REGNUM CHRISTI

TERRITORIAL DIRECTIVE COLLEGE
NORTH AMERICA

Thy Kingdom Come!

October 3, 2026

To all Regnum Christi members: Legionaries of Christi, Consecrated Women, Lay Consecrated men and lay members in North America

Dear Regnum Christi members in Christ,

The 2024 Regnum Christi General Convention made marriage and family one of the three priorities for Regnum Christi on an international level (CGC 27). In North America, we decided that one of the main initiatives of our strategic plan is to "make marriage and family our primary apostolic focus over the next 6 years, unleashing the evangelizing power of the sacrament of marriage and forming missionary families".

In 2025, one of our first steps toward this goal as a Territorial Directive College was to create a Marriage and Family Commission. This commission was led by BJ and Jeannine Agugliaro and comprised of Fr. Peter Hopkins, LC, Fr. Juan Sabadell, LC, Monica Treviño (Consecrated Woman of Regnum Christi) and Dr. Kathy Musslewhite. The commission's mandate was to study the different apostolic initiatives and programs offered by Regnum Christi in North America, assess the current synergies among them, and develop recommendations for possible ways to foster greater collaboration between these different initiatives as well as how best to support these from a territorial level. All in all, the Commission encountered around 65 initiatives from our spiritual family throughout the United States and Canada.
The Marriage and Family Commission presented its findings at the first ever Regnum Christi Marriage and Family Symposium, held at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein IL, in May 2026. This symposium gathered nearly 70 Regnum Christi members (Legionaries, Consecrated Women and lay) active in marriage and family ministry from across the territory.

After hearing the commission's report, various ministry leaders were asked to speak from their own experience about how they have seen the Lord at work in their apostolates and how they perceive Regnum Christi can best respond to the authentic renewal of marriage and family in North America.

There were also several guest speakers including Julia Dezelski, SThD, who spoke on behalf of the USCCB, highlighting the urgent need to address the situation of marriage and family life in American society and encouraging the use of the Catechumenal Pathways for Marriages; Fr. Adolfo Guemez and Diana Villareal who spoke on behalf of the Regnum Christi Life and Mission Department in Rome; and Paul McCusker, formerly a creative director at Focus on the Family and currently a writer in residence at The Augustine Institute, who spoke about the power of "story" in the transformation of culture, and the need our society today has of hearing the story of happy marriages. More on the symposium and its findings can be seen in the attached document.
Along with being a time of grace and renewed apostolic zeal for the apostles of marriage and family who attended the symposium, it was also a moment of light for us as Regnum Christi to recognize what we have to offer the Church and society in the area of marriage and family.

Serving with our Charism

> *"To fulfill our mission, we seek to make present the mystery of Christ who goes out to people, reveals the love of his heart to them, gathers them together and forms them as apostles, Christian leaders, sends them out and accompanies them as they collaborate in the evangelization of people and of society"* (SRCF 8).

Throughout the process of the past year, we have encouraged all those who participated to ask themselves a fundamental underlying question: how are we as a spiritual family and apostolic body, with our particular charism, called to respond to the immense needs of marriage and family in North America?

Among those surveyed after the Marriage and Family Symposium, including the members of the Marriage and Family Commission, there was a strong consensus that Regnum Christi's distinctive contribution to marriage and family ministry lies not primarily in offering programs, but in forming apostles. Through personal accompaniment, integral formation, Christ-centered spirituality, joyful witness, authentic community and the application of the principles of apostolic action (SRCF 30), Regnum Christi equips its members to renew marriages, families, parishes, and society. A central emphasis is the formation of apostles who in turn form other apostles, creating a multiplying effect that strengthens both local communities, parishes and the broader Church.

Applying this feedback from the Commission and the Symposium, we see several key ways our charism can contribute to this important area of mission:

- **First**, Regnum Christi is uniquely positioned to form Christian leaders and formators— couples who accompany other couples, develop parish and diocesan leaders, and expand apostolates through networks.

