

Thy Kingdom Come!



REGNUM CHRISTI
CONSECRATED WOMEN

**RULE OF LIFE OF THE
SOCIETY OF APOSTOLIC LIFE
“CONSECRATED WOMEN OF
REGNUM CHRISTI”**

¡Venga Tu Reino!

CONSAGRADAS DEL
REGNUM CHRISTI

DIRECTORA GENERAL

Acto de gobierno DG CRC 007-2022
Clas. I.2

DECRETO

La directora general de la Sociedad de Vida Apostólica “Consagradas del Regnum Christi”, Nancy Nohrden,

- recibida la petición el de Katheleen Murphy, directora territorial de Norteamérica, el 18 de noviembre de 2021 (Prot. DT NA CRC 0650-2021) para solicitar la aprobación de la traducción al inglés de los textos del Reglamento de vida de la Sociedad en su versión aprobada por la Asamblea general de 2020;
- habiendo consultado a la Congregación para los Institutos de Vida Consagrada y las Sociedades de Vida Apostólica sobre la autoridad competente para la aprobación de traducciones a otros idiomas del derecho propio;
- realizadas las debidas revisiones al texto presentado;
- con el consentimiento del consejo general dado con la resolución n. 007-2022 del 5 de enero de 2022;

APRUEBA

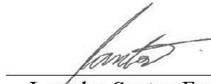
el texto en inglés del Reglamento de vida de la Sociedad de vida apostólica “Consagradas del Regnum Christi”, según el ejemplar que se anexa a este decreto.

Dado en Sterling, 15 Lakeshore Drive, 7 de enero de 2022



Nancy Nohrden

Nancy Nohrden
Directora general


Lourdes Santos Fernández
Secretaria general

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CONSAGRADAS DEL
REGNUM CHRISTI

ASAMBLEA GENERAL

Acto de gobierno DG CRC 012/2020
Clas. I.3

DECRETO

La II Asamblea general ordinaria de la Sociedad de vida apostólica
“Consagradas del Regnum Christi”,

- considerando el Reglamento de vida de las Consagradas del Regnum Christi promulgado por la Directora General *ad experimentum*, el 27 de abril de 2014;
- considerando las enmiendas aprobadas por la Asamblea General extraordinaria de las Consagradas del Regnum Christi, en su primera sesión, tras la propuesta de ser una Sociedad de vida apostólica, el día 4 de abril de 2018;
- tras la revisión del Reglamento tras terminar el periodo de *ad experimentum* para el que fue promulgado en 2014;

PROMULGA

El Reglamento de vida de la Sociedad de vida apostólica “Consagradas del Regnum Christi”.

Dado en Roma, Via Corrado Barbagallo 20, 6 de marzo de 2020




Nancy Nohrden
Presidenta de la Asamblea general


Lourdes Santos
Secretaria de la Asamblea general

INTRODUCTION

1. The Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi assume the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience, live fraternal life in common, and dedicate themselves to the service of the Church and humanity according to the charism of the Society. Their life is regulated by the present Rule of life.
2. Each Consecrated Woman is co-responsible for bringing the charism to its fullness: she seeks to know it, deepen it, and enrich it with her prayer, her intercession, and her very life. Likewise, she seeks to live and promote the spirituality of the Society.

CHAPTER I

LIVING THE EVANGELICAL COUNSELS

Art. 1. The Evangelical Counsels

Chaste Life

3. Consecrated chastity is a call to love, to the total gift of self, understood as a consecration of love for God and an absolute dedication to the interests of Jesus Christ. The Consecrated Woman lives it as an intimate and personal relationship with him, which makes possible a universal love for all people.

Interpersonal relationships

4. In the image of the Trinity, the Consecrated Woman lives relationships of love, charity, and reciprocity. In them, she desires to be a witness of Christ's love and seeks to love others with a love like his. Her relationships reflect the fact that her heart is totally committed to God, therefore:
 - 1° the relationships of friendship she lives should lead to growth in her journey of following Christ;
 - 2° in her dealings with persons of the opposite sex, she is natural, kind, polite, and prudent. She avoids falling into familiarity or other attitudes that could put her in a compromising situation;

3° in her dealings with consecrated men and priests, she lives a relationship of sincere spiritual fraternity, imbued with respect, trust, and a sense of her consecration and that of the other, aware of “carrying God’s treasure in earthen vessels”¹.

Affective Maturity

5. Chastity lived in fullness leads to maturity and responsibility in love, freeing and ordering the heart. For this reason, each Consecrated Woman seeks to assume the ongoing task of self-knowledge, positive integration, and full living of her sexuality and affectivity.

Some Means to Live Chastity

6. To live consecrated chastity requires the help of God's grace, an intense life of prayer, frequent reception of the sacraments and a deep love for Christ and Mary. For this reason, the Consecrated Woman:

- 1°. lives and joyfully accepts a certain human solitude that God asks of her so as to be filled with him. She does so by opening herself to the gift of Christ and nourishing her spousal relationship with him through a deep spiritual life and her sincere and pure self-giving to others;
- 2°. lives interpersonal relationships based on fraternal love, which, together with community life, help her to live the virtue of chastity;
- 3°. seeks the natural means that favor health and rest of mind and body, the contemplation of nature, and the good use of time;
- 4°. has recourse to asceticism, control of the senses, and avoids occasions that could endanger the living of chastity;
- 5°. is vigilant so that the frequency and type of events she attends, the movies she watches, and the books she reads do not harm the living of this virtue, and uses means of communication maturely and responsibly;
- 6°. gives herself generously and enthusiastically to the mission entrusted to her, transmitting to others the love with which she feels loved by God.

Life of Poverty

7. §1. The Consecrated Woman seeks to live joyfully, detached from herself, and filled with God, and is capable of enjoying and being grateful for all that God gives her in the different areas of her life.

¹ 2 Cor 4:7

- §2. She knows that her poverty is not only of material goods but is also detachment from her will, preferences, positions, merits, and demands.
8. The Consecrated Woman is particularly attentive to living this counsel when fulfilling the mission implies using expensive resources, fundraising, or having contact with settings characterized by social and economic well-being.

