The Apostolate of the Laity

Course Outline

• Week One: Vatican II Foundations
• Week Two: Vatican II Foundations
• Week Three: Christifideles Laici
• Week Four: Christifideles Laici
• Week Five: Lay Formation

Week One Overview

• Logistics/Assignments
• Mission of the Church
• Recap of CCC
• Vatican II Foundations
CC 113

- Syllabus
- Course Objectives
- Assignments

Mission of the Church

- Matthew 28:18-20

Catechism of the Catholic Church

- Hierarchy, #874ff
- The Lay Faithful, #897ff
- Consecrated Life, #914ff
Catechism of the Catholic Church

- Bring Christ to Secular Affairs, #940
- United to Christ
  - Priest #941
  - Prophet #942
  - King #943

Vatican II

- Background to the Discussion on the Laity

Lumen Gentium

*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*

- Church as the People of God, LG #9ff
- The Laity, #30ff
- Universal Call to Holiness, #39ff
Lumen Gentium

- Definition of Laity, #30, 31
- Baptism
- Shares in Christ's work as
  - Priest
  - Prophet
  - King

Secular nature, #31
- Order temporal affairs to God's plan, #31
- Family, society, sanctification of world, #31
- Testimony of life, #31

Common Dignity and Equality, #32
- All called sanctity, #32
- Binding of pastors and faithful, #32
Lumen Gentium

- Growth and sanctification of Church, #33
- Lay Apostolate: Commissioned by Lord #33
- Baptism and Confirmation, #33
- Every Layman: Witness and Instrument, #33

Lumen Gentium

- Can assist hierarchy, #33
- Zealous participation, #33

Lumen Gentium

- Priestly Function #34
- Prophetic Function #35
- Royal Function #36
Lumen Gentium

- Laity are equipped through
  - Word of God and Sacraments #37
  - Permitted/obliged to express opinion, #37

Lumen Gentium

- Prompt acceptance/Christian Obedience #37
- Dialogue between laity and spiritual leaders, #37
- Witness to the Resurrected Christ #38
Apostolicam Actuositatem
Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity

Introduction
• Purpose, #1
• Need #1
• Movement of the Holy Spirit, #1

Chapter 1 - Vocation of the Laity

• Unity of Mission, #2
• Definition of Apostolate, #2
• Christian Vocation and Apostolate, #2
• Diversity of ministry/Unity of Mission #2

• Exercise of Apostolate through
  – Evangelization and sanctification of men
  – Penetrating and perfecting temporal order through spirit of the Gospel #2
Apostolicam Actuositatem

• Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, #3
• Assigned by the Lord, #3
• Offer spiritual sacrifices, #3
• Witness of Christ, #3
• Engaging through Faith, Hope, Love, #3

Apostolicam Actuositatem

• Responsibility of all Christians, #3
• In communion with:
  • “brothers in Christ”
  • Pastors, #3

Apostolicam Actuositatem

• Success: Depends on union with Christ, #4
• Spiritual life takes character from:
  • Marital status
  • State of health
  • Professional and social activity, #4
Apostolicam Actuositatem

Chapter II - Objectives

• Christ's work: Renew Temporal Order, #5
• Very serious errors, #6
• Elements of Temporal Order, #7
• Activities motivated by charity, #8

Chapter III - Various Fields

• Laity “have their work cut out for them.” #10
• Parish, diocese, universal Church, #10
• Marriage/family, #11
• Youth, #12
• Social Milieu, #13
• Civic, National, International levels, #14
Chapter IV - Various Forms

- Individual or group, #15
- Testimony of the whole lay life
  - Announce Christ
  - Explain and spread His teaching, #16

Chapter V - External Relationships

- Incorporated within apostolate of whole Church, #23
- Harmony and apostolic cooperation, #23
Apostolicam Actuositatem

• Hierarchy
  - Promote lay apostolate
  - Provide spiritual principles
  - Support and direct conduct
  - Attend to preservation of doctrine and order, #24

• “No project, however, may claim the name “Catholic” unless it has obtained the consent of the lawful Church authority (AA #24).”

• “...the laity must not be deprived of the possibility of acting on their own accord (AA #24).”

• The hierarchy entrust to laity some pastoral duties:
  - Teaching of Christian doctrine
  - Certain liturgical actions
  - Care of souls, #24
Apostolicam Actuositatem

- Vis a vis temporal order, hierarchy:
  - Teach and authentically interpret moral principles
  - Judge on conformity of works/institutions to moral principles
  - Protect and promote supernatural values, #24.

Apostolicam Actuositatem

- Priest support of laity, #26

Chapter V - External Relationships

- Need for formation, #28
- Formation characterized by secular quality, #29
- Lifelong formation, #30
Christifideles Laici

• On the Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the world.
• John Paul II
• Apostolic Exhortation
• 1988

Since Vatican II

• Strengths, #2
• Weaknesses

Purpose of CL

• Promote deeper awareness among laity, #2
The Vineyard

• Difficulties, #4-6

The Hope: Jesus

• Christ is the Good News, #7
• Lay people are to be sign of this, #7

Role of Lay People

• “The lay faithful have an essential and irreplaceable role in this announcement and in this testimony: through them the Church of Christ is made present in the various sectors of the world, as a sign and source of hope and of love (CL #7).”
CL - Part 1

• *I am the Vine, You are the Branches*

The Vine

• Lay People must stay rooted to the vine
  - Jesus
  - The Church, #8

Lay People...

