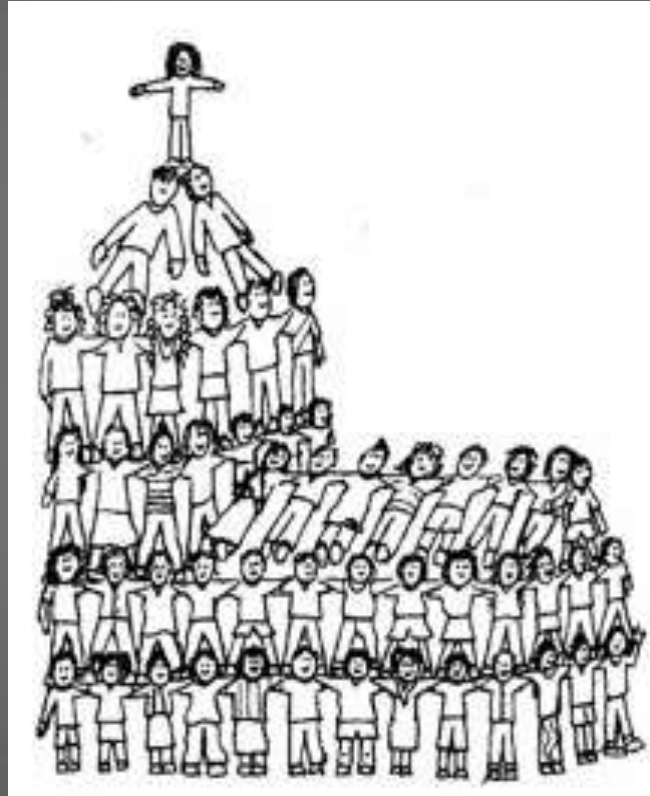
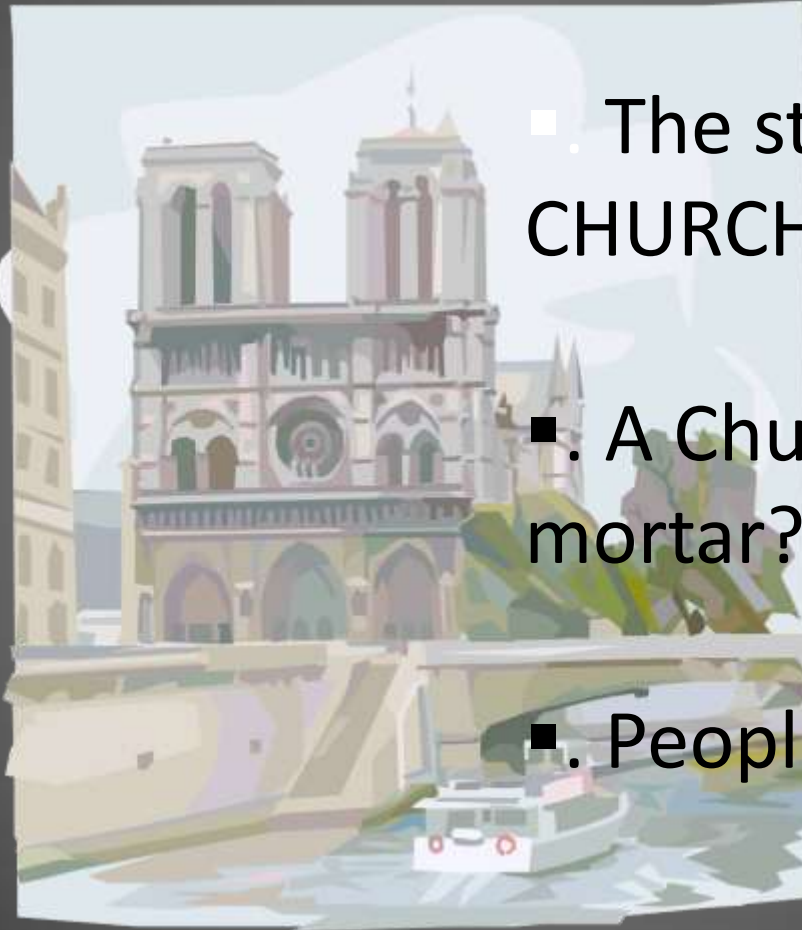


Elements of Ecclesiology



Theology of the Laity

What is Ecclesiology?