Particular Expressions

9. The houses of the Society are distinguished by sobriety, decorum, order, and cleanliness. With a spirit of service and a sense of responsibility, each Consecrated Woman collaborates in the work necessary for this purpose. Luxury should be avoided.
10. The Consecrated Women are characterized by distinction, simplicity, modesty, and dignity in their dress and behavior, according to their age and the social environment in which they work. In this way, they give witness to their lay consecration to God in the midst of the world.
11. As an expression of poverty, the Consecrated Woman:
- 1°. admires, respects, and cares for creation and makes good use of the material objects placed at her disposal;
 - 2°. regarding her own patrimony, she freely disposes of its use and profits. However, when it is for her own livelihood or for personal reasons, she ought to do so in dependence on her director;
 - 3°. makes a budget for her personal expenses, which must be approved by the director and integrated into the community’s budget. She administers it and gives an account of it;
 - 4°. in dialogue with her director, she decides how to use the gifts and donations she receives, respecting the intention of the donor;
 - 5°. without the express permission of the territorial director, given in writing and with the consent of her council, she may not ask for a loan of money for herself nor for others, even if it is destined for apostolic works.

The Common Law of Work

12. Consecrated Women live the common law of work. Work is a fundamental value that contributes to the development and maturity of the person and to the perfection of the vocation to which she has been called. It also leads her

to generously collaborate with God to make the world more just, truthful, and fraternal.

13. When a Consecrated Woman lives outside community or outside the Society, in accordance with number 24 §3 of this Rule or number 79 of the Constitutions, the territorial director has the responsibility to provide her with the financial assistance she needs during this time, according to the established terms in each territory. The Consecrated Woman administers and makes good use of the money she receives in accordance with her vow of poverty and renders an account of her expenses. Likewise, to the extent of her possibilities and depending on the reasons she was given permission to live outside community or outside the Society, she is co-responsible for her financial sustenance.

Obedient Life

14. In relationship with the directors:
 - §1. The Consecrated Women, in accord with their vocation, exercise discernment in their decisions. They clearly present them to their directors in a climate of open dialogue and mutual listening.
 - §2. With supernatural spirit and humility, they obey the orders of the directors, even when they are difficult or unpleasant, fulfilling them with their whole person.
 - §3. When a Consecrated Woman judges that it is necessary to make some clarification of an order or refusal of the director, with simplicity and respect, after having prayed, she may present her opinion to the director, remaining open to accept the director’s decision with faith. In the case that the matter is considered important or serious, it is always possible to appeal to a higher level of government.
15. The Consecrated Woman lives her adherence to God’s will interpreted and discerned through multiple mediations. These mediations span the whole area of Christian obedience: the Word of God, the Magisterium of the Church, proper law, the respective directors, her own community, her conscience, human and civil laws, and the circumstances around her.

CHAPTER II

FRATERNAL LIFE IN COMMON

Life in Common

16. The Consecrated Women live in houses that are called “Domus Mariae”.
17. A community ordinarily has between five and fifteen Consecrated Women.

Internationality

18. §1. The general and territorial directors should ensure the internationality of the territories and houses where the Consecrated women live, according to number 37 of the Constitutions.
 - §2. The living out of internationality is the responsibility of all the Consecrated Women; thus, they seek to contribute to it with an attitude of availability and a welcoming spirit.
 - §3. The Consecrated Woman seeks to know and appreciate the culture where she carries out her apostolate so as to insert herself into it.
 - §4. It should be sought that there are Consecrated Women in the communities from the country in which they are located.
19. With the goal of maintaining privacy and an atmosphere proper to the consecration, generally outsiders do not stay in the houses of Consecrated Women. However, when it seems necessary to do so, it ought to be discerned by the community and approved by the director.

Community Discernment

20. §1. Community discernment is a way of communicating spiritual gifts for greater communion. It is an activity in which the community gathers to discern about making some important or necessary decisions for the good of fraternal life and the mission.
 - §2. An atmosphere of prayer and faith is required to identify the action of the Holy Spirit in the community and thus discover together the will of God. The final decision is always up to the director.

The Community Project

21. The community project contributes to growth as a community. To make it, the community gathers, discerns, and analyzes the different aspects of their consecration to discover what God wants of them at that particular stage:

with these persons; in the mission, according to the spirit and charism of the Society; and in the historical and ecclesial circumstances of the Church and of the Regnum Christi Federation in that locality. It should conclude with a clear vision towards which the community is walking. The community periodically reviews this project, seeking to strengthen the aspects that are helping and to correct whatever is considered necessary.

Harmony of Life

22. §1. The director of the house, in discernment with the community, organizes its schedules in such a way that the fundamental elements of their life, that is, their spiritual life, fraternal life, apostolate, and rest, are adequately harmonized, to favor a balanced and unified development of the consecration.
- §2. Each Consecrated Woman should learn to make responsible and mature decisions regarding the way she organizes her life integrating in a balanced manner times of prayer, apostolate, study, and rest, while safeguarding community life.

Days of Rest and Vacation

23. The Consecrated Woman employs times of rest and fellowship with her community to build fraternal life, share spiritual goods, create communion, and replenish her physical and spiritual strength. The times of community rest are:
- 1°. one day per week;
 - 2°. some weekends during the year;
 - 3°. between ten to fifteen days of vacation per year, as defined by the community;
 - 4°. Christmas time, ordinarily lived in community.

Absences from the Community

24. §1. To be absent from the community activities defined in the Rule of Life and those agreed upon by the community, the Consecrated Woman must have the authorization of the director of the house.
- §2. The territorial director, for a just reason and with the consent of her council, may authorize a Consecrated Woman who has made final vows to be absent from the community for a maximum period of three consecutive months.
- §3. If a longer absence from the community is required, and there is a just reason, it corresponds to the general director, to authorize it with the consent of her council. In such cases, the length of the absence and the

way the Consecrated Woman will live her consecration must be determined. Ordinarily, this period should not exceed one year unless it is for reasons of health, study, or to exercise an apostolate in the name of the Society. Depending on the cause for which she was given permission and if her situation allows it, the Consecrated Woman is assigned an apostolate and is co-responsible for her financial support.

- §4. There must be a grave reason for a Consecrated Woman in temporary vows to be given permission to live outside the community. In this case, the authorization is always given by the general director, with the consent of her council, for a maximum of one year.

Absences from the Candidacy

25. §1. The territorial director, with the consent of her council, may authorize that a candidate, for a grave reason, be absent from the Candidacy for a maximum of three months. This is always an extraordinary situation.
- §2. If it is necessary to be absent for a longer period, the person should interrupt the Candidacy, though she always has the possibility to request readmission at a later date.

