

Lumen Gentium
The Mystery of Christ and the Church
4 Questions, 8 Answers

WHO IS THE CHURCH?

Her Identity and nature

LG Chapter 1

Already in the mind and heart of the Blessed Trinity as a mystery,
-The Church is the reason:
The Father created the world and sent forth the Son;
The Father and the Son sent forth the Holy Spirit, first upon Mary, then upon the Apostles at Pentecost; and the Son handed himself over to suffering and death

LG Chapter 2

She exists visibly on earth as the People of God, with all the characteristics of a people:
her head,
structures,
actions and laws
all serve her unique mission:
to announce the Gospel throughout the whole world, to the whole of creation

LG #4

"Thus, the Church has been seen as 'a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit'"
(St Cyprian, 4th C. AD).

HOW IS THE CHURCH?

Her structure

LG Chapter 3

In Christ, her structure is two-fold:
- For the building up of his Body some are chosen by the Father to serve as ministerial priest, prophet, king;
-Configured to the Head of the Church by the grace of Ordination,
-these receive from him those sacred powers (*hier arche*, Greek) which are necessary for all; in order to be able to *"make holy things for the holy"*

LG Chapter 4

-All who are members of Christ by the grace of Baptism are called to mission by the grace of Confirmation and grow into the Body of Christ by the grace of Eucharist and Reconciliation
-They are called to serve Christ as priest, prophet, king in the ordinary conditions of secular life

LG #32

"What I am for you terrifies me; What I am with you consoles me. For you, I am a bishop; with you, I am a Christian. The former is a duty, the latter a grace. The former is a danger; the latter, salvation"
(St Augustine, 5th C. AD).

WHY IS THE CHURCH?

Her mission and purpose

LG Chapter 5

-All who are in Christ
-share in his holiness and are called to live and manifest his holiness in their daily life, in obedience to their own God-given mission:
As Bishops and other ministers; or Lay People in the world, in every state of life: old, young, single, married, widows, widowers, handicapped, healthy, sick, dying...

LG Chapter 6

-Some are called to witness to Christ's holiness under evangelical vows in forms of the consecrated life:
-Religious Sisters and Brothers
-Nuns and Monks
-Men and Women Hermits
-Members of Secular Institutes

LG #41

"The classes and duties of life are many, but the holiness is one: that sanctity which is cultivated by all who are -moved by the Spirit of God, -obey the voice of the Father and -worship God the Father in spirit and in truth."

WHERE IS THE CHURCH?

Her life

LG Chapter 7

-All her members whilst on earth are on pilgrimage journeying in Christ our Head, under the action of the Holy Spirit towards the fulness of the Kingdom in our Father's House, in union with Christ's members in purgatory or in Heaven in the Communion of Saints

LG Chapter 8

-One unique person, a woman who, as the perfect embodiment of the mystery of the Church, goes ahead of her on her pilgrim journey: Mary.
-Eternally committed to the Person and Work of her Son,
-The First Member, The Perfect Model and Virgin-Mother of the Church

Galatians 4:4-7

"When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, ... God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'"
So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God."