

Light to the World

The Incredible Mission of the Laity

Session 1

The Holy Spirit has
the Answer for our
Current Problems

Lectio divina - John 16:7-15

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

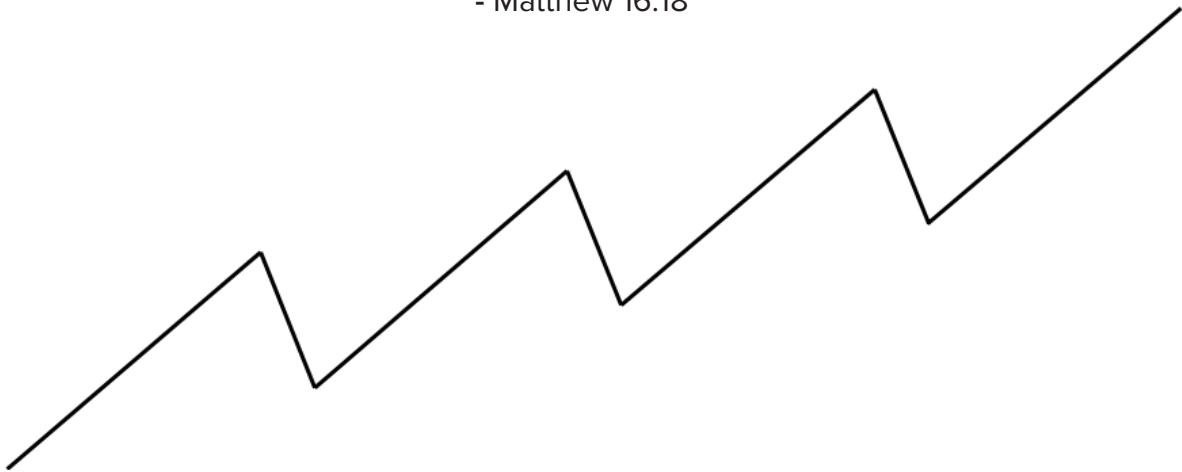
I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Part 1: *Ecclesiam Suam* “His Church”

The Good News

“I will build my church, and
the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

- Matthew 16:18



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIocese OF PUEBLO
DIÓCESIS DE PUEBLO

Presenter:

**Dr. Seth Wright, Director of Missionary
Discipleship for the Diocese of Pueblo**

St. John XXIII – Opening Address to Vatican II

“Such, venerable brethren, is the aim of the Second Vatican Council. It musters the Church’s best energies and studies with all earnestness how to have the message of salvation more readily welcomed by men.”

St. Paul VI – Closing Address to Vatican II

“to find in herself, active and alive, the Holy Spirit, the word of Christ; and to probe more deeply still the mystery, the plan, and the presence of God above and within herself; to revitalize in herself that faith which is the secret of her confidence and of her wisdom, and that love which impels her to sing without ceasing the praises of God.”



St. Paul VI – Paths of the Church (Ecclesiam Suam - “His Church”)

Discussion Questions

1. Can you see this pattern (Awareness, Renewal, Mission) in your life or in the life of someone you know? How so?

2. Which one of these is the most difficult for you?
 - a. To remember who you are in Christ and who He is?
 - b. To cooperate with what He wants to do to convert you?
 - c. To dialogue with others and share the Good News?

“let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” 2 Matthew 5:16

Part 2: *Lumen gentium* “Light of the Nations”

The Good News

“whoever abides in love abides in God,
and God abides in him.”

- 1 John 4:16

Awareness

Christ is the Light

“Christ is the Light of nations. Because this is so, this Sacred Synod gathered together in the Holy Spirit eagerly desires, by proclaiming the Gospel to every creature, to bring the light of Christ to all men, a light brightly visible on the countenance of the Church.” - *Lumen gentium*, §1

Church as Light

“So it is that that messianic people, although it does not actually include all men, and at times may look like a small flock, is nonetheless a lasting and sure seed of unity, hope and salvation for the whole human race. Established by Christ as a communion of life, charity and truth, it is also used by Him as an instrument for the redemption of all, and is sent forth into the whole world as the light of the world and the salt of the earth.” - *Lumen gentium*, §9

Church as sacrament

“Since the Church is in Christ like a sacrament or as a sign and instrument both of a very closely knit union with God and of the unity of the whole human race, it desires now to unfold more fully to the faithful of the Church and to the whole world its own inner nature and universal mission.” - *Lumen gentium*, §1

Renewal

Church needs continual renewal

“the Church, embracing in its bosom sinners, at the same time holy and always in need of being purified, always follows the way of penance and renewal” - *Lumen gentium*, §8

“moved by the Holy Spirit may never cease to renew herself”

- *Lumen gentium*, §9

Mission

Church exists to Evangelize

“That divine mission, entrusted by Christ to the apostles, will last until the end of the world, since the Gospel they are to teach is for all time the source of all life for the Church.” - *Lumen gentium*, §20

“Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize, that is to say, in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God, and to perpetuate Christ's sacrifice in the Mass” - St. Paul VI, *Evangelii nuntiandi*, §9



How does the Church fulfill this mission?

