

Catholic Conversations

Introduction — Walls and Bridges

Meeting agenda

- Introductions and snacks
- Video and conversation
- About group communication

- 1) Is your own experience of life defined more by walls or bridges? Why do you think so?
- 2) Have you ever been successful in building a bridge with others? What was accomplished by your effort? How satisfying was the work?
- 3) People often build a wall out of fear. What word would you choose to explain why people would build a bridge? Explain your answer.
- 4) This video reflects the teaching of the 1971 World Synod of Catholic Bishops who stated: "Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel." Does it surprise you that working to change the world is seen as an essential aspect of following Jesus? Why or why not?



Click [HERE](#) to play the video

**To bring good news to the poor...
to proclaim release to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free, to
proclaim a year of the Lord's
favor.**

Who we are

At all times and in every nation, anyone who fears God and does what is right has been acceptable to him. He has, however, willed to make women and men holy and to save them, not as individuals without any bond between them, but rather to make them into a people who might acknowledge him and serve him in holiness. ...

That messianic people has as its head Christ, "who was delivered up for our sins and rose again for our justification" (Rom 4:25. ... This people possesses the dignity and freedom of the daughters and sons of God, in whose hearts the holy Spirit dwells as in a temple. Its law is the new commandment to love as Christ loved us (see Jn 13:34). Its destiny is the kingdom of God which has been begun by God himself on earth and which must be further extended until it is brought to perfection in him at the end of time. ...

This Messianic people ... is a most certain seed of unity, hope, and salvation for the whole human race. Established by Christ as a communion of life, love, and truth, it is taken up by him also as the instrument for salvation for all; as the light of the world and the salt of the earth (see Mt 5:13-16) it is sent forth into the whole world.

Excerpted from the Vatican II document, *Lumen Gentium, The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, chapter 2, paragraph 9.

What we do

The apostolate of the laity is a sharing in the church's saving mission. Through Baptism and Confirmation all are appointed to this apostolate by the Lord himself. ...

The laity, dedicated as they are to Christ and anointed by the Holy Spirit, are marvelously called and prepared so that ever richer fruits of the Spirit may be produced in them. For all their works, if accomplished in the Spirit, become spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ: their prayers and apostolic undertakings, family and married life, daily work, relaxation of mind and body, even hardships of life if patiently borne (see Pet 2:5). In the celebration of the Eucharist, these are offered to the Father in all piety along with the body of the Lord. And so, worshipping everywhere by their holy actions, the laity consecrate the world itself to God.

Excerpted from the Vatican II document, *Lumen Gentium, The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, chapter 4, paragraph 33.