

Rome, October 10, 2012

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Legion of Christ and Regnum Christi,

I write these lines to accompany the letter of Fr Alvaro Corcuera, General Director of the Legion of Christ and responsible for Regnum Christi. All of you have been able to get to know him, esteem him and love him for what he has been for the Legion and Regnum Christi, especially these last seven years due to his service as General Director. It has been a very difficult and burdensome seven years. When he took up this responsibility he knew he was to be in office for twelve years—a tenure that today we feel is too long and therefore a matter to be reviewed in the next Chapter, to take place in late 2013 or early 2014. That Chapter will have to elect the new superiors of the Institute and also approve the new Constitutions which by desire of the Holy Father are now in the process of revision.

During these seven years as General Director, Fr Alvaro has given himself generously, investing all his energies in the service of the path of renewal that the Legion is following. His service has been invaluable both because he knew so well his Institute and Regnum Christi with their people and situations, and because of his intelligence and kindness, to the point that he enjoyed the general trust of his confreres and Regnum Christi. But his efforts, carried out in a climate that was frequently one of suffering and misunderstanding, have weakened his energies to the point of causing us to fear that if he continued his efforts, especially in this year leading up to the General Chapter we might have compromised his health. He himself has realized this situation, and in his humility and dedication has accepted the invitation I made to him after consulting with my collaborators. Subsequently, he himself sent me the request to be temporarily relieved of his duties as General Director, which I, after consulting with the General Council of the Congregation, have approved and accepted.

As you can see, this is not a resignation from his position nor are we designating a new, substitute General Director but simply something in the order of a sabbatical year that has been requested by and granted to the General Director. He remains in the position but ceases to exercise its functions until the next General Chapter is convoked. During this time, from October 15 until the day the General Chapter is convoked, Fr Sylvester

Heereman, his Vicar General, will exercise the functions of General Director.

This is a painful decision that grieves us all, but we consider it necessary for the good of the Legion and Fr Alvaro himself. We renew our gratitude to him for his dedication, we assure him of our prayers, and we look forward with joy to the day when he is fully recovered and takes up once more the governance of the Legion and his responsibilities in Regnum Christi. May the Lord bless him and help us to follow the path of renewal of the Congregation and Regnum Christi in harmony and unity of intention and purpose. I ask all of you for your collaboration and renewed commitment in your service, according to each one's condition and role. I send all of you my blessing and I ask each of you to keep me in your prayers,

+Cardinal Velasio De Paolis, c.s.
Papal Delegate.