



教宗接見聖座在俗信友委員會成員：平信徒使徒工作也要走出去



聖座在俗信友委員會於 6 月 16 日至 18 日在羅馬召開第 28 屆，也是最後一屆全體大會，回顧歷史，展望未來。教宗方濟各 6 月 17 日在梵蒂岡克萊孟大廳接見了全體與會人士，鼓勵他們遵循梵二大公會議的精神，推動平信徒更加積極地投入福傳使命。

聖座在俗信友委員會是在梵二大公會議，尤其是真福保祿六世的意願下成立的，至今已走過 50 多年的歷程。教宗感謝這個部門在平信徒領域作出了碩果累累的貢獻，其中包括：聖若望保祿二世發起的世青節、新興在俗團體的誕生，以及婦女在教會中的角色日益重要。現在，這個委員會在聖座改革的推動下不久後將與聖座家庭委員會和聖座生命科學院合併，組成新部會。

教宗指出：“你們從大公會議接受的任務正是‘推動’在俗信友越來越多並更好地參與教會的福傳使命。平信徒的使徒工作不是受聖統委派，而是因為‘每位信友藉著聖洗和堅振參與教會的救恩使命，都被吾主親身委派作傳教工作’（教會憲章 33）。每位在俗信友因著聖洗聖事成為吾主的使徒，做地上的鹽、世界的光、從內部改變現實的酵母。”

“我們加入教會是藉著聖洗，而不是司鐸或主教聖秩。我們大家都是從同一道門進入教會的！現在是滿懷希望重新展望未來的時候了，現實帶給我們新的挑戰，聖座的改革計劃由此而誕生，尤其是你們的部會與聖座家庭委員會和生命科學院的合併。”

教宗鼓勵他們積極接納這項改革成果，把新部會視為平信徒聖召與使命繼續“航行”的舵手，以《基督信友平信徒》、《福音的喜樂》和《愛的喜樂》這三道勸諭為指南，“把家庭和維護生命作為首要之務”。

在慶祝慈悲禧年之際，教會應邀“持續地走出去”，成為“福傳的團體”，“懂得勇敢創新，與人相遇，去尋找遙遠陌生的人，來到街頭邀請遭排斥的人”。教宗也為平信徒和家庭工作提出兩個參照點：教會要走出去，平信徒使徒工作也要走出去。

教宗說：“你們應舉目向上，往‘外’看，關注我們世界上的許多‘遙遠的人’、許多困難和需要慈悲的家庭、許多尚無人涉足的使徒領域；要關注眾多良善慷慨的平信徒，倘若教會牧人和機構熱情鼓勵他們參與，使他們得到重視和陪伴，他們必心甘情願地為福音效勞，奉獻精力、時間及能力。”

教宗最後表示：“我們需要訓練有素、充滿純淨信仰心火的平信徒。”他們已與耶穌基督相遇，生命已被祂的慈愛所觸動。

Pope to last Plenary of Council for Laity

Source: Vatican Radio http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/06/17/pope_to_last_plenary_of_council_for_laity_/1238027

Pope Francis wants to see the laity more and more involved in the Church's mission to evangelize in light of the teachings of the Second Vatican Council. The Pope made that affirmation in an address Friday to participants of the last Plenary Assembly of the Pontifical Council for the Laity ahead of the reform process that will bundle the department together with the Council for the Family and the Academy for Life.

As one phase comes to a close, a new horizon opens for the mission of the laity in the Church, Francis told participants at Friday's audience. ... The Council was set up after the Second Vatican Council with the blessings of Pope Paul VI. The Pope recalled the many fruits born over the last 50 years in the context of the laity: World Youth Day, "providential gesture of St. John Paul II", the appearance of new lay associations and the growing role of women in the Church.

"We can say, therefore, that the mandate you have received from the Council was precisely to 'push' the lay faithful to get more and more involved and, better at it, in the evangelizing mission of the Church, not as 'delegates' of the hierarchy, but because [the lay] apostolate [means] 'participation in the salvific mission of the Church, to which all are disciples of the Lord through Baptism and Confirmation'. It is Baptism that makes every lay faithful a missionary disciple of the Lord, salt of the earth, light of the world, yeast that transforms reality from within.

In light of the progress made thus far, the Pope then said "it is time to look again to the future with hope." The reality, he noted, brings new challenges and the idea to amalgamate the dicastery for the Laity with the Pontifical Council for the Family and with the Academy for Life came about in response to the need to reform the Holy See's Curial offices.

"I invite you to welcome this reform, which will see you involved, as a sign of appreciation and esteem for the work you do, and as a sign of renewed confidence in the vocation and mission of the laity in the Church today," the Pope said. As it navigates new waters, the new department, he noted, will have as its 'helm' the 1988 Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici, Evangelii Gaudium* and *Amoris Laetitia*, all papal documents which have focused on the family and the defense of life.

In the context of the Jubilee of Mercy, he continued, the Church is called to be "permanently going out" and to be an "evangelizing community" which "knows how to take the initiative without fear, to meet, seek out those who are distant and to come out to the crossroads to welcome the excluded."

The Church and the laity, Pope Francis said, need to be outward-looking – seeking out "the many families in trouble and in need of mercy, the many fields of apostolate still unexplored, the many good-hearted and generous lay people who would willingly put at the service of the Gospel their energy, their time, their skills if they were [encouraged to get] involved, and valued and accompanied with affection and dedication on the part of pastors and church institutions."

We need lay people who look to the future and are willing to get their hands dirty. "We need well-trained lay people animated by a sincere and limpid faith," the Pope said. Those whose "life has been touched from the personal and merciful love of Jesus Christ". "We need lay people who take risks, who dirty their hands, who are not afraid to make mistakes," he continued. "We need lay people with vision of the future, not [preoccupied] with the little things of life. And I said to the young people: we need lay people with the flavor of life's experiences, who are animated by dreams."

"Today," the Pope concluded, "is the time when young people need the dreams of the elderly" so that they can have "the ability to dream," and so that they can give us "the power of the new apostolic visions".