

Reflection: Lumen Gentium IV
The Laity
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The laity are the basis of the Church. There are certain things which pertain in a special way to the Laity.

We must all “practice the truth in love and so grow up in all things in Him Who is the Head, Christ.”

The Laity is all the faithful except those in Holy Orders and in Religious life. The Laity seek to kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs. They live in a world that is of the secular professions and occupations. They live in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life, from which the very web of their existence is woven. They are called there by God that in exercising their proper function and led by the spirit of the Gospel they may work for the sanctification of the world.

From here they may make Christ known to others especially by the testimony of a life asplendent in Faith, Hope and Charity.

Therefore, the Chosen People of God is one: “One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism sharing a common dignity from their regeneration in Christ. There is no distinction we are all one in Christ.

The Laity are called in a special way to make the Church present and operative in those places and circumstances where only through them can it become the salt of the earth.

The laity have the capacity to assume from the Hierarchy certain ecclesiastical functions which are to be performed for a spiritual purpose. Because of the very economy of salvation, the faithful should learn how to distinguish carefully between rights and duties which are theirs as members of the church, and those which they have as members of human society. They must strive to reconcile the two remembering they must be guided by a Christian conscience. There is no human activity which can be withdrawn from God’s dominion

For all their works, prayers and apostolic endeavors, their ordinary married and family life, their daily occupations, their physical and mental relaxation, if carried out in the Spirit, and even the hardships of life, if patiently borne—all these become “spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”

The Laity should promptly accept in Christian obedience decisions of their spiritual shepherds, since they are representatives of Christ, as well as teachers and rulers in the Church. They should pray for those placed over them for they keep watch as having to render an account of their souls.

Each individual layman must stand before the world as a witness to the Resurrection and life of the Lord Jesus and a symbol of the Living God

Christians, the Laity, must be to the world WHAT the soul is to the body.