

SECTION TWO THE PROFESSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH THE CREED CHAPTER THREE: I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT ARTICLE 9 “I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH” (CONT. 26)

PARAGRAPH 4. Christ’s Faithful--Hierarchy, Laity, Consecrated Life (Cont. 8)

III. THE CONSECRATED LIFE (CONT. 3)

Consecration and mission: proclaiming the King who is coming

Para 931- The members of the institutes are obliged to engage in missionary work in a special way in accordance with the “character of the institute.” These have the privilege to manifest the Holy Spirit in their lives personally and collectively as they draw more “intimately to God’s service and to the good of the Church. These have dedicated themselves to him through Baptism setting themselves apart professing the evangelical counsels to live out their consecration. (PM) (*CIC* can. 783; *cf. RM* 69)

Para 932- The mystery of redemption is experienced through the Church “which is like a sacrament--the sign and instrument-- of God’s own life.” This mystery is vividly seen as a special sign which clearly draws those on the “narrower” path encouraging their brethren by their example, to exhibit the spirit of the Beatitudes, following Christ in his example of self-emptying himself vividly showing forth Christ’s heart. (PM) (*LG* 31 S 2)

Para 933- The origin and sum of the life of those consecrated testify in public as in the religious state, or less public, or even in secret, Christ’s coming. The witness of those lives of the new and eternal life available through the redemptive work of Christ shows forth the future resurrection and the glory of the heavenly kingdom. (PM) (*LG* 44 S 3)

28. IN BRIEF (PM)

Para 934- The Christian faithful are found in the clerical and the laity dimensions of service in the Church. Both have their distinctions and privileges of service. Sacred ministers are also described as clerics of the law. Whereas the laity may express similar devotion to God and the Church in keeping the three counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience in pursuing the saving mission of the Church. (*cf. CIC*, can. 207 S 1,2)

Para 935- The Lord Jesus gave his apostles and their successors power to act in his person. This is a unique quality given to the clerical members of the Church.

Para 936- The keys of the kingdom were given specifically to Peter by Jesus Christ himself. Therefore, Christ appointed him to be the Shepherd of the Shepherds, Bishop of Bishops of the Church granting him power to pass this position on to the generations appointed by the College of the Bishops to follow in suit. This is a sacred office representing Christ himself on earth as Pastor of the universal Church on earth. (*CIC*, can. 331)

Para 937- The Pope is the supreme overseer of the Church having been granted by Christ complete, unilateral and dynamic oversight of all those within the Catholic Church. (*CD* 2)

Para 938- The visible source of unity in the Catholic Church is the succession of the Bishops founded by the Holy Spirit for the practical outworking of Christ within the Church and the world. (*LG* 23)

Para 939- Under the Pope are the Bishops who have the privilege and responsibility to care for the flock having been granted specifically the teaching of faith in an authentic fashion, celebrating worship of divine nature and above all imparting the Holy Eucharist bringing faith and guidance to the pastors under their care.

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PARAGRAPH 4. Christ’s Faithful--Hierarchy, Laity, Consecrated Life (Cont. 9)

28. IN BRIEF (PM) (CONT.)

Para 940- The primary call of the laity is service in the Church and in the world where express a vigorous spirit of devotion to God in both realms of his kingdom. They handle secular affairs and are truly sent to reach all people for Christ. (AA 2 S 2)

Para 941- Holiness is ever sought after in the lay world sharing in the priesthood united with Christ expressing the fruit of Baptism and Confirmation at every level of life at home, work, the world and in the Church.

Para 942- The laity have a prophetic mission to share the truth of God’s presence in their world and in the world of those with whom they devote themselves on a daily basis. (GS 43 S 4)

Para 943- The kingly mission of the laity is centered in Christ bringing forth his holiness within them turning to him and away from sin they lead lives set apart unto Christ while denying themselves they undermine the power of darkness with the life of God’s Holy Spirit. (cf. LG 36)

Para 944- The evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience characterize the basis of the lives of the laity rooted and grounded in God’s love publicly proclaiming his peace, mercy and justice in this world and in his Church.

Para 945- By consecrating oneself more closely to God, having been baptized, confirmed and commissioned through God’s word to give fully to the mission of the Church and Christ’s call having been dedicated more fully through the love of God experienced through one’s life in spirit and deed for Christ’s sake, the good of the entire Church and truly the whole people of the earth are greatly benefited

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PARAGRAPH 5. The Communion of Saints

Para 946- The Church is “the communion of saints.” It consists of all the saints assembled together. (PM) (Nicetas, *Expl. symb.* 10: PL 52:871B)

Para 947- All the goods of the Church, body of Christ and Christ the Head of the body belong to all. “Therefore, the riches of Christ are communicated to all the members, through the Sacraments. (St. Thomas Aquinas, *Symb.*, 10)

Para 948- The “communion of saints” has jointly connected with it the Holy communion of things and persons that are set apart for God’s holy purpose. (PM)

I. COMMUNION IN SPIRITUAL GOODS

Para 949- In *Acts* 2:42 we find a definitive description of the early Church life: They devoted themselves to the apostles “teaching and fellowship, the breaking of the bread and the prayers.” These five things follow: 1. *Communion in the faith*: This faith is a treasure of life from the Apostles and shared with all. (PM for all five)