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Subject: Vocations letter from Legion and Regnum Christi general directors

The Gift of Vocation

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Leadership of the Legion of Christ and Regnum Christi address letter to the movement on the occasion of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Following is a letter from the General Director of the Legion of Christ and the leaders of the Regnum Christi Movement on the occasion of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

[Translated from the original Spanish]

May 7, 2014

To the members of Regnum Christi:

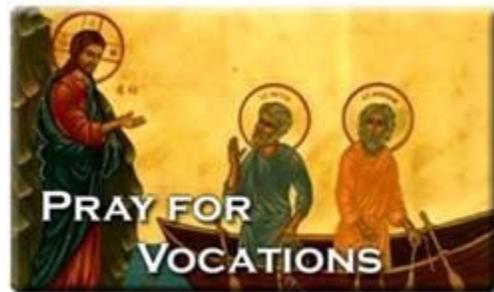
Dear friends in Christ,

We are beginning May, the month dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, still rejoicing in the canonization of the two popes, Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II. The calling of these two great men and the upcoming celebration of the 51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations this Sunday have brought us to share a few brief reflections with the whole Regnum Christi family in the hopes that they will help us renew our awareness of our own vocation.

When we recognize the love that is behind a gift we've received, joy and gratitude spontaneously spring up and it is difficult to contain the desire to share this gift with others.

The gift of the vocation: an act of God who loves and calls

Each vocation supposes that Someone calls and that someone is called. We should never cease to be amazed at the fact that God thinks of each of us and calls us. The closing document of the Congress on Vocations to the Priesthood and to Consecrated Life in Europe offers some helpful reflections on this theme: "The vocation is the providential thought of the Creator for each creature, it is His idea-



plan, like a dream found in God's heart, because the creature is found in His heart." (*New Vocations for a New Europe* n. 13). Our being is intimately bound to an act of love that calls us into existence: we exist because we are loved and called.

This truth is a source of deep joy, giving meaning to our lives. It responds to a desire which the Catechism tells us "is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* n. 27).

When we recognize, welcome and live the gift of the vocation to which we have been called, we become witnesses of a God who reaches out and enters into dialogue with us, a God who "at every time and in every place, ... draws close to man. He calls man to seek Him, to know Him, to love Him with all his strength." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* n. 1).

The richness of the diversity of vocations

As a fruit of our journey of renewal, we have grown in the awareness of the richness that each particular vocation contributes. Both in the Church and in our spiritual family, we see that "there exist [...] various vocations which [...] express the divine image impressed on man [...] and respond to the various needs of the new evangelisation, enriching ecclesial interplay and communion." (*New Vocations for a New Europe* n. 12).

Promoting of vocations should not be limited to any vocation in particular. We must learn to promote "all vocations, because in the Lord's Church, either we grow together or no one grows." (*New Vocations for a New Europe* n. 13).

All the vocations are necessary for the building up of the Kingdom of God. "Fathers and mothers who are open to life and to the gift of life are needed; husbands and wives who witness to and celebrate the beauty of human love blessed by God; people capable of cultural dialogue and of 'cultural charity', for the transmission of the Christian message by means of the languages of our society; [...] priests with a big heart, like that of the Good Shepherd; [...] consecrated apostles with the ability to immerse themselves in the world and in history with a contemplative's heart, and mystics so familiar with the mystery of God as to know how to celebrate the experience of the divine and show God present in the events of life." (*New Vocations for a New Europe* n. 12).

The Regnum Christi sections are called to be vibrant communities in

which all the vocations that make up our Church grow, strengthen and develop. Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, which will be celebrated on May 11, Good Shepherd Sunday, reminds us that "a vocation is a fruit that ripens in a well cultivated field of mutual love that becomes mutual service, in the context of an authentic ecclesial life. No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people, in the experience of fraternal love." (*Message of Pope Francis for the 51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations*).

The ministry of listening and accompaniment

. For this reason, it is necessary that we learn the art of listening and of truly accompanying. "Today more than ever we need men and women who, on the basis of their experience of accompanying others, are familiar with processes which call for prudence, understanding, patience and docility to the Spirit [...] We need to practice the art of listening. [...] Only through such respectful and compassionate listening can we enter on the paths of true growth and awaken a yearning for the Christian ideal: the desire to respond fully to God's love and to bring to fruition what He has sown in our lives." (*Evangelii Gaudium* n. 171).

An attitude of wanting to invite others to live what we have lived springs up naturally from the joy of experiencing Christ in consecrated, religious and priestly life, as well as life as a lay person in the Movement.

Let us ask the Lord, our Good Shepherd, for the grace of always being attentive to His Voice. May He renew in us the certainty that He continues to call people to follow Him, today and always, in the different vocations that He brings to life. Let us ask the Lord every day that He send apostles and vocations to His Church.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, bless you in this month. By her intercession, may the gift of the Holy Spirit come down on us just as it came down on the early Church as it prepared for Pentecost.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Eduardo Robles Gil, Legion of Christ General Director

Gloria Rodriguez, General Director of the Regnum Christi Consecrated Women

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