



REGNUM CHRISTI

## Portrait of the Regnum Christi Section Director

*The lay members of Regnum Christi are grouped into sections. Each section has a director, who can be a member of any federated institution or a lay member. They must have the proper qualities and be appointed by the Territorial Directive College. SRCF 44*

The section directors are entrusted with leading and developing the life of their section for the good of its members, always with an eye on the goal of expanding the Kingdom of Christ: welcoming new members, forming committed and authentic Christians, organizing the members, and helping them work effectively in their apostolic activities. These guidelines aim to help the section directors better understand their role. The guidelines are built upon the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation (SRCF) and the Rule of Life (RL) which every section director should deeply assimilate and take to heart through study and prayer.

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### The Section Director Profile

*Regnum Christi seeks to give glory to God and make the Kingdom of Christ present in the hearts of all people and in society, by our sanctification in the state and condition of life to which God has called us, and by personal and communal apostolic action. SRCF 7*

Section directors should first and foremost be persons of prayer, guided by the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation, convicted in the identity of Regnum Christi, enthusiasts for the Kingdom of Christ, well-acquainted with the Rule of Life and the apostolic principles, capable of building teams and fostering Regnum Christi life in the section. They should be humble, prudent, trustworthy, accountable, and work to develop their own personal leadership capacity so they can foster a collaborative spirit among the members that leads to communion and apostolic growth.

The heart of a section director holds a passionate love for Christ and zeal for souls. The words of St. Paul resound in the depths of all Regnum Christi members: "He loved me and gave himself up for me" (cf. Gal. 2:20) and "the love of Christ impels us" (cf. 1 Cor. 5:14). The experience of the love of God gives a soul the desire to respond with a passionate love for Christ and for what he loves: the Church, the Charism, souls. Section directors are called to grow daily in their loving relationship with Christ, stoke their own zeal for attracting many souls to Christ, and share Christ's own passionate love for the Church and for mankind, his brothers and sisters.



## The Section Director's Role within Regnum Christi

*A section is a grouping of teams and groups that fosters prayer life and integral formation, the family spirit of Regnum Christi, the invitation and welcoming of new members, accompaniment, apostolic action and a healthy economy. RL 32 §1*

*At the head of every section there is a section director who is appointed by the territorial directive college of the Federation after consulting the local director, as stipulated in number 52 §2 of the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation. They are appointed for a three-year term with the possibility of renewal, or exceptionally, for a one-year or two-year term. The section director must be a lay member of Regnum Christi who has been associated for at least three years, or a member of a federated institution with experience of working in sections. The section director's mission is to foster the goals mentioned in number 32 §1 of this Rule of Life. RL 33 §1-3*

The section director leads the section, understood as a community of apostles – made up of teams and groups – that fosters vibrant RC life. Section directors ensure that **members** have the support they need to live a vibrant RC way of life in their spiritual life, formation, apostolate, personal accompaniment and team life (cfr. *RL 2*), and that the **section** itself fosters that way of life by fostering prayer life, integral formation, Regnum Christi family spirit, inviting and welcoming new members, accompaniment, and apostolic action, as well as a healthy economy and other infrastructure the section needs to live and thrive (cfr. *RL 32*). Finally, section directors lead their community of apostles in the effort to fulfil Regnum Christi's ultimate purpose and **mission** (cfr. *SRCF 7-8*).

Although they themselves are ultimately responsible for the section, section directors may delegate the execution of different aspects of the annual section program to members of their section leadership team, empowering, training and accompanying RC formators to direct or work in apostolic initiatives and the formation of the section's members. Directing the section does not mean doing everything or being directly involved in every detail of the section's life and apostolates; rather, it entails committing to and accompanying others in the fulfillment of a shared plan.

The Regnum Christi Federation values section directors and is committed to supporting them in their role. Both locally and at the territory level, the Federation offers them resources to support them in their role of directing the section, including means for growing their personal leadership capacity, tools for developing their section and its apostolic mission, resources for training their formators and members, and access to national apostolic programs.

### Three Priority Tasks of a Section Director: forming section members, launching apostles, and providing operational infrastructure

Section directors serve by leading a thriving community of apostles in the RC way of life and apostolate. That vibrant life is both personal and within community, apostolic and organizational, and comprises three main priorities on the part of the section director:

- **Forming section members:** a vibrant section offers events, resources, and accompaniment to help section members mature and thrive in their vocation as Regnum Christi apostles deeply configured with Christ the Apostle
- **Launching apostles:** leading section apostolic discernment and facilitating apostolic initiative and collaboration
- **Providing the operational infrastructure** the section needs to run and grow



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The section director relies on the support of RC formators to help with these responsibilities. As the section grows, the number of RC formators needed will need to grow as well. RC formators take on a special love and responsibility for Regnum Christi as a whole. There are many possible RC formentor roles within a section, including but not limited to section director, section director's council, team leaders, group leaders, section chaplains, spiritual directors, apostolate directors, and members of the section leadership or work team. Even RC formators who aren't directly involved in the accompaniment of members are aware that everything they do has a formative and apostolic impact on others, and therefore constantly discern their efforts and endeavors in the light of the RC Formation Pathway and the section's evangelization plan.