CHAPTER III

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Prayer

26. §1. The means of spiritual growth common to all the Consecrated Women are:

- 1°. daily Eucharistic Celebration, ordinarily in community;
- 2°. morning offering;
- 3°. personal prayer for one hour every day;
- 4°. praying lauds or vespers, and compline with an examination of conscience, at the end of the day;
- 5°. daily recitation of the rosary and the Angelus, and a visit to Our Lady before going to bed;
- 6°. Eucharistic Hour, ordinarily on Thursdays, with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament;
- 7°. spiritual Reading;
- 8°. one day of retreat every month;
- 9°. a week of spiritual exercises or another form of retreat every year;
- 10°. A retreat of renewal of vows for two full days once a year, at the end of which the vows and specific, promises are devotionally renewed;
- 11°. a time of examen on the days of retreat and spiritual exercises;
- 12°. month-long spiritual exercises, at least once in a lifetime.

§2. Each Consecrated Woman discerns how to live the above-mentioned means of spiritual growth, considering her stage of life, her spiritual needs, and her circumstances.

27. Prayer in common configures the community around Jesus Christ. Aware of its importance and value, each community proposes, discerns, and decides the moments of prayer that they will live together, considering those expressed in numbers 26 and 28 of this Rule, as well as others in which they share spiritual goods.

Meditation of God's Word

28. The Consecrated Women make the Word of God the nourishment of their spiritual life. They share it through the encounter with Christ, *lectio divina*, or other modalities, with the frequency determined by each community.

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary

29. As an expression of their love and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary:
- 1°. the Consecrated Women make an annual Marian pilgrimage as a community;
 - 2°. each community discerns how to express its Marian devotion during the month dedicated to Mary.

Feast Days and Traditions

30. In the Society, some feasts of the Church, the Society, and the Regnum Christi Federation are lived in a special way. Likewise, there are some traditions that underline certain aspects of the charism. These feasts and traditions are listed in the appendix to this Rule.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

31. Following the norms of the diocese in which they live:
- 1°. Consecrated Women can be extraordinary ministers of holy communion, undertaking the responsibilities that come with this ministry;
 - 2°. it is recommended that there are Consecrated Women with permission from the bishop to distribute communion to those who are sick and unable to attend the Eucharistic Celebration, and to expose the Blessed Sacrament in the houses.

Silence

32. The Consecrated Women seek to ensure that there are places and spaces in their houses that allow for solitude and silence. They seek to live silence especially after night prayers in such a way that they can prepare themselves interiorly for the Eucharistic Celebration and prayer the following day.

Spiritual Direction

33. For the choice of a spiritual director:
- 1°. those in temporary vows choose a spiritual director from among those designated by the territorial director with the opinion of her council, or the Consecrated Woman may choose another person, with the prior approval of her director;
 - 2°. those who have made final vows freely choose a spiritual director.

CHAPTER IV

STAGES OF LIFE AND FORMATION

Art. 1. Formation

34. The formation of the Consecrated Women is governed according to the *Ratio Institutionis* of the Society.

Personal Dialogue with the Director

35. The dialogue with the director or formator takes place with the following frequency:

- 1°. during the period of temporary vows in studies, every two weeks;
- 2°. Consecrated Women in the period of temporary vows in apostolate, at least monthly;
- 3°. the other Consecrated Women have it a few times a year, with the periodicity that each one considers necessary.

Art. 2. The Candidacy

The Course Prior to the Candidacy

36. To participate in the Course prior to the Candidacy, the person must have undergone a journey of discernment and vocational accompaniment for a period of time, as stipulated in the *Ratio Institutionis*.

37. It pertains to the territorial director of the person's place of origin to admit her to the Course prior to the Candidacy, with the opinion of her council, and having heard the opinion of the person who accompanied her during the stage of discernment.

38. The appointment of the director of the Course prior to the Candidacy and her team:

- 1°. when it is international, is the responsibility of the general director after consultation with the territorial director of the territory where the course will be held;
- 2°. if it is not international, is the responsibility of the territorial director, with the opinion of her council.

39. It pertains to the territorial director, having heard the opinion of her council and of the director of the Course prior to the Candidacy, to determine that a person, for a lack of suitability, should discontinue her participation in the course.

Admission to the Candidacy

40. §1. Before being admitted to the Candidacy, the person:
- 1°. is examined by the territorial director or a delegate of hers;
 - 2°. is submitted to an examination of psychological and physical health by experts.
- §2. While respecting the inviolable right of the person to protect her privacy, the candidates are instructed on the importance of sincerely opening themselves with those involved in their admission, making them aware of the transcendence of the step they are about to take.
- §3. It pertains to the general director, with the opinion of her council, to dispense a person from the impediments proper to the Society for admission of the person to the Candidacy.
41. Those who ask to be admitted to Candidacy must present:
- §1. According to universal law², their birth certificate, their certificates of baptism and confirmation, and free status.
 - §2. According to proper law, their academic certificates or degrees, and a signed letter, addressed to the territorial director, requesting their admission.
42. With their admission to the Candidacy, the candidates are admitted to the Society and commit themselves to:
- 1°. cultivate a deep prayer life that helps them to grow in intimacy with Christ;
 - 2°. allow themselves to be helped and known by their formators, both humanly and spiritually;
 - 3°. live and collaborate with the activities and formation offered to prepare themselves for consecration in the Society;
 - 4°. observe the norms proper to this stage, as well as the Constitutions and Rule of Life of the Society in what pertains to them;
 - 5°. carry out their assigned apostolate in order to make a thorough discernment of the vocation to which they are called.

² c. 645§1

43. For the admission to the Candidacy of those over forty years of age, proceed as established in the Manual of Procedures.

Ceremony to Mark the Beginning of the Candidacy

44. The stage of the Candidacy begins with a ceremony in which the candidates recite a prayer suitable for the occasion, as established in the rites of the Society.

The Candidacy Director

45. The Candidacy director should be a mature person, solid in her consecrated vocation, and experienced in vocational discernment. She reports to the territorial director.

Interviews during the Candidacy

46. §1. At the end of the first year of Candidacy, the territorial director or someone she delegates interviews each candidate.
§2. Before finishing the second year of Candidacy, the territorial director interviews each candidate to know her intention and disposition to persevere in her vocation and make temporary vows at the appropriate time.

