



Lumen Gentium:

Chapter one: The Mystery of the Church

Through God's Plan the mystery is revealed.

THE FATHER HAD A PLAN:

The mystery of the Church is brought about by God, and even before the fall of man, God's plan was for the salvation of souls. The universal mission of the Church is to bring all people in communion with God. The plan was for everyone to take part in the divine life God created for us on earth, but through the fall we became separated from God. God is not held to the same boundaries of "time" as we are, therefore, God can be with each and everyone of us throughout our life. Jesus Christ came to fulfill God's plan, and did so through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, when the kingdom of heaven was opened for the whole world. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to guide us back to God.

THE TRUE CHURCH IS THE ONE CHRIST CREATED:

We are all called to have a filial relationship with God, and Jesus gave us the Church and the Sacraments to achieve this goal. During Pentecost the Holy Spirit was given to us to be the eternal bond between man and God. As stated in Lumen Gentium: The Church has been "a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." The Church has been described throughout the Bible in many ways, for instance as a lamb, as a temple or building, as land given to the Israelites, as a spouse, and finally as the fruitful tree. The true Church is Heaven and we get to experience a little bit of heaven every week through the Mass. We experience a unity with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit when we receive the sacraments as well. For example, when we are Baptized, we receive the Holy Spirit and an indelible mark that is proof we belong to God, made in his likeness and image. When we receive the Eucharist, we are united with Jesus, and are all called to be more holy and closer to achieving God's Plan. When we sin, our friendship with God is strained, and the sacrament of reconciliation heals that fracture and puts us back on the path that God wants us to be on. Through this plan we are the adopted sons and daughters of God, and we are called to carry out his will to the end. This is our inheritance.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND:

The Holy Spirit provides the gifts we need to help us achieve the plan that Jesus set in motion. Jesus planted the seed; the church, and its continuation lives through all that hear the call to do the will of God. Just as Jesus is both God and man, the Church is both physical and spiritual. The church was founded on Peter the apostle, to carry out its mission, but it also exists as a physical form as well. We as members of the Body of the church are called to carry out our portion of the plan. Like members of a football team, we all have our part to play in the story of life. The quarterback you can equate to God the Father, and here on earth we refer to as the Pope. The Linebackers are the Apostles, and on earth we refer to as the Bishops. The wide receivers are the angels, and on earth we refer to as the Priests. The other players including the kicker and punter on the team are the saints in heaven and on earth are you and me. So as disciples on **“TEAM GOD”** we are all called to do our part to help everyone reach salvation.