

**CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF FAITH  
THROUGH THE TEACHING OF VATICAN II**

*Holy Hour for August 2013  
Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People  
Apostolicam Actuositatem, 18 November 1965*



*'..it is hard to see how the Church could make her presence  
and action felt without the help of the laity.'*

*As the Blessed Sacrament is exposed during this series of Holy Hours to mark the YEAR OF FAITH let us sing each time the hymn that bears these words from St Paul 'We Walk By Faith And Not By Sight'*

**'WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT'**

*Celebration For Everyone No 789/ Laudate No 284*

**COLLECT**

Almighty ever-living God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed us, your sons and daughters from sin and gave us new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon us to be our helper and guide. Give us the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgement and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill us with a spirit of wonder and awe in your presence so as to live more perfectly as your disciples. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

**Reader 1:**

'In the Church there is a diversity of ministry but unity of mission. To the apostles and their successors Christ has entrusted the office of teaching, sanctifying and governing in his name and by his power. But the laity are made to share in the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ; they have therefore, in the Church and in the world, their own assignment in the mission of the whole people of God. In the concrete, their apostolate is exercised when they work at the evangelisation and sanctification of men and women; it is exercised too when they endeavour to have the Gospel spirit permeate and improve the world order, going about it in a way that bears clear witness to Christ and helps forward the salvation of humanity. The characteristic of the lay state being a life led in the midst of the world and of secular affairs, lay men and women are called by God to make of their apostolate, through the vigour of their Christian spirit, a leaven in the world.'

*(from the Documents of the II Vatican Council  
Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People (Apostolicam Actuositatem) No 2)*

**A PAUSE FOR QUIET REFLECTION**

**Reader 2: FIRST READING**

**SAMUEL 3:1-10** (*Lectionary III, pg 363*)

*'SPEAK LORD, YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING'*

**12 MINUTE SILENT ADORATION**

*To conclude this time of adoration and reflection we sing:*

**I, THE LORD OF SEA AND SKY**

*Celebration For Everyone No 285/ Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 376/ Laudate No 865*

*Other suitable hymns may be used highlighting the theme of God's call to discipleship.*

**Reader 1:**

'This witness of life, however, is not the sole element in the apostolate; the true apostle is on the lookout for occasions of announcing Christ by word, either to unbelievers to draw them towards the faith, or to the faithful to instruct them, strengthen them, incite them to a more fervent life; "for Christ's love urges us on" (2 Cor 5:14), and in the hearts of all should the apostle's words find echo: "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel" (1 Cor 9:16). At a time when new questions are being put and when grave errors aiming at undermining religion, the moral order and human society itself are rampant, the Vatican Council earnestly exhorts the laity to take a more active part, each according to his talents and knowledge and in fidelity to the mind of the Church, in the explanation and defence of Christian principles and in the correct application of them to the problems of our time.'

*(from the Documents of the II Vatican Council  
Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People (Apostolicam Actuositatem) No 6)*

*A PAUSE FOR QUIET REFLECTION*

**SECOND READING ST PAUL, 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-14, 27-30** (*Sheet Attached*)

**‘THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF SERVICES TO BE DONE.’**

**12 MINUTE SILENT ADORATION**

*To conclude this time of adoration and reflection we sing:*

**COME, LORD JESUS, COME**

*Celebration For Everyone No 128/ Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 214/ Laudate No 873*

*Other suitable hymns may be used highlighting the theme of God’s call to discipleship.*

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**Reader 1:**

‘While every activity of the lay apostolate should find in charity its origin and driving force, certain works are of their nature a most eloquent expression of this charity; and Christ has willed that these should be signs of his messianic mission (cf. Mt 11:4-5). The greatest commandment of the law is to love God with one’s whole heart and one’s neighbour as oneself (cf. Mt 22:37-40). Christ has made this love of neighbour his personal commandment...saying: “When you showed it to one of the least of these of mine, you showed it to me” (Mt 25:40) ...Today these activities and works of charity have become much more urgent and worldwide, now that means of communication are more rapid, distance between peoples has been more or less conquered, people in every part of the globe have become as members of a single family. Charitable action today can and should reach all people and all needs...The laity should therefore highly esteem, and support as far as they can, private or public works of charity and social assistance movements, including international schemes...they should collaborate in this with all people of good will.’

*(from the Documents of the II Vatican Council  
Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People (Apostolicam Actuositatem) No 2)*

*A PAUSE FOR QUIET REFLECTION*

**GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 25:31-46** (*Lectionary III, pg 587*)

**‘WHAT YOU DID TO THE LEAST OF THESE YOU DID TO ME.’**

**12 MINUTE SILENT ADORATION**

*To conclude this time of adoration and reflection we sing:*

**WHATSOEVER YOU DO TO THE LEAST OF MY FAMILY**

*Celebration For Everyone No 799/ Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 726/ Laudate No 926*

*Other suitable hymns may be used highlighting the theme of God’s call to discipleship.*

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**Leader:** In humility of heart, let us pray to God who cares for everyone.

*Response to each prayer: Lord, strengthen the faith of your people*

**Reader 2:**

- Keep alive in your Church the strength of faith and the joy of believing. We pray to the Lord
- Open the hearts of all believers to respond to your call to serve you in the world, especially in the weak and vulnerable and those whom society rejects. We pray to the Lord
- Help the clergy and laity to appreciate more profoundly how their particular ministries, gifts and charisms compliment each other and bring about in them a true understanding of just what it means to be co-responsible for the life of the Church. We pray to the Lord
- Grant that through the apostolate of the laity those without faith might find the path to enlightenment and respond to God’s gift of faith. We pray to the Lord
- For all those preparing for ministries within the Church - especially for servers and sacristans; musicians and cantors; catechists, teachers and helpers; readers and Eucharistic ministers; ministers of funeral liturgies and consolers of the bereaved; church cleaners and flower arrangers; church counters and ministers of administration; deacons and priests, We pray to the Lord
- May Christ through the ministry of the laity within the Church banish disease, drive out hunger, and ward off every affliction in the world. We pray to the Lord
- Grant to those who have died the joy of standing before you as Saints among saints in the halls of heaven. We pray to the Lord

**BENEDICTION PRAYERS AND HYMNS NOW FOLLOW**

**FORTH IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST WE GO**

*Celebration For Everyone No 183/ Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 263/ Laudate No 853*

## *Supplement sheet* *August Holy Hour*

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**A Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

**12:4-14, 27-30**

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

All these are inspired by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many...

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

**The Word of the Lord**