- **Second**, our relational approach prioritizes accompaniment and community over isolated programs, fostering long-term growth through small groups, mentoring, and communities rooted in daily life.
- **Third**, Regnum Christi offers the potential for a comprehensive, full life-cycle approach to marriage and family ministry, supporting individuals from youth and dating through all stages of married and family life, including times of difficulty and healing, such as divorce. There is more to be explored in how ECYD can be a platform to form not only the adolescents who participate, but their families. The continuation of these same young people as Regnum Christi young adults into their vocational fulfillment allows for a natural path of accompaniment and formation.
- **Lastly**, our broader mission of cultural impact and renewal calls us to work alongside parishes and dioceses, sharing resources, and aligning with Church priorities, leaning into our mission at the service of the Church and society.

We believe that with greater coordination, scalability, and strategic clarity, Regnum Christi is positioned to function as an apostolic body capable of fostering lasting renewal in marriage and family life in North America.

Where do we go from here?

On a concrete level, the Territorial Directive College also received additional feedback about next steps from the Commission and the Symposium including the importance of the need to:

- Connect existing resources, promote collaboration, and support local initiatives while respecting subsidiarity.
- Develop territorial guidelines, resource guides, and strategic focus areas spanning dating, marriage preparation, family life, and support for divorced couples and their families
- Study possibilities for ongoing formation of those involved in leading marriage and family initiatives, especially through Divine Mercy University.
- Align efforts with the Church's Catechumenal Pathway for Married Life, in coordination with pastors and parish life.
- Foster locality ownership of marriage and family apostolates and their development, making sure that these apostolates are front and center in the mission focus of each one.
- Teamwork with ECYD to foster initiatives, to better engage parents and families
- Foster and promote those apostolates that help Hispanic immigrant families, children of divorced parents, and other groups of people that often receive limited pastoral accompaniment.

- Foster synergies between the different RC Marriage and Family apostolates in North America, also leveraging our two Legionary retreat centers in Potomac, MD and Cupertino, CA.

As part of our response to these needs, we are excited to share the following initiatives:

1. We have decided to launch a new **Area of Apostolic Coordination**. This area will work in collaboration with the other departments of the Mission Support Team under the direction of Fr. Aaron Smith, LC, Territorial Delegate for Regnum Christi in North America. The new area will be led by Betty Rivera, Consecrated woman of Regnum Christi. Among other aspects, this area will support Regnum Christi's apostolic efforts in the evangelization of marriage and family across the territory. In a territory as large and varied as ours, we have long felt a need for this kind of part-time, coordinating role - a catalyst for synergy to help maximize our impact, more than an additional layer of direction or accountability.

2. **Regnum Christi Marriage and Family Event in May 2028**. The fruitful experience of the first Marriage and Family Symposium this past May, showcased how powerful and helpful it is for those working in Marriage and Family apostolates to come together and share ideas, best practices and questions they encounter in the mission. For this reason, the Territorial Directive College has decided to facilitate a similar encounter in 2028.

3. **Mission Connection** – We invite you to discover, if you have not done so already, this online platform for sharing apostolates and best practices. Many incredible apostolates already exist and are already on the platform. If you are leading an apostolate for Marriage and Family that is not yet shared in Mission Connection, we encourage you to share it by using the following link. We also encourage those active in Marriage and Family ministry to reach out to each other to share resources and collaborate. There is no need to wait for this to be done from a territorial level!

We are aware that these initiatives do not satisfy all the needs and that more steps are needed, but we do consider them to be a significant and important step in the right direction, to be followed by others over the course of the months and years to come.

As a Territorial Directive College, we thank and applaud each of you who have dedicated yourselves to this important field of mission! Many are the needs, and we are fully aware that at times the mission can seem daunting. It is in moments like these that it is important for all of us to remember that the Kingdom of Christ is a gift and that we cannot build it by human

strength alone. Let us seek then, to remain in communion with Christ and with his Church, like the branch on the vine knowing that in Him alone is all true fruitfulness (SRCF 9).

Yours in Christ,

Fr. John Bartunek, LC

Maria Gaviria

Katie Tuttle

Fr. Timothy Walsh, LC

Andrew Rawicki

Helen Yalbir

Appendix: Findings of the 2026 Regnum Christi Marriage and Family Symposium