Art. 3. The Stage of Temporary Vows

Admission to Temporary Vows

47. §1. The candidate requests admission to make temporary vows from the general director by means of a signed letter, declaring that she does so freely.
§2. For admission to making temporary vows, follow the provisions established in the Manual of Procedures.

Temporary vows in studies

48. During the stage of temporary vows, there is a period of study as determined by the *Ratio Institutionis*. The Consecrated Women should dedicate a significant part of their time and effort to their academic formation.

Temporary vows in apostolate

49. The general or territorial director, as appropriate, assigns an apostolate to the Consecrated Woman during the stage of temporary vows, as established in the *Ratio Institutionis* and the Manual of Procedures.

50. The director of the house should ensure that the Consecrated Women in temporary vows who are in apostolate are accompanied by a more experienced Consecrated Woman to meet the objectives of this stage.

Month-long spiritual exercises

51. During the stage of temporary vows, at a time when it is most convenient, the Consecrated Woman does month-long spiritual exercises.

Admission to the Renewal of Temporary Vows

52. §1. Before the end of the Consecrated Woman’s first period of temporary vows and before presenting her request for admission to renewal of vows to the general director, the territorial director has an interview with her about her intention and disposition to renew her temporary vows.
- §2. The Consecrated Woman requests admission to the renewal of temporary vows to the general director by means of a signed letter, declaring that she does so freely.
- §3. For admission to the renewal of temporary vows, follow what is established in the Manual of Procedures.
- §4. It pertains to the general director, with the opinion of her council, to invite a Consecrated Woman with temporary vows to leave the Society or exclude her from the renewal of temporary vows or making final vows, considering what is established in can. 689 §2 and §3.

Extension of the Period of Temporary Vows

53. When the prescribed time comes for making final vows, the general director, in accord with number 73 §3 of the Constitutions, may defer it if the Consecrated Woman has not attained the required degree of maturity or if there are well-founded doubts about her suitability. This extension of the period of temporary vows cannot be longer than one year, so that the time during which a Consecrated Woman remains bound by temporary vows does not exceed seven years.

Art. 4. The stage of final vows

Admission to making final vows

54. §1. Before the end of the Consecrated Woman’s second period of temporary vows and before presenting her request for admission to make final vows to

the general director, the territorial director has an interview with her about her intention and disposition to make final vows.

§2. The Consecrated Woman requests admission to make final vows to the general director by means of a signed letter declaring that she does so freely.

§3. For admission to make final vows, follow what is established in the Manual of Procedures.

Preparation for Final Vows

55. The general director convokes the Consecrated Women who have been admitted to make final vows to a prolonged period of preparation of at least three months, under the direction of a formator and in the manner she sees fit. During this period, they should do eight days of spiritual exercises.

56. During the ceremony of final vows, the Consecrated Woman receives a ring as a symbol of her spousal union with Christ and of her definitive surrender to Him.

Art. 5. The Apostolate

Means of Ongoing Formation

57. §1. In her formative journey, the Consecrated Woman seeks to acquire a growing knowledge of God, the world, and humanity. She seeks training to exercise her mission professionally and competently. Furthermore, she lives the experiences that life offers her as opportunities for lifelong learning.

§2. As a means of formation and continuing education, the directors should seek to offer a program of territorial and local formation opportunities to the Consecrated Women according to their needs. The territorial director, with the opinion of her council, approves and is responsible for implementation of this program.

§3. Each community follows a program of integral formation based on the community project and their particular needs.

Apostolic Assignment

58. §1. The directors should foster a culture in which all the Consecrated Women feel called to share and collaborate actively in the mission of the Church and the Regnum Christi Federation.

§2. The Consecrated Women and the directors should discern and propose those fields of work and environments for apostolic action where they can best serve God and others.

§3. The general or territorial director, as indicated, is the one who assigns an apostolate to each Consecrated Woman and ascribes her to a house according to what is established in the Manual of Procedures.

Specialized Studies

59. To carry out her evangelizing mission, the Consecrated Woman is trained and forms herself with appropriate means to offer quality service to the world and the Church, in accord with the apostolic charism of the Society and of the Regnum Christi Federation.

60. Consecrated Women may undertake specialized studies which are authorized or requested by the competent major director with the opinion of her council, as established in the Manual of Procedures.

Period of Spiritual Renewal

61. Between six and ten years after making final vows, Consecrated Women have a time of spiritual renewal. It pertains to the general director, at the proposal of the territorial director, to convoke them to this activity and approve its modality. This period may also be had at other moments in life.

Art. 6. Other Norms

Family Visits

62. The Consecrated Woman who lives in a city different from her family may visit them fifteen days a year. Having considered her commitments and responsibilities, she may go for more days with the authorization of the director of the house.

Use of Technology and Means of Communication

63. Technology and means of communication should be used wisely and prudently and placed at the service of the integral good of the person. For this reason, the Consecrated Woman:

§1. Uses them as an effective means of evangelization, because of the impact they have on people's mentality, sensibilities and habits. Nevertheless, she favors personal and verbal communication.

§2. Recognizes their usefulness as a means of formation, keeping up to date, providing information and, occasionally, as a means of community entertainment.

§3. Is aware that their indiscriminate use in personal or community life can constitute a severe obstacle for fidelity to God, personal integrity, and fraternal life.

Safe Environment

64. §1. Every Consecrated Woman must be firmly committed to creating and maintaining a safe environment for the minors and vulnerable adults she is in contact with and who participate in her apostolic, educational, and pastoral activities. She should abide by the Safe Environment Handbook and the Code of Conduct of her territory, country, and locality, as appropriate.

§2. It is the responsibility of the territorial director:

- 1°. to ensure that a Safe Environment Handbook and a Code of Conduct for the Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi exist and are enforced in her territory;
- 2°. to ensure that all Consecrated Women in her territory receive adequate training;
- 3°. to intervene in cases of non-compliance or violations of the Code of Conduct, following civil and ecclesiastical law and what is established in the territorial Safe Environment Handbook;
- 4°. to ensure that the Safe Environment Handbook is followed in the houses, apostolic works and programs that depend on the Society and where Consecrated Women work, and in which there are adults, members of the Society, employees or volunteers who are in contact with minors.

