

An aerial photograph of a vineyard on a hillside. The rows of grapevines are lush green and follow the contours of the slope. The ground between the rows is covered in brown mulch or dry leaves. In the background, a dense forest of taller trees is visible under a clear blue sky.

"You go
into the
vineyard
too."

MATTHEW 20:7B

DISCIPLESHIP

What does it mean to be a DISCIPLE?

STUDY & IMITATE JESUS

- Close circle of like minded friends (Christian friendship)
- Set apart time to pray
- Knowledge of the Scriptures
- Talked about God to friends & strangers
- Modeled the life he wanted others to live

STUDY & IMITATE JESUS

- Spoke with bold honesty and truth
- Devoid of worldly attachments
- Faithfully participated in the liturgical Jewish life
- LOVED others for *their* sake and
- Demonstrated that love through sacrifice

THE MISSION OF THE LAITY

CHRISTIFIDELES LAICI – The Vocation and Mission of the Laity in the Church and the World, 1987

CALL TO HOLINESS

- The call to holiness is rooted in Baptism and proposed anew in the other Sacraments, principally in the Eucharist
- Since Christians are re-clothed in Christ Jesus and refreshed by his Spirit, they are "holy"
- They therefore have the ability to manifest this holiness and the responsibility to bear witness to it in all that they do
- The apostle Paul never tires of admonishing all Christians to live "as is fitting among saints" (Eph 5:3)

CALL TO HOLINESS

- Life according to the Spirit, whose fruit is holiness (cf. Rom 6:22; Gal 5:22) stirs up every baptized person and requires each to FOLLOW and IMITATE Jesus Christ
- Embracing the Beatitudes, Listening and Meditating on the Word of God
- In CONSCIOUS and ACTIVE participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church
- Personal PRAYER...
- In the practice of the commandment of LOVE in all circumstances of life and service to the brethren, especially the least, the poor and the suffering.

JESUS TAUGHT US

- To love one another as we love ourselves
- But if we are going to IMITATE Christ
- We should love as He loves
- We genuinely desire GOOD for others, for their own sake
- We have a true *hunger for souls*

MASS IS THE HEART OF DISCIPLESHIP

BEYOND SERVING AT MASS

A SHARE IN THE PRIESTLY MISSION

- The participation of the lay faithful in the threefold mission of Christ as Priest, Prophet and King finds its source in the anointing of Baptism
- its further development in Confirmation and
- its realization and dynamic sustenance in the Holy Eucharist.

A SHARE IN THE PRIESTLY MISSION

- The lay faithful are sharers in the priestly mission, for which Jesus offered himself on the cross and continues to be offered in the celebration of the Eucharist for the glory of God and the salvation of humanity.
- Incorporated in Jesus Christ, the baptized are united to him and to his sacrifice in the offering they make of themselves and their daily activities (cf. Rom 12:1, 2)

SACRIFICE OF THE LAITY

- For their work, prayers and apostolic endeavors,
- Their ordinary married and family life,
- Their daily labor,
- Their mental and physical relaxation, if carried out in the Spirit,
- Even the hardships of life if patiently borne
- All of these become SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (cf. 1 Pt 2:5)

SACRIFICES OF THE LAITY

- During the celebration of the Eucharist these sacrifices are most lovingly offered to the Father along with the Lord's body.
- Thus as worshipers whose every deed is holy, the lay faithful consecrate the world itself to God”

DISCIPLESHIP IN PRACTICE

- SUE JENSEN
- TRACY SEUL

ROBERT BARRON VIDEO

ITE MISSA EST — GO!

AS THE LAITY

- It is our job to extend the reach of the Church into the world
- We have been called
- We have been commissioned
- We have been Christified
- We have been sent

WE ARE THE LABORERS IN THE VINEYARD

"....and he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They said to him, 'No one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard, too.'"