

Reflection on Lumen Gentium VII
The Pilgrim Church and its Union with the Church in Heaven
Bill Schmidt
March 24, 2019

48 The Church will attain its full perfection in the Glory of Heaven when all things will be restored and at that same time the human race will be perfectly reestablished in Christ. Christ is fully active in the world and so the restoration as promised has begun already. However, until the perfection of Christ occurs, the pilgrim Church will endure the appearance of the world and await the revelation of God. In the meantime, we are urged to live more for Him, to strive for all perfect things, and since we do not know the day or the hour, we will be constantly vigilant and look forward to the marriage feast with Him and the time which we will reign with Christ in Glory.

49 Until the Lord reigns in majesty, all things are subject to Him, for those who are in Christ having His Spirit form a single Church and in Him. Those who are in heaven are more closely united with Christ and are more firmly in holiness for they have been received into their heavenly home and are in the presence of the Lord, where, through Him and with Him and in Him they do not cease to intercede, through Jesus, for us.

50 The Church has always believed that those who have died as martyrs are more closely united to Christ and should be sought for spiritual aid by intercession. To these are also added the other faithful who have given an outstanding witness to the faith. Just as the Christian community brings us closer to Christ.

Widows or singles are also called to the path of love, and to give themselves in this unique vocation to better themselves in their labors. Those who are suffering poverty, infirmity, or sickness, are called in a very special way to serve God and to serve with God united in suffering for the salvation of the world.

51 This Sacred Council accepts the faith of its ancestors and proposes once again the Decrees of the Second Council of Nicaea, the council of Florence, and the Council of Trent. If any abuses or excesses or defect occur, the faithful should do what is within their power to correct them and to restore that to a fuller praise of Christ and of God.