The Deceased and the Prayers for Them

65. §1. For the funeral of a Consecrated Woman, observe the prescriptions of can. 1176 §3.

§2. The Consecrated Woman who dies is to be buried in the place determined by the territory, unless it is fitting to transfer her body to another place.

66. §1. When a Consecrated Woman dies, a novena of Masses is celebrated in her house. In the other houses of the Society, three Masses are celebrated for her eternal repose.

§2. In all the houses of the Society, the anniversary of the death of all Consecrated Women as well as that of Lay Consecrated Men and Legionaries of Christ is to be remembered during the Eucharistic Celebration.

67. §1. During the octave of the Sacred Heart, a Mass is celebrated in every house of the Society for all the deceased Consecrated Women.
- §2. During the octave following All Souls’ Day, a Mass is to be celebrated for the deceased Consecrated Women, Lay Consecrated Men, Legionaries of Christ, associated members of Regnum Christi, and benefactors. A Mass is also celebrated for the deceased relatives of the Consecrated Women in the community.

CHAPTER V

SEPARATION FROM THE SOCIETY

Living Outside and Departure from the Society

68. All that pertains to living outside the Society and leaving the Society is stipulated in the Constitutions.

Expulsion of Consecrated Women

69. In addition to what is stipulated in canons 694 to 696, the following are considered grounds for the expulsion of Consecrated Women in temporary vows:

- 1°. using narcotic substances, alcohol, or pornography, in a repeated and grave manner;
- 2°. remaining in external sin against the sixth commandment with adults of the same or the opposite sex;
- 3°. committing an external sin against the sixth commandment with minors of the same or the opposite sex;
- 4°. being repeatedly absent from the community, without justification or the authorization of the director of the house;
- 5°. using money for illicit purposes or ends that jeopardize the Society in a serious way;
- 6°. participating in cult activities and using means for her own well-being and that of others that are not in line with Catholic doctrine.

70. In addition to what is stipulated in canons 694 to 696, the following are considered grounds for expulsion of Consecrated Women with final vows:

- 1°. to seriously, persistently, and manifestly undermine communion and unity in the Regnum Christi Federation or in the Society;
- 2°. the use of money for ends that are illicit or jeopardize the Society in a serious way.

CHAPTER VI

GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Art. 1. Authority in the Society

71. In the exercise of governance, the directors always bear in mind the need to listen to the opinion of the lower levels of government and the people involved.
72. The consultations that must be done before the appointment of directors and their councilors are carried out in the following way:
 - 1°. for the territorial director and her council, the general director conducts a written consultation with the Consecrated Women with final vows in that territory;
 - 2°. when for some reason a territorial councilor must be appointed extraordinarily, the territorial director does the consultation as she considers most appropriate;
 - 3°. for the directors of the houses and their councilors, the territorial director or her delegate collects the information in a personal way during a visit to the community or in another manner indicated by her.

Art. 2. The General Assembly

73. It pertains to the general director, with the consent of her council, to postpone or move forward the General Assembly by a maximum of six months, or to convoke an Extraordinary General Assembly.
74. From the beginning of the period in which the delegates to the General Assembly are elected in the territories until the time the general director convokes them, the stability of the Consecrated Women in the territories is to be maintained. Likewise, during this time, no indults of departure are granted.
75. Given the transcendence of a General Assembly for the future of the Society, the participants have some days of prayer and spiritual preparation

before it begins. They insistently ask God’s help to discern, discover, and follow the way of his will, and to act with purity of intention.

Art. 3. The General Director and her Council

Responsibilities

76. According to universal law, the general director votes collegially with her council to issue a decree of expulsion to a member of the Society.

77. §1. In accord with universal law, the general director requires the consent of her council to:

- 1°. grant an indult of departure to a Consecrated Woman who has made final vows;
- 2°. give permission for a Consecrated Woman who is definitively incorporated in the Society to transfer to another society of apostolic life and authorize that a person from another society of apostolic life transfer to the Society;
- 3°. grant an indult to live outside the Society for a maximum of three years;
- 4°. ask the Holy See to impose that a Consecrated Woman of the Society lives outside of it;

§2. According to universal law, the general director, in case of grave external scandal or very grave harm threatening the Society, can immediately expel a Consecrated Woman from the house in accord with c. 703.

78. By proper law, the general director requires the consent of her council to³:

- 1°. canonically establish, divide, unite, suppress, or otherwise delineate the territories of the Society;
- 2°. establish a house and constitute a community;
- 3°. suppress a house and close a community;
- 4°. reduce the time of Candidacy for a candidate;
- 5°. admit the Consecrated Women of the Society to making and renewing temporary vows, as well as making final vows;
- 6°. extend the time of temporary vows for a Consecrated Woman;

³ In the list of the acts for which the general and territorial directors require the consent or opinion of their council the basic of those acts is described. While this number lists them in one single place, the detailed description of these acts is found in other numbers of the Constitutions or the Rule of Life and should be referred to when making a decision.

- 7°. move forward the time for making final vows;
 - 8°. make the appointments and the apostolic assignments she is responsible for, following the Constitutions and the Manual of Procedures;
 - 9°. remove a general councilor from her office;
 - 10°. authorize a Consecrated Woman to live outside a house of the Society;
 - 11°. grant the indult of departure to a Consecrated Woman in temporary vows;
 - 12°. readmit someone who left at the end of the Candidacy or who, after making vows, legitimately left the Society, without the need to repeat the Candidacy;
 - 13°. postpone or move forward, by a maximum of six months, the General Assembly or convoke an Extraordinary General Assembly;
 - 14°. authorize the acts of extraordinary administration which fall within her responsibility;
 - 15°. allocate the stable patrimony of the Society;
 - 16°. determine the acts of extraordinary administration at the general, territorial, and local levels;
 - 17°. authorize a Consecrated Woman, when it is within her responsibility, to accept a donation that carries obligations or demands with it;
 - 18°. in preparation for an Extraordinary General Assembly, define if they will have an assembly or other means of consultation in the territories;
 - 19°. approve the Rule for the territorial assemblies;
 - 20°. decide about any particular matter she has received as a mandate from the General Assembly;
 - 21°. approve the secondary codes of the Society;
 - 22°. ask the Holy See for a dispensation from a stipulation of the Constitutions.
79. By proper law, the general director requires the opinion of her council to:
- 1°. remove or accept the resignation of a Consecrated Woman from an office or position whose appointment or assignment is under her authority;
 - 2°. accept the resignation of a general councilor;
 - 3°. invite a Consecrated Woman in temporary vows to leave the Society or prevent her from renewing temporary vows or making final vows;

- 4°. dispense a person from the impediments proper to the Society for admission to the time of Candidacy;
- 5°. authorize studies proposals that pertain to her;
- 6°. determine the number of councilors in a territory;
- 7°. present the Rule of Procedures to the General Assembly for its approval.

