guidance. "No one is the best guide of oneself". By having a coach in life, we are guided by the Spirit to become the ones Christ dreams of. Like any athlete, regardless of the stage of his expertise, we all need someone to be a guide in life. We are too close to ourselves to be able to guide ourselves.

IV. Apostolate: the expression of love. The response to the encounter with Christ becomes faith in action. Especially men, they find fulfillment in solving problems, in becoming the Adam that "tills and keeps" the garden, by making sure that the different limitations and evils of this work are overcome.

V. Team life: ""For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there… (Mt 18:20). The support of other men who also have challenges, battles, doubts and insights is indispensable for any man. Team life has proven to be a priceless support for men.

VI. Provide a little personal testimony on team life.

I. <u>I have some questions: Does any of this resonate with you? Do you find any of this relevant to you? If it does, you're in the right place at the right time! Maybe that's the reason you're here!</u>

II. Start or join an RC team

I. Here's the next step: Get with the person who invited you here to learn how you can become a member of Regnum Christi.