

## **Reflection on the Christian Vocation**

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### **Introduction**

All different vocations in the Church place their foundation on the Christian Vocation. This calling is universal and has 3 dimensions:

1. Deepen our communion with God;
2. Deepen our union with the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ;
3. Participate more effectively and ardently to the mission of Christ through the Church.

### **How to “read” Church’s documents**

1. Read not to understand from end to end;
2. But where understood, focus there because we have experienced them. Let the writing brings further clarity and to confirm our experiences, taking us to a deeper level. Thus the document becomes grace-filled and alive with our lived experiences;
3. Where we are drawn to but have not had any experiences then possibly that is where God is inviting us to embark. We would continue to ponder on the meaning of those points;
4. Where we do not understand, then we need not concern ourselves for now. It will come later in near or far future when God decides that we are ready.

### **Reflection**

(from CLC Charism)

## **2. The Christian Vocation**

8. Christian life is the answer to the call of Jesus to follow Him and to be transformed by His Spirit. This is the design of the Father who has predestined us in Christ<sup>1</sup>. Christ invites us to follow Him in His life and death by adopting, with the grace of the Spirit, those same feelings and attitudes which were His and which are set out in the Beatitudes<sup>2</sup>, so that we too may pass from death to true life<sup>3</sup>.
9. The Lord invites us to intimacy with Him<sup>4</sup>, and to collaborate with Him in His mission of announcing the Good News and promoting God's Reign<sup>5</sup>.
10. We respond to this call of the Lord in faith by welcoming His word and the gift of His Spirit, by which the Father consecrates us for the mission of Christ, priest, prophet and king. Baptism is the sacramental sign of this incorporation within the body of Christ, the Church, the community of His followers.
11. God's call is inserted in the fabric of our natural gifts and in the circumstances of both our personal and social history, in which we participate.
12. The Christian vocation is an invitation to reorder all one's life by placing Jesus at its centre. In the Christian vocation, we find the inspiration to choose a new lifestyle, the strength to persevere and the joy to announce the Good News to the poor<sup>6</sup>, to love and to pardon.
13. In adults, who have already defined their family and professional lives, the question of how to follow Jesus will affect, above all, the way of living their commitments so as to arrive at a profound and gradual transformation of their relationships with others, with their material means and with themselves. In the language of Ignatius, the answer to this question leads to the amendment or reform of one's life.
14. In young people, who have not yet clearly defined what they want to be or to do, the question of how to follow Jesus not only leads them to a new way of life but it will also help them to make freer decisions about their life choices (to start a family, celibacy, priesthood or religious life, a profession).
15. Vocation is intimately linked to mission. When a Christian deepens his or her bonds of friendship with the Lord, He entrusts a mission to them. Vocation has its origin in the entering of God into their lives and needs time to transform their hearts, binding them totally to Christ. The mission entrusted to them by Christ is a deep, permanent and growing desire born out of this bond<sup>7</sup>.
16. CLC members recognize their personal vocation within the Church in this particular form of Christian life. The particular vocation of CLC members is closely related to the discernment of their apostolic

mission, that is, the type of service each Christian is being called to render in the Church for the evangelization of the world.

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<sup>1</sup> "Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to ... live through love in his presence, ... [to] become his adopted children through Jesus Christ ..." (Ephesians 1:4-5)

<sup>2</sup> Mt 5:3-12

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

<sup>3</sup> "All I want to know is Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead" (Phil 3:10-11).

<sup>4</sup> "I call you friends because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; ..." (Jn 15:15-16)

<sup>5</sup> "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." (Jn 20:21)

<sup>6</sup> Lk 4:14-21

### **Jesus' Public Ministry**

<sup>14</sup> And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. <sup>15</sup> And He *began* teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.

<sup>16</sup> And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the <sup>[b]</sup>book and found the place where it was written,

<sup>18</sup> "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, <sup>19</sup> TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

<sup>20</sup> And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. <sup>21</sup> And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

<sup>7</sup> "He appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message" (Mk 3:14)