Visits to the Territories

80. §1. The general director makes canonical visits to the territories to accompany the territorial directors in their governance and the implementation of their programs. She also seeks to visit the communities to show her closeness and support to the Consecrated Women, get to know their life and activities, exhort them to personal and communal holiness, encourage the apostolate and, if needed, correct faults or abuses, ensuring that they live the spirit and mission of the Society.
- §2. She ought to visit all the territories at least once during her term.
- §3. The general director may ask a general councilor to visit a territory or community on her behalf and carry out a specific task.

Work Teams

81. The general director seeks to establish and direct specialized and stable work teams to assist in the direction and functioning of the Society.

The General Council

82. The principal responsibilities of the general councilors are to:
- 1°. discuss with the general director the matters of significant importance to the Society and assist her in attending to her priorities;
 - 2°. assist in the preparation and implementation of the program of the general government;
 - 3°. responsibly assume whatever the general director has delegated to them, according to number 118 of the Constitutions.

Meetings and Voting of the General Council

83. §1. Following what is established in universal and proper law, all the general councilors must be convoked to every council meeting.
- §2. Absence from council meetings must be justified.
- §3. For the session to be valid, the presence of at least two-thirds of the councilors is required.

84. The general director presents to the council the matters to be voted upon. Once she has obtained the consent or heard the opinion of the councilors, as the case may be, she makes the decision she deems appropriate. The general director does not vote⁴.

*Validity of Council Meetings*⁵

85. §1. If the general director acts without having obtained the consent of her council when required by universal or proper law, the act is invalid.

§2. In the cases when only the opinion of the council is required, the act is invalid if the general director has not consulted the councilors.

§3. Although the general director is not obliged to follow the opinion of the councilors even when it is unanimous, she should not deviate from their opinion without a reason which, in her judgment, is more powerful and which she has to ponder carefully before God.

§4. The general councilors have the obligation to sincerely express their opinion and also, if the gravity of the matter requires it, to carefully keep it secret, an obligation that the general director may request.

Art. 4. The General Secretary and the General Head of Studies

Responsibilities of the General Secretary

86. §1. The general secretary assists the general director in the management, documentation, and archiving of the affairs of the Society. To this end, she personally or through her team:

1°. informs the general director of all matters related to the Society that are intended for her;

2°. follows up on canonical procedures;

3°. keeps the government archive and registry of protocols up to date;

4°. ensures the proper preparation of correspondence from the government;

5°. acts as notary for the acts of a juridical nature;

6°. ordinarily serves as the secretary for the meetings of the general council;

7°. keeps the documents related to the Consecrated Women, communities, works of apostolate, and general statistical data up to date;

⁴ She does not vote even to break a tie (See the authentic interpretation of can. 127, August 1st, 1985 in *AAS* 77, 985, 77; *EV* 9/661).

⁵ c. 127

- 8°. coordinates the team of the general secretary;
 - 9°. follows up with and trains the territorial secretaries;
- §2. The general secretary is in charge of the custody and valuation of the General Archive, in accordance with the provisions of number 149 of the Constitutions and, to this end, approves the methodology for retention, classification, and inventory of documents of the General Archive, as indicated in the Manual for Archives.

Responsibilities of the General Head of Studies

87. The general head of studies collaborates with the general director and her council in all that concerns the intellectual and professional formation, continuing education, and the doctrinal integrity of the Consecrated Women. She also oversees the correct application of the *Ratio Institutionis* with regard to studies.

Art. 5. The Territory, the Territorial Director, and her Council

Responsibilities of the Territorial Director

88. By universal law, the territorial director, in the event of grave external scandal or very grave harm threatening the Society, may immediately expel a Consecrated Woman from the house, in accord with can. 703.
89. By proper law, the territorial director requires the consent of her council to⁶:
- 1°. make the appointments and the assignments of apostolate that are within her responsibility, following the Manual of Procedures;
 - 2°. appoint the secretaries, financial officers, and councilors of houses of formation and apostolate. She may also appoint a territorial head of studies if she sees fit;
 - 3°. extend the time of probation of the Candidacy for a maximum of six months;
 - 4°. authorize a Consecrated Woman with final vows to live outside a house of the Society, following number 24§2 of this Rule of Life;
 - 5°. convoke an Extraordinary Territorial Assembly or other similar meetings to deal with matters that significantly concern the territor;
 - 6°. authorize the acts of extraordinary administration which are under her authority;

⁶ Cf. note 4

- 7°. authorize a Consecrated Woman to borrow money for herself or others;
 - 8°. authorize a Consecrated Woman, when it is within her responsibility, to accept a donation that carries with it obligations or demands;
 - 9°. readmit to the Candidacy a person who has left it and readmit to the Society a person who was consecrated if she is going to repeat the Candidacy;
 - 10°. authorize a candidate to be absent from the Candidacy for an extended time.
90. By proper law, the territorial director requires the opinion of her council to:
- 1°. admit a person to the Course prior to the Candidacy;
 - 2°. dismiss a person from the Course prior to the Candidacy;
 - 3°. admit a person to the period of Candidacy;
 - 4°. dismiss a candidate from the Candidacy for a grave reason;
 - 5°. present to the general director, the candidates for temporary vows, the Consecrated Women preparing for the renewal of temporary vows, and those preparing for final vows;
 - 6°. designate spiritual directors for the Consecrated Women in temporary vows;
 - 7°. remove or accept the resignation of a Consecrated Woman from a position or office whose appointment or assignment is under her authority, following the Manual of Procedures;
 - 8°. review the community projects and the formation programs of the houses of the Consecrated Women;
 - 9°. approve the formation program and continuing education of the Consecrated Women of the territory;
 - 10°. appoint the director of the Course prior to the Candidacy and her work team when the course is only for her territory;
 - 11°. authorize the international trips of the Consecrated Women of her territory, except those that are because of their assigned apostolate and family visits;
 - 12°. authorize studies proposals that pertain to her;
 - 13°. present to the general director the permissions and proposals that require her approval;
 - 14°. invite external people and decide which Consecrated Women participate in extraordinary territorial assemblies or similar meetings.