### Forming Section Members

By associating to the Regnum Christi Federation, lay members commit to *apply themselves to their integral formation and forge their Christian leadership* (RL 17). The section director works to build an environment where this integral formation can take place: an environment in which each member of the section has everything they need to be configured with Christ the Apostle.

As the section grows, RC formators take on much of the direct formation of section members. The section director should dedicate most of their time and effort to forming those RC formators- they are a key support for section growth, and a key force for section members' growth as apostles and sense of belonging, generosity and co-responsibility for the life of the section. The RC Formation Pathway can guide the section director and RC formators as they mentor section members in Regnum Christi's charism and methodology. Formators should be well acquainted with the Formation Pathway and actively discern - with the section director's guidance - in what area of members' formation they can best contribute with their personal gifts and talents. When starting up a section, the section director will be directly involved in this work, although they may also reach out to formators from other sections for help.

### Launching Apostles

Launching means inspiring the section members to deep, lasting and dynamic apostolic action, and supporting their apostolic endeavors. The section director seeks to launch their section members according to their personal talents and skills, always seeking to carry out the most effective action in depth and breadth to establish Christ's Kingdom, attentive to God's action in the life and mission of each member.

Launching apostles who meet true needs and opportunities also means that the section director has the role of guiding the section's apostolic discernment and forming team leaders and apostolate directors to do the same for their teams, members, and projects.

*Inspired by Christ's charity, the members of the federated institutions and the associated faithful carry out their apostolate in an organized and effective way. To do so:*

- 1.° in any activity they undertake, they always keep the mission and goals in mind;*
- 2.° they work in an orderly and organized way;*
- 3.° they work as a team, each seeking to give their best at the service of the mission and making the most of the synergy that comes from the complementarity of personalities, views and experiences. They apply the methodological principle "do, help others do and let others do." SRCF 39*



## Providing Operational Infrastructure

The level of infrastructure needed to support a section's members and apostolate is directly proportional to section membership and scope of apostolic projects: the greater the number of teams and apostolates, the more infrastructure is needed to support them. Typical infrastructure frequently includes the following:

- RC Member Registry
- Event registration system
- Systems to communicate with members and publicize events
- Financial administration, bank accounts, donation processing, etc.
- Fundraising activities to support section activity and contribute to the locality
- Produce and submit an annual section plan and budget
- Coordination with other RC entities in the locality
- Safe environment
- Staffing

The section director works with their leadership team to develop the **infrastructure plan** for the section based on an assessment of section needs against the stages of development in the Section Vibrancy Tool.

## The Section Director Work Style: Person to Person Accompaniment and Forming RC Formators

### Person to Person Accompaniment

*Accompaniment is required to form convinced apostles who aspire to the fullness of life in Christ. Accompaniment is understood as close, stable personal attention marked by selfless service. It seeks to help the other be open to the action of grace and contribute their own human collaboration, so they can respond to the questions and challenges they encounter on their journey of human and spiritual growth. SRCF 35 §1*

Person to person care is one of the fundamental principles of Regnum Christi's formative and apostolic methodology. RC members are called to experience the personal love of Christ and to give him a personal response in freedom. At the same time, they live out the community dimension of their Christian vocation by sharing their faith, ideals, efforts, and projects with others. Listening to members and asking for feedback is key to a healthy section. The attentive presence of the section director and RC formators is key for knowing each member by name, helping everyone feel welcomed and loved, and instilling the necessary trust and closeness so that the section director and formators can guide them in their personal commitment to Christ and Regnum Christi.

An essential part of each section director's mission is ensuring each member of the section receives deep and constant personal attention that will help them reach the fulfillment of their Christian vocation. Section directors seek to give each member a sense of urgency to fulfill the plan of God, generously lend themselves to the work of evangelization in their family, social, and professional milieus, and contribute their qualities, formation, time, and possessions to the mission, according to what Christ is asking of each one.

Accompanying the section implies being attentive to the situation and needs of its members, and providing the personal attention members need as they seek to grow in their love for Christ. It includes the work of transmitting the sense of belonging, of growth, and of generosity among Regnum Christi's members. Monthly conversation between the team leader and their team members (team dialogue),



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between the section director and RC formators or apostolate directors (apostolic dialogue), and between members and their spiritual directors are important aspects of accompaniment.

Although they often cannot accompany each member personally, section directors are responsible for making sure each member has access to a spiritual director and is accompanied by an RC formator in team or apostolic dialogue. The section directors themselves should focus on directly accompanying the RC formators who in turn direct or accompany others.

### Forming RC Formators

The section director should always work to have a strong group of members preparing to be RC formators. Having a section full of members who own and love their own identity and can step up in support of others' vocation and mission is a goal in and of itself, although it's obviously also important for guaranteeing current and future section staffing needs.

