

Mission of the Church to the Diocese

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Are we willing to criticize Church authority constructively when criticism is in order, and to do so from motives of love and in spirit of fraternal correction taught by Christ himself?

Are we honest enough to recognize our talents and our limitations?

Are we strong enough to accept diversity in a large Kingdom made up of different people?

Are we careful to deal with people as well as issues in our attempts to discern the signs of the times?

Are we amenable to any opinion other than our own?

Are we mindful of and respectful toward age and experience when we listen?

Are we readily affected by sweeping generalizations and inclined to respond with emotion or prejudice?

Are we eager to lead, to claim a special charism, without being ready to take the responsibility for such claims?

Are we able to rejoice over the good as well as criticize what is defective?

Are we willing to plan constructively to meet the needs of the Kingdom?

Are we ready to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit even though He leads us to Calvary?

Are we aware of the need for the discernment of spirits in our life?

Are we hopeful for the future, because of our confidence in grace?

Are we prepared to work personally for an effective output by the parish council?

Are we divisive or abrasive in our attempts to exercise leadership in our faith-community?

Are we charitable to those with whom we differ? How can we improve?

Are we humble and obedient before those to whom we should be listening, e.g. the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures, the teaching Church, the community around us, the conscience within us?

Are we able to detect the voice of one Lord by the twin chords of peace and joy He strikes in our heart, the surest signs of His Father's Kingdom?

Submitted by

PASTORAL COUNCIL

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FOOTNOTES

A) Scriptural quotations have been taken from the Jerusalem Bible; the documents from Vatican II quoted from the edition by Walter M. Abbott, S.J., or the cross references found in the Dictionary of the Council, edited by J. Deretz and A. Nocent, O.S.B.

B) Many references could be cited for thematic treatments. The following are suggested:

The Jerome Biblical Commentary, edited by R. Brown, S.S., J. Fitzmyer, S.J., and R. Murphy, O.Carm.; Sacramentum Mundi, edited by K. Rahner, S.J., C. Ernst, O.P. and K. Smyth; Dictionary of the Bible, by J. F. McKenzie; Dictionary of the Council, edited by J. Deretz and A. Nocent, O.S.B.

- "Kingdom" (Greek basilica, Hebrew malkut). Sacramentum Mundi V, pp. 233-240, under "Reign of God"; cf. other general sources listed above.
- "Freedom": — a thematic treatment is in all the basic sources. Many contemporary problems, e.g. authority, structures, etc. reflect the Christian-Marxist debate on a popular level. cf. "The Revolution of Freedom", Religion, Revolution and the Future, by Jurgen Moltman, pp. 63-82.
- "Reign of God," Sacramentum Mundi, op. cit., "... the nature of the Kingdom ... is an event which rounds off history de-

finitively and thus constantly penetrates into every situation . . ."

- Cf. Articles on World, Cosmos, Nature.
- Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the modern world, N. 19.
- "Sin" — confer thematic treatments or the Dictionary of the Council, which has over thirty references to sin.
- Cf. Towards a Theology of Development, (An annotated Bibliography compiled by Father Gerhard Bauer for Sodepax). Available through the Ecumenical Center, 150 Route de Ferney, Geneva, Switzerland.
- New Trends in Moral Theology, George M. Regan, C.M. pp. 190 f.; Human Values and Christian Morality, Josef Fuchs, S.J. pp. 92-111.
- Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, N. 5.
- Col. 1: 20.
- New Theology No 5, edited by Martin E. Marty and Dean G. Peerman; Man and His New Hopes by Gerald O'Collins; The Theology of Hope by Jurgen Moltmann.
- The Christian Future: The Dynamic Element in the Church, both by Karl Rahner, S.J.
- Dogmatic Constitution of the Church, N. 1.

14. Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, N. 1.

15. Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, N. 1.

16. Ibid., N. 5, fnnt. 11.

Ibid., N. 15.

18. Ibid., N. 16.

19. Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, N. 4.

20. The background to this statement is quite complex. Whole problem areas come to mind, e.g. the so-called "God Problem," the Christian-Humanist debates, questions of Secularization and Technology. Basic readings might include: E. Schillebeeckx, O.P. God the Future of Man; T. O'Meara, O.P. and D. Weisser, O.P., (ed.) Projections: Shaping an American Theology for the Future; "Is God Dead?" Concillium XVI, (ed.) Johannes B. Metz; B. Haring, C.S.S.R., Christian Renewal in a Changing World.

21. Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church, N. 11.

22. Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, N. 10.

"...The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the fountain from which all her power flows."

23. "His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality

with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross." (Philippians 2: 6-8)

24. Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, N. 7.

"... The liturgy is considered as an exercise of the priestly office of Jesus Christ. In the liturgy the sanctification of man is manifested by signs perceptible to the senses, and is effected in a way which is proper to each of these signs; in the liturgy full public worship is performed by the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, that is, by the Head and His members."

25. Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, N. 50.

26. Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, N. 11.

"Pastors of souls must realize that, when the liturgy is celebrated, more is required than the mere observance of the laws governing valid and licit celebration. It is their duty also to ensure that the faithful take part knowingly, actively, and fruitfully."

27. Decree on Ecumenism, N. 2.

28. Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, N. 5.

"The mystery of the holy Church is manifest in her very foundation."

29. Ibid., N. 8.