• Renew Temporal Order
• “...all the faithful except those in Holy Orders and those who belong to a religious state sanctioned by the Church... (CL #9)”
• Derive their life from Christ in Baptism, #9
Baptism

- Children of God, #11
- Joined to Christ's Body, #11
- Temples of Holy Spirit, #13
- Sharers in Christ's Mission, #14

Mission of Jesus

- Priestly
- Prophetic
- Royal, #14

Lay “Secular Character”

- In the World
- Continuing saving work of Jesus, #15
Holiness

- Universal Call to Holiness/Primary Vocation, #16
- Source in Baptism, #17
- Rooted to the vine, #17
- A dignity with demands, #17

CL - Part 2

- All Branches of a Single Vine

Communion

- A Mystery, #18
- Trinity, #18
- Church, 19
- Organic, 20
Ministries and Charisms

- Lavished by Holy Spirit, #21
- Lay people: Active and Co-responsible, #21
- Ministries from Holy Orders, #22
- Ministries from lay faithful, #23
- Charisms, #24

Participation of Laity

- Particular and Universal Church, #25
- Parish
  - Associations of Lay people, #26
  - Support to the pastor, #27

Forms of Participation

- Call by Jesus, 328
- Member of the Church, #28
- Individual, #28
- Groups, #29
- Ecclesiality of Groups, #30
CL - Part 3

• I have appointed you to go and bear fruit

Mission to Communion

• Essential we bear fruit, #32
• Must be in communion with Jesus, #32
• Part of larger process, #32

Proclaiming the Gospel

• Grace to do this from sacraments/charisms, #33
• Concentration on evangelization, #33
• Hour for Re-Evangelization, #34
• Into the whole world, #35
Serving Person/Society

- Serving Individual: Primary and Fundamental, #36
- Laity do this by renewing temporal order, #36

Dignity of the Person

- Inviolable
- Man/Woman
- From being created in God’s Image/Likeness
- Antithesis: Objectification, #37

Right to Life

- Must be respected/Inviolable
- Rights come from God
- Culture of Death
- Authentic humanism, #38
Freedom to Worship

• Freedom of Conscience
• Freedom of religion
• From our dignity
• Cornerstone of human rights
• Fundamental to society, #39

Family and Society

• We are social creatures
• Marriage and family: First and basic social dimension
• Basic cell of society
• Primary place of humanization
• Must be respected by society, #40

Charity

• Through works of mercy
• Needed to permeate organizations
• Volunteerism, #41
Public Life

- Requirement for lay people
- Promotion of the Common Good
- Spirit of Service
- Solidarity, #42

Socio-Economic Life

- Universal Destination of Goods
- Right to private property
- Man is center of economic life
- Work, #43

Evangelizing Culture(s)

- Culture key to development for:
  - Individual
  - Society
- Church elevates and purifies culture
- Social communications, #45
CL - Part 4

• Laborer’s in the Lord’s vineyard

Variety of Vocations

• Each stage of life has its own issues, #45
• Young People, #46
• Children, #47
• Older People, #48

Women and Men

• Promotion of dignity of women, #49
• Participation of women in Church, #49
• Complementarity between genders, #50
• Two great tasks of women, #51
• Collaboration of men and women, #52
Sick and Suffering

- Church/Lord share in suffering, #53
- Sick are sent out into vineyard, #53
- Unite sufferings with Christ, #53
- Catholic Hospitals, #53
- Renewed pastoral action, #54

States of Life/Vocations

- Lay
- Ministerial
- Religious, #55

Vocations in Lay State

- Holiness and devotion
- Married, family, celibacy, widowhood
- Health
- Professional activity
- Social activity
- Called by name, #56
CL - Part 5

- That you bear much fruit

Continual Maturation

- Constant growth and maturation
- Staying rooted to vine
- Procrastination/Remain idle
- Total and ongoing formation, #57

Lay Formation

- Discover/Deepen Vocation, #58
- Gradual/daily, #58
- Prayer, #58
- Discernment, #58
- Integrates all facets of life, #59
Aspects of Formation

- Spiritual, #60
- Liturgical, #60
- Systematic Catechesis, #60
- Promotion of Christian culture, #60
- Collaborators with God, #61
Intro to Co-Workers

- Guide Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministers
- Leadership presumes preparation
- Under authority of hierarchy

Call of Lay Faithful

- God calls first to holiness
- Lay holiness transforms secular realm
- Some Lay people work in Church with Pastors
- Rooted in Baptism, Confirmation, Matrimony

Call to Lay Ecclesial Ministry

- Authorized by/Collaborate with Hierarchy
- Focus on particular area
- Need for Preparation and formation
- Different than ordained ministry
- Different than consecrated life
Understanding the Realities

- Triune God
- Church
- Ministry
- Relationship with Bishop, Priests, Deacons

Lay Ecclesial Ministry...

- Is a special grace
- Comes from explicit faith commitment
- Animated by God’s love
- Accountable to Church hierarchy

Lay Ecclesial Ministers...

- Love whole Church
- Full communion with Pope
- Obedience to Bishop/Universal magisterium
- Collaborates with hierarchy/other LEM
Discernment

- Desire
- Prayer, dialogue, evaluation
- Personal, Communal, Ecclesial

Dispositions of LEM

- Full Communion with Church
- Desire to serve Christ/Church
- Prayer, Mass, Penance
- Zeal to live Christian life
- Emotional Maturity...

Dispositions of LEM

- Intellectual gifts
- Good Communication skills
- Conflict resolution skills
Determining Suitability

- Spiritual Director/Mentor
- Practicing Dispositions within beliefs of Church
- Psychological and social health
- Background checks, applications, references

Formation

- Four Elements:
  - Human
  - Spiritual
  - Intellectual
  - Pastoral
- Ongoing

Other Elements

- Authorization
- Workplace