As the section grows, the section director's time dedicated to accompaniment will naturally shift from directly accompanying section members with the help of the section's formators, to almost exclusively accompanying the team of RC formators, who in turn accompany the rest of the growing section.

Working with RC formators to accompany, form, and lead the members of their sections, section directors should apply the principle of *do, help others do and let others do*. Section directors should consider themselves the first formators of their section, give formators concrete tasks and support and accompany them along the way, and entrust them with responsibilities according to their competence and degree of integration. Given they directly accompany the lay RC members, team leaders are formators who have a particularly important role in the life of a section.

### Practical Aspects of Directing the Section

#### Locality and section reporting structure

The section director's work is carried out under the guidance of the local Regnum Christi director (RCD) within a specific locality. In the North American territory, a locality is a community of RC apostles in the same urban center, and promotes communion, coordinates resources and efforts, and fosters the common mission across all RC members and RC entities in that area. Cfr. SRCF 54

The section director meets regularly with the RCD for apostolic dialogue, informing them about the life and apostolic action of the section and securing the support needed. This includes:

- Creating an annual section plan, calendar, and budget, and submitting them to the RCD for approval. This plan should include the formation of section members, the section's evangelization efforts, and the development of the formators and infrastructure needed to sustain the section's members and apostolates.
- Providing an annual report to the RCD according to the approved format. The report should include progress on the section plan, calendar, and budget, as well as member statistics.
- Ensuring the section's RC Member Registry is up to date as new members associate, teams and members move on to or arrive from other sections, etc.

#### RC Formators and the section leadership team

RC formators take on a special love and responsibility for Regnum Christi as a whole. There are various RC formator roles within a section, including but not limited to section director, section director's council, team leaders, group leaders, section chaplains, spiritual directors, apostolate directors, and members of the section leadership or work team.



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The section director works with the leadership team to set the overall direction for the section, assessing the current reality and setting the priorities for the care, development and growth of the section and its apostolic life. RC formators serving on the section leadership team typically assist their section director to address the essential elements of RC section life – accompaniment, team life, apostolate, spiritual life, and formation – and other key areas such as communications, collaboration with the locality and with the local Church, growth and administrative stability.

### Tools at the section director's disposal

For forming section members:

- The **RC Formation Pathway** is the “blueprint” that guides RC formators’ efforts to form, accompany and support lay RC members. This pathway lays out the vision for a fully mature lay RC apostle and identifies the competencies lay members need to fully live out their mission (cfr. SRCF 8) at each stage of their growth as members of Regnum Christi.
- The section director and other RC formators are themselves RC members. They necessarily lead and work with a mature RC style and identity. Lay section directors and RC formators should therefore know, understand, and strive to assimilate the RC Formation Pathway in their own personal formation.
- The section director works with RC formators to develop the **formation plan** for lay section members, based on an assessment of the section against the stages of development in the RC Formation Pathway.

For launching apostolate:

- The locality and section **Evangelization Plan** is the result of an apostolic discernment of the local reality - the way Christ is calling Regnum Christi to respond to local needs according to their RC identity and with their individual and community gifts and talents.
- The section director works with RC formators to develop the **evangelization plan**, nurture apostolic zeal and foster collaboration in apostolate within and across sections.

For developing section formators and operational infrastructure:

- The **Section Vibrancy Tool** helps section directors and their council and leadership team map out what stage of development their section is at, helping them identify needed infrastructure to support current membership and apostolate, and avoid over-investing in infrastructure they don't yet need. It's a useful tool for annual section planning across the board.

### Section events and activities

The section provides its members and teams various opportunities to organize and participate in activities or events that develop the life of the section: forming RC members and fostering apostolate. The specific nature or content of these activities and events are tailored to address the formation and apostolic priorities of the section. Some traditional RC section events include:

- Regular spiritual retreats and spiritual exercises
- RC Triduum of Renewal
- RC formation conferences
- Annual liturgical celebrations: Feast of Christ the King; Feast of the Sacred Heart, Marian pilgrimage, etc.
- Section integration events
- RC discernment events for those who may feel they may be called to RC



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### Recommended meetings

#### Recommended monthly meetings:

- With the local RC director to analyze the life and apostolate of the section in general, and propose new apostolic ideas and initiatives, if any.
- With the section director's council, if there is one: the section director meets with their council as frequently as necessary to seek their insight on the section in general, the delegation of responsibilities, and appointment of members to section roles (team leaders, group leaders, spiritual directors, formators).
- With the section leadership team.
- With the section assistant, if there is one.

#### Recommended annual meetings:

- With section leadership: the section leadership team gathers at least yearly to discern and set the annual section plan and budget. This can also be a great moment for celebration, formation and fellowship.
- With the whole section: the section director presents the section program and calendar to the members and works to infuse all members with a sense of belonging, growth, generosity and co-responsibility for the life of the section.