Visits to the Communities

91. §1. The territorial director makes canonical visits to the communities to show her closeness and support to the Consecrated Women, get to know their life and activities, exhort them to personal and community holiness, encourage the apostolate and, if needed, correct faults or abuses, ensuring that they live the spirit and mission of the Society.
- §2. She ought to visit all the communities at least once a year.
- §3. The territorial director may ask a councilor to visit a community on her behalf for some specific task.

Work Teams

92. The territorial director seeks to establish and lead specialized and stable work teams to assist in the direction and functioning of the Society in the territory.

The Territorial Council

93. §1. The principal responsibilities of the territorial councilors are the same as those of the general councilors, at the territorial level, in accord with number 82 of this Rule.
- §2. The meetings and voting of the territorial council are governed by the provisions established in numbers 83 - 85 of this Rule.

Responsibilities of the Territorial Secretary

94. §1. The territorial secretary assists the territorial director in the operations, documentation, and archiving of the affairs of the Society in her territory. She:
- 1°. informs the territorial director of the matters related to the Society in the territory that are intended for her;
 - 2°. follows up on canonical procedures;
 - 3°. registers the acts of territorial governance and, when necessary, transmits them to the general director in the prescribed manner;
 - 4°. keeps the government archive and registry of protocols in the territory up to date;
 - 5°. ensures the proper preparation of correspondence from the government;
 - 6°. acts as a notary for the acts of a juridical nature;
 - 7°. ordinarily serves as the secretary of the territorial council meetings;
 - 8°. keeps the documents relating to the Consecrated Women, communities, works of apostolate, and statistical data of the territory

up to date;

9°. follows up with and trains the community secretaries.

§2. The territorial secretary is in charge of the custody and valuation of the territorial archive, and to this end, follows the systems for retention, classification, and inventory of documents in it as indicated in the Manual of Government Archives given by the general secretary.

Extraordinary Assemblies or other Territorial Meetings

95. In the territories, extraordinary assemblies or similar meetings may be held to deal with matters that significantly concern the territory and in which it is necessary to involve a representative group from the territory in the reflection and decision-making process:

1°. the territorial director, with the consent of her council, is the one who convokes these assemblies;

2°. number 102 of the Constitutions is not followed in regard to those who participate by office, except for the territorial councilors;

3°. depending on the topics to be discussed, the territorial director, having heard the opinion of her council, reserves the right to invite external people and decide which Consecrated Women participate.

Art. 6. The Houses, the Director, and her Council

Houses of the Society

96. §1. Houses of formation are those in which a community of candidates and/or Consecrated Women in the period of studies and their formators reside.

§2. In the other houses, Consecrated Women dedicated to the apostolate, specialized studies or other activities assigned by the competent authority reside.

Establishment and Suppression of Houses

97. For the establishment and suppression of houses, as well as the constitution of communities, proceed according to what is established in the Manual of Procedures.

The Archive of the House

98. The director of the house is responsible for the archive of her community and, through the secretary of the community, should take care to retain the

documentation of the house and of each one of the Consecrated Women who pertain to it in a proper and orderly way.

Responsibilities of the Councilors of a House of Apostolate

99. §1. The councilors of a house of apostolate assist the director by giving their opinion on decisions of significant importance for the life of the community.
§2. The director convokes meetings according to the periodicity established in the Manual of Procedures.
§3. The director must ask the opinion of her council before presenting a Consecrated Woman of the community to admission to the renewal of temporary vows or making final vows.
§4. The director must obtain the consent of her council in the case of expulsion as stipulated in c. 703.

Responsibilities of the Councilors of a House of Formation

100. §1 Number 99 §1 of this Rule of Life concerning the councilors of houses of apostolate is applicable.
§2. It is necessary that the meetings of the council be frequent, considering the importance of following up with and accompanying the candidates and the Consecrated Women in studies who are in a stage of vocational discernment or confirmation.
§3. The director must ask the opinion of her council before presenting a candidate for temporary vows, or a Consecrated Woman for admission to the renewal of temporary vows or making final vows.

The One Responsible for the Community

101. §1. In the houses of formation or apostolate, when the director will be absent for an extended time, one of the councilors or another Consecrated Woman is responsible for the community, according to the judgment of the director of the community.
§2. Her responsibility consists in ensuring the ordinary functioning of the community. If there is anything beyond this, she consults the director when she is available, and if not, the territorial director.

Directives

102. Community directives should be given when necessary, according to the judgment of the community director.

Art. 7. Administration of Temporal Goods

Principles for an Administration of Service

103. For a secure and efficient administration, carried out in a spirit of service, the principles of autonomy, subordination, centralization, accountability, and continual updating are to be considered, which in a proper balance safeguard the unity of the Society and promote its development.

Responsibilities of the General Financial Officer

104. The general financial officer is responsible to:

- 1°. oversee the care and growth of the goods of the Society;
- 2°. assist the general director in the increase and distribution of the available goods, especially the revenue from the patrimonial assets of the Society, for the established purposes;
- 3°. assist and accompany the territorial financial officers and oversee their training;
- 4°. ensure that the documentation related to the administration of the Society is kept up to date;
- 5°. conduct or supervise audits;
- 6°. keep the general director and her council informed about the state of the administration, primarily through an annual report.

Responsibilities of the Territorial Financial Officer

105. The territorial financial officer is responsible to:

- 1°. oversee the care and growth of the Society’s assets in the territory;
- 2°. assist the territorial director in the efficient management of the houses, centers, and works of apostolate;
- 3°. assist, accompany, and train the community financial officers;
- 4°. ensure that the documentation related to the administration of the territory is kept up to date;
- 5°. conduct or supervise audits;
- 6°. keep the territorial director and her council informed of the state of the administration, primarily through periodic reports.

Stable Patrimony

106. The stable patrimony consists of all the furnishings, real estate, financial, and economic assets that by legitimate allocation are destined to guarantee the financial security of the Society. Their allocation is the responsibility of the general director, with the consent of her council, having heard all the territorial directors.

