

The Mission of the Church as *Communio*

To say that *Lumen Gentium* describes the mission of the Church as (the creation of) *communio*, is not to say that other ways of describing the mission of the Church are untrue or obsolete. No one way to speak about the mission of the Church can convey the whole mystery.

What description of the Church's mission is most familiar or most satisfying to you? Do you see this description as consistent with the notion that the Church exists to restore us to *communio* with God and with one another?

Are there any elements of Catholic life (in the Sacramental system, in Church law or in Catholic practice) that "make sense" in a new way in light of this description of the Church's mission? (e.g., the Sunday Mass obligation)

Are there any elements of Sacred Scripture that are highly consistent with this vision of the Church's mission? (e.g. in the story of the Creation and Fall of man in the Book of Genesis)

Do you think that this explanation of the Church's mission would "make sense" and be convincing to people of your acquaintance who are not practicing Christians today?

What could our parish do better to express our commitment to our mission (as part of the Universal Church) to establish *communio*.

The Church as Messianic

Can you restate in your own words what it means to say that the Church has a "messianic" character in relation to "the nations"?

Has anything (or anyone) in the Church given you new hope at a moment that you were burdened by all the chaos and sorrow that sin has brought into human existence?

Do you know anyone who had such an experience (of something or someone in the Church) when that person was not himself or herself a part of the Church?

What could you do to participate more effectively in the Church's "messianic identity," i.e., to be a sign of hope and an invitation to others?

What could we do together in our parish life to be such a sign of hope and an invitation in our isthmus neighborhood or in the city?