1. The Universal Call to Holiness

“He united her to Himself as His own body and brought it to perfection by the gift of the Holy Spirit for God's glory. Therefore in the Church, **everyone whether belonging to the hierarchy, or being cared for by it, is called to holiness**, according to the saying of the Apostle: ‘For this is the will of God, your sanctification’(1 Thess. 4:3). However, this holiness of the Church is unceasingly manifested, and must be manifested, in the fruits of grace which the Spirit produces in the faithful; it is expressed in many ways in individuals, who in their walk of life, tend toward the **perfection of charity**, thus causing the edification of others.” - *Lumen gentium*, §39

“all the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status, are called to the **fullness of the Christian life** and to the **perfection of charity**; by this holiness as such a more human manner of living is promoted in this earthly society. In order that the faithful may reach this perfection, they must use their strength accordingly as they have received it, as a gift from Christ. They must follow in His footsteps and conform themselves to His image seeking the will of the Father in all things. They must devote themselves with all their being to the glory of God and the service of their neighbor. In this way, the holiness of the People of God will grow into an abundant harvest of good, as is admirably shown by the life of so many saints in Church history.” - *Lumen gentium*, §40

2. Priest, Prophet, King

Holy Orders	Religious Life	Marriage	Single Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priest • • • Prophet • • • King • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priest • • Prophet • • • King • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priest • • Prophet • • • • King • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priest • • Prophet • • • King • •

For the Laity specifically:

Priest - §34

“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". Together with the offering of the Lord's body, they are most fittingly offered in the celebration of the Eucharist. Thus, as those everywhere who adore in holy activity, **the laity consecrate the world itself to God.**”



Prophet - §35

“so too the laity go forth as powerful proclaimers of a faith in things to be hoped for, when they courageously join to their profession of faith a life springing from faith. This evangelization, that is, this announcing of Christ by a **living testimony** as well as by the **spoken word**, takes on a specific quality and a special force in that it is carried out in the ordinary surroundings of the world.”



King - §36

- “learn the deepest meaning ... of all creation”
- “assist each other to live holier lives even in their daily occupations”
- “competence in secular training and by their activity”
- “remedy the customs and conditions of the world”
- “imbue culture ... with genuine moral values”
- “prepare the field of the world for the seed of the Word of God”
- “open wider the doors of the Church by which the message of peace may enter the world”



Discussion Questions

1. Can you think of someone you have known whose life shows that growth in love is growth in holiness?

2. What could you work on right now in your life that would help you fulfill more fully your role as priest, as prophet, or as king?

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All sessions

9:00-11:30am

**St. Joseph, Grand Junction
and by Zoom**

Sept. 21, 2024 Session 1: The Holy Spirit has the Answer for Our Current Problems

Description: This session will focus on how the Holy Spirit has been speaking to the Church for the past 100 years, preparing Her for these times and equipping Her for Her mission in the world. We will see how this message is for each of us and can lead us closer to Jesus.

Suggested Reading: St. Paul VI, *Paths of the Church*; Vatican II Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen gentium*; Fr. Blake Britton, *Reclaiming Vatican II: What it (Really) Said, What it Means, and How it Calls us to Renew the Church*

Oct. 12, 2024 Session 2: How to Find Fulfillment and Become a Saint

Description: This session will focus on how each of us personally and the Church are renewed by our contact with God in the Sacred Liturgy and in Sacred Scripture. We will examine how such renewal is called for by the Vatican II documents on the liturgy and divine revelation and will discuss how we may more profitably implement this renewal in our own lives and in our parishes.

Suggested Reading: Vatican II Constitution on the Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*; Vatican II Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, *Dei Verbum*

Nov. 23, 2024 Session 3: The Answer to Our Deepest Longings

Description: This session will focus on Jesus as the answer to our deepest longings and the longings of the people we meet in the world. We will also look more specifically at the role of the laity in the evangelization of the world and will assess both the successes and failures in this area since the Second Vatican Council.

Suggested Reading: Vatican II Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, *Gaudium et spes*; Vatican II Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, *Apostolicam actuositatem*

Jan. 18, 2025 Session 4: Transform the World

Description: This session will explore the call of the laity to transform the world as expressed in the life and work of St. John Paul II. We will focus mostly on his exhortation specifically on this topic but will also look at some of his other works.

Suggested Reading: St. John Paul II, *The Lay Members of Christ's Faithful People (Christifidelis laici)*

Feb. 15, 2025 Session 5: Jesus Walks with You

Description: This session will look at the current situation in the Church. We will see how Pope Francis' work *The Joy of the Gospel* is in line with what the Holy Spirit has been doing and calls us to a deeper encounter with Christ that impels us into the world to bring the life-giving message of salvation and mercy to all.

Suggested Reading: Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)*

To register for the Zoom sessions, go to: <https://www.diopueblo.org/be-equipped>