- The study of the **CHURCH**

- A Church of brick and mortar?

- People as Church

An Older Concept

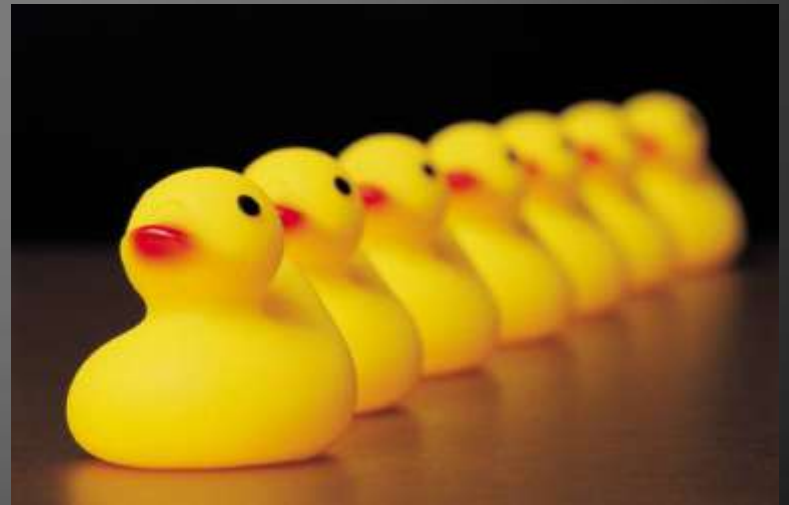


Pope

Cardinals . Bishops
Priests . Religious

The Laity

- The idea of “authority”
- Christ and the Apostles
- Legal/Structural Dimensions



Newer Concept

- The role of the Holy Spirit
- The idea of “Charisms”
- The Word of God – How is it connected to the Sacramental System?
- Human Values – How are we apostles?



Ecclesiam Suam

“All of us here, Council Fathers, are in search of the Truth ... your path is ours; your thoughts are never strangers to our own. We are with you in your vocation as seekers; joined with you in your fatigue, admirers of you in your success, and, if necessary, sympathizers in your discouragements and failures.”

Paul VI



Council Documents

- Lumen Gentium (*on the Church*)
- Dei Verbum (*on Divine Revelation*)
- Sacrosanctum Concilium (*on the Liturgy*)
- Gaudium et Spes (*on the Church in the modern world*)



EKLESIA



An assembly

To be in relation with

To be in relation to God

To be in relation with each other

Witness and Service

We cannot just be an assembly without witnessing to something (one) and having that witness pouring out into service ... apostolate.



The Nature and Mission of the Church



The role of the laity

How is this done?

- The Church not only administers the sacraments, but its members have the duty to communicate Christ to the world.



- This is the communion of the Church ... the vertical and horizontal elements. Church becomes both sign and instrument of God's presence.





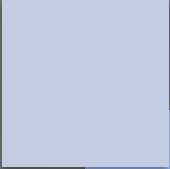
Communion and mission are characteristic of the *inner life of God*.

Baptism

- The new identity of the Church leads to the recognition of the laity of a special area of competence ... the secular reality, and a “power” based on the common belonging of all to the People of God through Baptism



