

Vatican probes group tied to scandal

The Vatican has appointed a Spanish archbishop to investigate Regnum Christi – a lay movement affiliated with the Legion of Christ, the powerful conservative religious order disgraced by revelations its founder, Father Marcial Maciel, sexually abused seminarians and fathered three children

■ **1920:** *Marcial Maciel* born in Mexico

■ **1941:** Ordained as priest, founds *Legion of Christ*

■ **1959:** Founds *Regnum Christi*

■ **1998:** Accusations taken to Vatican's *Congregation for Doctrine of Faith* – headed by Cardinal *Joseph Ratzinger*

■ **2005:** Maciel steps down as head of order

■ **2006:** Ratzinger – now *Pope Benedict XVI* – removes Maciel from active ministry, inviting him to retire to life of “prayer and penitence”

■ **2008:** Maciel, 87, dies – still a priest

■ **2009:** Order acknowledges Maciel fathered at least one child with his mistress – issues formal apology to victims in March 2010

■ **May 2010:** Vatican issues statement condemning Maciel as “immoral” and saying order must be “purified”

■ **Sep 30:** *Ricardo Blazquez*, archbishop of Valladolid, Spain, to investigate “consecrated women” of Regnum Christi, after reports say they endure cult-like conditions



■ **1990s:** Appointed in series of advisory roles to bishops by *Pope John Paul II*, who praises him as “efficacious guide to youth”

■ **1997:** Accused by nine men of sexual molestation when they were seminarians in Spain and Italy in 1940s, 50s and 60s

CONGREGATION

LEGION OF CHRIST

Priests: 800

Aspirants for Priesthood: 2,600

REGNUM CHRISTI

(75,000 lay members)

Non-consecrated: 73,940

Consecrated: 1,060 – including 900 women who make promises of poverty, chastity and obedience

