

other in the Holy Spirit, The Church or people of God in establishing that kingdom takes nothing away from the temporal welfare of any people. On the contrary it fosters and takes to itself, insofar as they are good, the ability, riches and customs in which the genius of each people expresses itself. Taking them to itself it purifies, strengthens, elevates and ennobles them. **This characteristic of universality is a gift from the Lord Himself.** The Catholic Church strives to bring all humanity and its possessions back to its source in Christ.

In virtue of this catholicity each individual part contributes through its special gifts to the good of the other parts and of the whole Church. Through the common sharing of gifts and common effort to attain fullness in unity, **the whole and each of the parts receive increase.** The people of God made up of different peoples and in its inner structure is composed of various ranks. This diversity among its members arises either by reason of their duties, as is the case **with those who exercise the sacred ministry** for the good of their brethren, or by reason of their condition and state of life, as is the case with **those many who enter the religious state** and, tending toward holiness by a narrower path, (encourage all) by their example. Between all the parts of the Church there remains a bond of close communion whereby they share spiritual riches, apostolic workers and temporal resources. **The members of the people of God are called to share these goods in common**, and of each of the Churches to one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **All are called to be part of this catholic unity of the people of God in promoting universal peace.**

NO 14. THE CATHOLIC FAITHFUL

This Sacred Council basing itself upon Sacred Scripture and Tradition, teaches that the Church, is necessary for salvation. Christ, present to us in His Body, which is the Church, is the one Mediator and the unique way of salvation. In explicit terms He Himself affirmed the necessity of faith and baptism as through a door all enter the Church. Whosoever, therefore, knowing that the Catholic Church was made necessary by Christ, would refuse to enter or to remain in it, could not be saved.

The bonds which bind all peoples to the Church in a visible way are profession of faith, the sacraments, and ecclesiastical government and communion. All should remember that **their exalted status is to be attributed not to their own merits but to the special grace of Christ.** If they fail moreover to respond to that grace in thought, word and deed, not only shall they not be saved but they will be the more severely judged.

Catechumens who, moved by the Holy Spirit, seek with explicit intention to be incorporated into the Church are by that very intention joined with her. With love and solicitude Mother Church already embraces them as her own. ✠

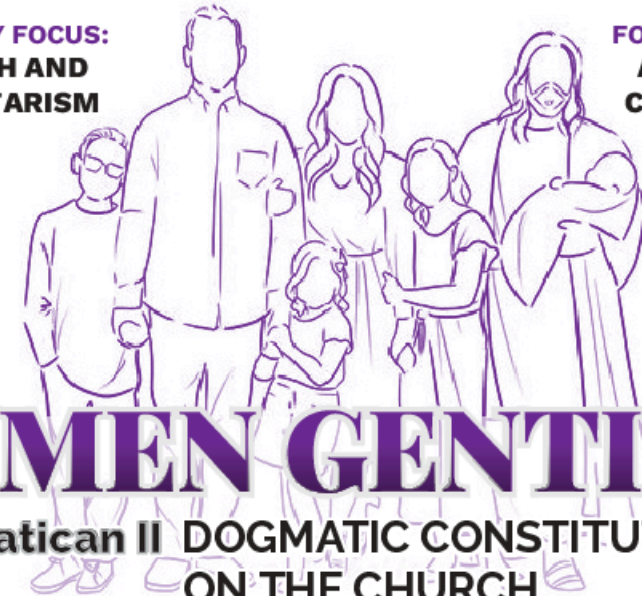
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SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:
COMMUNION (INCLUSIVE), PARTICIPATION (CREATIVE) & MISSION (BRIDGE BUILDING)

MONTHLY FOCUS:
CHURCH AND
VOLUNTARISM

FOCUS EVENT:
ADVENT &
CHRISTMAS
SEASON



LUMEN GENTIUM

Vatican II DOGMATIC CONSTITUTION
ON THE CHURCH

PROMULGATED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE PAUL VI ON NOVEMBER 21, 1964

No 13. THE CATHOLIC IDENTITY OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

All men & women are called to belong to the new people of God. While remaining one, is to spread throughout the whole world, so that God's will may be fulfilled. God made human nature one and decreed that all His children, would finally be gathered together as one. It was for this purpose **that God sent His Son**, that (to) be teacher, king and priest of all. For this **God sent the Spirit** of His Son as Lord and Life-giver, who brings together the whole Church and each and every one of those who believe, in the teaching of the apostles, fellowship, the breaking of bread and in prayers.

Though there are many nations there is but one people of God, which is of a heavenly rather than of an earthly nature. **All the faithful, are in communion with each**