

THEOLOGY OF THE LAITY

DISCIPLES IN THE WORLD

Session V – Mission

Fr. JD Matherne

NOTES

A. R-I-M

- **RELATIONSHIP - IDENTITY - MISSION**

Only from inside the Church's mystery of communion is the "identity" of the lay faithful made known, and their fundamental dignity revealed. Only within the context of this dignity can their vocation and mission in the Church and in the world be defined.

- Christifideles Laici 8

B. LAITY ON MISSION

- **SALT, LIGHT, LEAVEN, SOUL**

The central point here is that the right of the laity to be involved in the mission of the Church is not a benevolent concession from bishops or priests. The laity have this right and duty by reason of their Baptism. This sacrament creates a fundamental equality among all the baptized: to live the new life in Christ and to witness to him according to one's vocation in the Church and in the world.

- Cardinal Francis Arinze

The sphere in which lay people are present and active as missionaries is very extensive. "Their own field...is the vast and complicated world of politics, society and economics..." on the local, national and international levels. Within the Church, there are various types of services, functions, ministries and ways of promoting the Christian life.

- Redemptoris Missio 72

FOR PRAYER

C. VARIOUS MISSION FIELDS

- **FAMILY**

*AS GOES THE FAMILY GOES, SO GOES THE NATION AND
SO GOES THE WHOLE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE. – JP2*

Since the Creator of all things has established conjugal society as the beginning and basis of human society and, by His grace, has made it a great mystery in Christ and the Church (cf. Eph. 5:32), the apostolate of married persons and families is of unique importance for the Church and civil society. (Apostolicam Actuositatem, 11)

“As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish... This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church.” (Ephesians 5:24-27, 32)

○ Tasks of the family from Familiaris Consortio 17:

- Forming a community of persons
- Serving life
- Participating in the development of society
- Sharing in the life and mission of the Church

○ Ecclesia Catholica & Ecclesia Domestica (FC, 49)

▪ *Ecclesia Catholica (Universal Church)*

...the Church as Mother that gives birth to, educates and builds up the Christian family, by putting into effect in its regard the saving mission which she has received from her Lord. By proclaiming the word of God, the Church reveals to the Christian family its true identity, what it is and should be according to the Lord's plan; by celebrating the sacraments, the Church enriches and strengthens the Christian family with the grace of Christ for its sanctification to the glory of the Father; by the continuous proclamation of the new commandment of love, the Church encourages and guides the Christian family to the service of love, so that it may imitate and relive the same self-giving and sacrificial love that the Lord Jesus has for the entire human race.

▪ *Ecclesia Domestica (Domestic Church)*

...the Christian family is grafted into the mystery of the Church to such a degree as to become a sharer, in its own way, in the saving mission proper to the Church: by virtue of the sacrament, Christian married couples and parents "in their state and way of life have their own special gift among the People of God." For this reason they not only receive the love of Christ and become a saved community, but they are also called upon to communicate Christ's love to their brethren, thus becoming a saving community. In this way, while the Christian family is a fruit and sign of the supernatural fecundity of the Church, it stands also as a symbol, witness and participant of the Church's motherhood.

FOR PRAYER

● WORK

- Genesis 1 – “the first gospel of work”
- For it shows what the dignity of work consists of: it teaches that man ought to imitate God, his Creator, in working, because man alone has the unique characteristic of likeness to God. Man ought to imitate God both in working and also in resting, since God himself wished to present his own creative activity under the form of work and rest. (Laborem Exercens, 25)
- Sunday as the day of rest and family
- MLK: We must rapidly begin the shift from a "thing-oriented" society to a "person-oriented" society.

● CULTURE

(Political, Economic, Arts,

- Transcendentals as our guide:
 - True, Good, Beautiful

The power of the Good has taken refuge in the nature of the Beautiful. –Plato
- Culture in its essence is a communal concept.

● DISCERNMENT

NOT ONLY A STATE OF LIFE VOCATIONAL CONCEPT!!!!

- BASIC 3 STEPS OF DISCERNMENT:
 - Be Aware
 - Understand
 - Take Action (Accept/Reject)

MISSION STATEMENT OF ALL MISSION

GAUDIUM ET SPES, 22

...by the revelation of the mystery of the Father and His love, fully reveals man to man himself and makes his supreme calling clear.

FOR PRAYER