



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

LIVING
OUR
Relationship
WITH
JESUS CHRIST



"The seed which is the word of God, watered by divine dew, sprouts from the good ground and draws from thence its moisture, which it transforms and assimilates into itself, and finally bears much fruit."

(Ad Gentes, 22)

08/2013

Vatican II | *What Difference Does it Make?*

AD GENTES

DOCUMENT: *Decree on the Mission Activity of the Church*

In a spirit of mission and obedience to God, the first Apostles, following in the footsteps of Christ, began to proclaim the Kingdom of God! Two thousand years later, we have the privilege to continue this journey "so that the word of God may run and be glorified" (2 Thess.3:12) and the kingdom of God be established throughout the world.

The Decree on the Mission Activity of the Church describes how we are called through Baptism, given the gifts of the Spirit in Confirmation and are nourished through Eucharist to carry on the mission of the church Ad Gentes, meaning to all people. The Holy Spirit at Pentecost publicly displayed how the Gospel could be shared to people of all nations, speaking in different languages yet understood by all.

Before he was taken up to heaven, the Lord commanded, "Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matt 28:19). We are inspired to be an evangelizing people.

While everyone in the Church is called to an evangelizing mission, "Missions" have been set up over the course of time in particular areas of the world

to plant the Church among peoples or groups who do not yet believe in Christ. Priests and catechists are trained, formed in faith and minister together in the missions. The Word of God is the seed which is planted and deeply rooted through preaching, teaching and example of the missionaries in order that these people or groups may learn to live together as a Christian community and over time, in the spirit of the Gospel, witness to Christ and the fullness of salvation.

In the Church exists for all missions and for the whole of missionary activity an office called the "Propagation of the Faith" promoting the missionary work including a missionary spirituality, missionary vocations, and zeal and prayer for the missions.

The Second Vatican Council invites us to a deep interior renewal, so that we might share in the missionary work of the Church. Knowing that it is God who brings about the Kingdom on earth, the Church goes forth to evangelize among all people. This missionary activity is the work of all people who guided by the Spirit, walk the way of Jesus Christ and bear witness to the Kingdom of God.

Terrie Baldwin

Reflection Questions

1. Who first told you about God? Brought you to church? Taught you about Jesus Christ?
2. Who or what has inspired you to build up God's Kingdom?
3. How have you carried out the mission of the Church as an evangelizer?
4. Consider yourself during the last week, what have you done to bear witness to Christ in the world? What more might you do?

Read more...www.dioceseofcleveland.org/yearoffaith

Join the Conversation: dioceseofcleveland @DIOCESEofCLE