

We: the Body of Christ

John 15:1-2, 4-6

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

“Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.”



1 Corinthians 12:12-20

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 in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be?

As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

Ephesians 4:15-16

But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.

Romans 12:5-8

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Galatians 3:25-29

As many of you as were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.



Did you know?
Do you believe?

- A new aspect to the grace and dignity coming from Baptism is: the lay faithful participate, for their part, in the threefold mission of Christ as Priest, Prophet and King.

The Vocation and Mission of the Lay Faithful, 14.

[Priest: prays and intercedes for others, offers sacrifice
Prophet: speaks God's Word to people
King: cares for others in a pastoral way]

- The Second Vatican Council speaks of the ministries and gifts of the Holy Spirit which are given for the building up of the Body of Christ and for its mission of salvation in the world. Indeed, the Church is directed and guided by the Holy Spirit, who lavishes different gifts on all the baptised, calling them to be, each in an individual way, active and co-responsible.

The Vocation and Mission of the Lay Faithful, 21.

- Communion and mission are profoundly connected with each other ... In the context of Church Mission, then, the Lord entrusts a great part of the responsibility to the lay faithful, in communion with all the other members of the People of God. The entire mission of the Church is concentrated and revealed in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Vocation and Mission of the Lay Faithful, 32-3.

- Priests are exhorted to grow in awareness of the deep communion uniting them to the People of God in order to "awaken and deepen co-responsibility in the one common mission of salvation, with a prompt and heartfelt esteem for all the charisms and tasks which the Spirit gives believers for the building up of the Church."

Instruction on Certain Questions regarding the Collaboration of the Non-Ordained Faithful in the Sacred Ministry of Priest, 1.