



Elizabeth Paulat (V)

ROLE OF THE LAITY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHURCH

UNCCLA

Listens & Speaks #2

By

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Who are the Laity ?

The term laity is understood to mean all the faithful except those in holy orders and those in the state of religious life specially approved by the Church.

Vatican Council II, Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church) #31



Who are the Laity 2

- The laity, like any other members of Christ's faithful, become members of the Church through baptism.
- For this reason they participate in their own way in the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ. They are called each according to his or her particular condition to exercise the mission which God entrusted to the Church to fulfill in the world.
- They, as individuals or organizations, share in the apostolate of the whole Church.



Church defined

“The faithful of the whole world. This broad definition can be understood in various senses all derived from the Scriptures, notably as the community of believers, the kingdom of God, and the Mystical Body of Christ.”

Modern Catholic Dictionary
by Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

How do we define Church growth, development?

- A numerically growing church is a wonderful thing. But it's not the only thing.
- A welcoming experience – time with God
- Inviting atmosphere
- Care for Church members, understand their unique needs
- Proper management of Church resources
- Opportunities to serve



Focus on Integral Development

Luke 4: 18-19

- Good News to the Poor
- Liberty to the Captives
- Sight to the Blind
- Freedom to the Oppressed
- The Year of the Lord's Favour
- Financially
- Socially
- Physically
- Politically
- Spiritually



Our Role

They (laity) are, by reason of the knowledge, competence or outstanding ability which they may enjoy, permitted and sometimes even obliged to express their opinion on those things which concern the good of the Church.

Lumen Gentium #37



Our Role 2

In the Church, "lay members of the Christian faithful can cooperate in the exercise of this power [of governance] in accord with the norm of law." And so the Church provides for their presence at particular councils, diocesan synods, pastoral councils; the exercise of the pastoral care of a parish, collaboration in finance committees, and participation in ecclesiastical tribunals, etc.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church n.911

Special Role of a Leader

The role of a leader is to take people from one place/situation to a better one;

- Quantitatively - Growth
- Qualitatively - Development





Conclusion

- The laity carry out their manifold apostolate both in the Church and in the world...opportunities for apostolic activity ... church communities, the family, youth, the social milieu, and national and international levels. Apostolicam Actuositatem (Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity) #9
- As sharers in the role of Christ as priest, prophet and king, the laity have their work cut out for them in the life and activity of the Church. Their activity is so necessary within the Church communities that without it the apostolate of the pastors is often unable to achieve its full effectiveness. AA #10
- In dioceses, in so far as possible there should be councils which assist the apostolic work of the Church #AA 26

Pope Francis on the Role of the Laity

“The time is now. The mission of the laity is not a privilege of a few and it involves total dedication,” as he stressed the importance of “the co-responsibility of the laity in the building up of the Church,”



Thank You. Asante Sana