- 
- Grafted to Christ

- 
- Given power by the Holy Spirit

- 
- Laity receive identity and mission through Baptism

Priestly



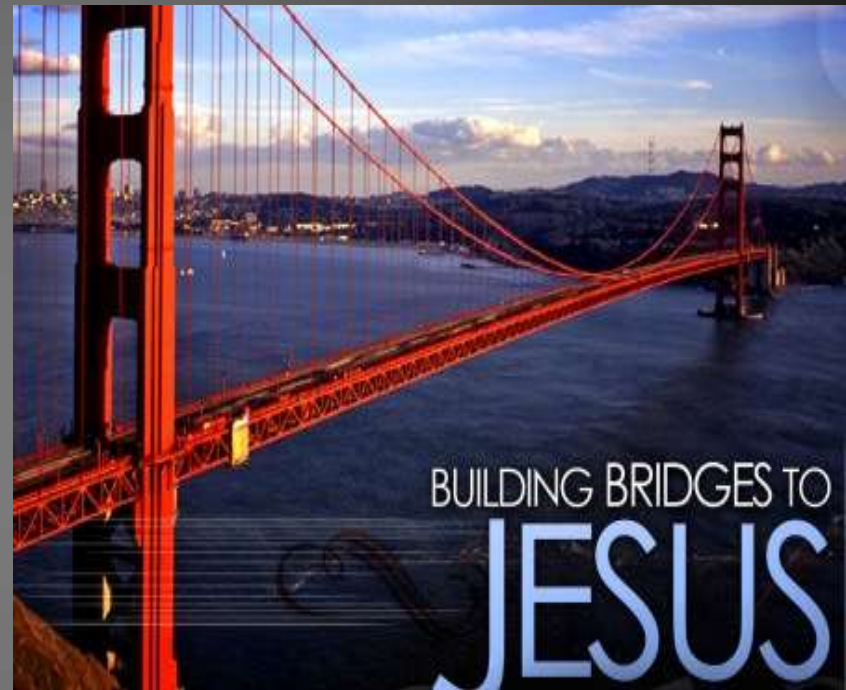
Royal



Prophetic

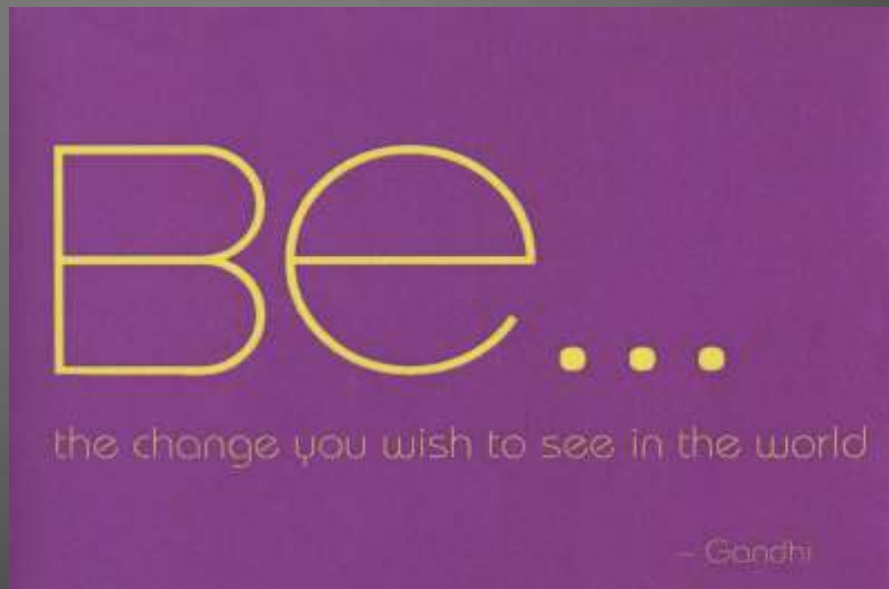
Being Bridges

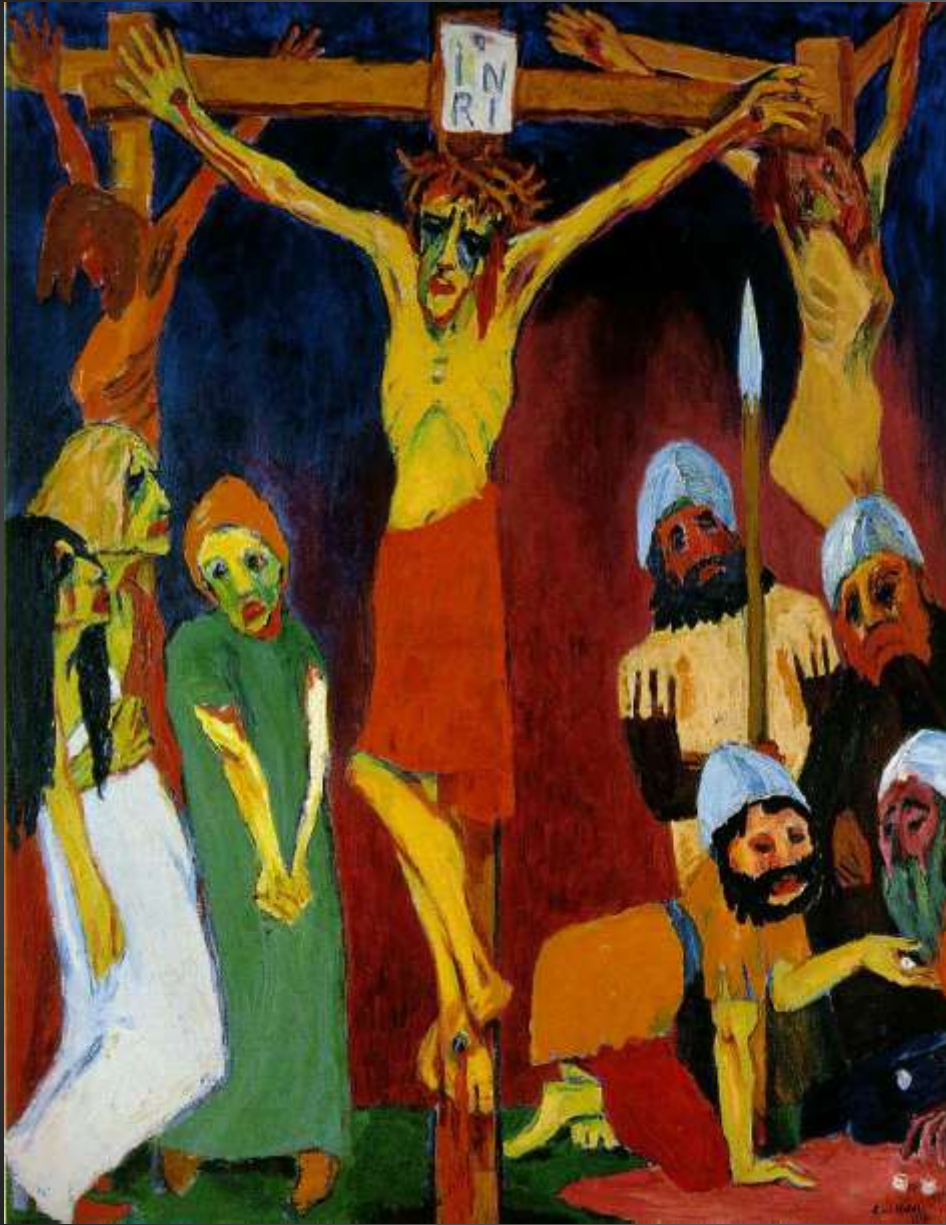
- Living one's human activities in openness to the Lordship of Christ
- To be a person of our time – active and responsible; open to the riches and experience that the world can give
- Grounded in the proclamation of Christian newness



SFO View of the World

- It is in the world and through the things of the world that the lay faithful respond to the call of God and are witnesses of His presence ... incarnational people.





- The lesson of the Council is that the world is not a place, a space nor a means of sanctification, but the means of living the dignity of the Children of God in the midst of the most hidden miseries of the humanity that Christ has taken to Himself.

Competency of the Laity

- Lay people are competent in the questions of ordinary life (marriage, family, human culture, political life, economics, etc.) It is through them that the Church is in a special way present there.





- The particularity of lay people is made clear in the original and fruitful way not only at the level of the apostolate, but at that of spirituality ... one no longer borrowed from the Religious.

Characteristics of Lay Spirituality

- Service and apostolic co-responsibility which takes human history seriously.
- It is Christ-like and flows from priestly, prophetic and kingly ministry of Christ
- It is charismatic and founded in the inner freedom of the Spirit which continually offers new life.



Characteristics cont'd



- It is evangelic in the spirit of the beatitudes – gospel to life/life to the gospel
- It is wisdom because it belongs to the ecclesial community and the human community and brings together the demands of divine revelation and human reason