Acts of Extraordinary Administration

107. §1. With the consent of her council, the general director has the authority to define the acts of extraordinary administration at the general, territorial, and local levels.

§2. For any act of extraordinary administration, the approval of the appropriate major director, with the consent of her council, is required, in accord with what is established in the Rule of Administration.

Budgets

108. The ordinary administration of the territories, houses, and works of apostolate is governed by their own administrative programs and budgets approved by the corresponding authority, following the Rule of Administration and the guidelines of the Regnum Christi Federation.

Institutional Standards

109. The general or territorial director, as appropriate, ought to establish common institutional standards that all have to observe. These standards may be criteria or procedures, or refer to means that assist administration (e.g., information technology). If territorial standards differ from the general ones, they must be approved by the general director.

Donations with Obligations

110. Without the express authorization of the appropriate major director, with the consent of her council, no one is permitted to accept donations that include obligations or duties, unless they are of minor importance and short duration, according to what is established in the Rule of Administration.

Recognition of the Society in the Civil Sector

111. In the civil sector, the Society is recognized or constituted following local legislation (e.g. by registration, incorporation, creation, etc.).

Other Provisions

112. In the administration of goods, the following provisions should also be considered:

§1. Regarding the acquisition of debts or obligations, the juridical entities and the Consecrated Women of the Society are governed by universal⁷ and proper law.

§2. Bank and investment accounts of the Society are to be managed jointly.

⁷ c. 639

§3. Every corporation of the Society ought to be audited annually, either internally or by a reputable firm.

§4. The communities and the Consecrated Women who are directors of works of apostolate must give a report about the management of goods, the budget, and its accounting information with the established periodicity.

§5. Following the specifications established in the territories and communities, the legal, accounting, fiscal, administrative, etc., documents of the Society must be kept in a separate archive, under the responsibility of the territorial or community financial officer, as the case may be.

§6. In establishing territories and houses, works of apostolate or undertaking apostolic activities of any kind, it should be ensured that they are sustainable immediately or in the short term. It is the responsibility of the general director with her council, assisted by the general financial officer, to assess the viability of this.

APPENDIX

FEASTS THAT ARE CELEBRATED IN THE SOCIETY OF APOSTOLIC LIFE “CONSECRATED WOMEN OF REGNUM CHRISTI”

DATE	CELEBRATION	TYPE	OBSERVATION
January 1	Mary, Mother of God	First-class Feast	Solemn Rosary
January 3	Charismatic beginning of Regnum Christi and foundation of the Legion of Christ	First-class Feast	Adoration <i>Te Deum</i>
January 6 (or the day it is celebrated in each country)	Epiphany of the Lord	First-class Feast	Solemn Rosary
January 25	Conversion of St. Paul	First-class Feast	
February 2	Presentation of the Lord	First-class Feast	Participation in the diocesan celebration of the Day of Consecrated Life is recommended. Devotional renewal of vows.
February 6	<i>Decretum Laudis</i> of the Legion of Christ	Second-class Feast	Remembrance at Mass
March 19	St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	First-class Feast	
March 25	Annunciation of the Lord	First-class Feast	Solemn Rosary
-	Palm Sunday	First-class Feast	
-	Easter Sunday	First-class Feast	

-	Easter Monday	First-class Feast	
II Sunday of Easter	Divine Mercy Sunday	First-class Feast	
Good Shepherd Sunday (IV of Easter)	Directors’ Day (general, territorial, and local)	First-class Feast	A special moment of prayer for the directors is recommended (adoration, Solemn Rosary or other)
-	Ascension of the Lord	First-class Feast	
-	Pentecost (Community preparation for the solemnity)	First-class Feast	Celebration of the Vigil is recommended
-	Holy Trinity	First-class Feast	Adoration
-	Corpus Christi	First-class Feast	Adoration or Procession with the diocese
-	Sacred Heart of Jesus (Community preparation for the solemnity)	First-class Feast	Adoration
-	Immaculate Heart of Mary	First-class Feast	Solemn Rosary
May 31	Canonical Establishment and Approval of the Statutes of the Regnum Christi Federation		
June 24	Birth of St. John the Baptist	First-class Feast	
June 29	St. Peter and St. Paul	First-class Feast	
August 15	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	First-class Feast	Solemn Rosary
September 15	Our Lady of Sorrows	First-class Feast	Solemn Rosary
September 29	The Archangels	First-class Feast	

November 1	All Saints Day	First-class Feast	
-	Christ the King (Community preparation for the solemnity) The Canonical Approval of the Society is celebrated.	First-class Feast	Celebration of Regnum Christi Day with other members of Regnum Christi.
November 25	Mass of Thanksgiving for the Canonical Approval of the Society		
December 8	Immaculate Conception	First-class Feast	Solemn Rosary
December 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe	First-class Feast	Solemn Rosary
December 25	Birth of Our Lord (Community preparation for the solemnity)	First-class Feast	Solemn Rosary
December 27	St. John the Evangelist	First-class Feast	
-	Main patron of the country	First-class Feast in the country	
-	Main patron of the country of origin of the different members of the community	Second-class Feast	Remembrance at Mass in the houses where there are women of that nationality.
-	Solemnities of the local Church		They are only celebrated at Mass; they are not celebrated as First-class Feast Days.
-	Anniversary of the Pope’s election	First-class Feast	

SOME TRADITIONS

OCCASION	PRACTICE
On leaving and returning to the house	Kiss the Bible as an act of faith. On leaving the house recite the prayer “We turn to you for protection”
Visits to the Eucharist	On leaving and returning to the house, and after meals
Mother’s Day , on the date it is celebrated in the country of residence	A gesture to Our Lady (Singing <i>Las Mañanitas</i> , or some other devotion as decided by the community).
Between November 1-8	Visit to the cemetery
Christmas	Receiving a patron saint
January 3 On the day a Pope is elected. On the day a general director is elected. December 31	Singing the <i>Te Deum</i> in thanksgiving
Fridays in Lent	Way of the Cross, prayed personally, although it can be prayed in community on some occasions.
Baptismal Anniversary	Renewal of baptismal promises and some moments of Eucharistic Adoration in thanksgiving.
Carnival Triduum	Lived with a spirit of reparation and adoration
Saturdays	Lived as a Marian day

For the Kingdom of Christ
to the Glory of God