

Take-Home 8 | Until the End of the Age

What We Receive, We Hand On

The mission entrusted to the whole Church

Keep this sheet for prayer, review, and practice this week.

What We Found

The first community devoted itself to the Apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers, and shared what it had. Timothy received the faith from his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice, and the Scriptures from childhood, before Paul laid hands on him. Fruit comes from remaining in the vine. All the baptized share Christ's mission; bishops and priests hold a distinct sacramental ministry that serves it. Gifts for all, offices for some, one mission centered on Christ. What we received is meant to bear fruit in us and reach someone else. (Acts 2:42-47; 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15; John 15:1-8; CCC 863-864; 1546-1547.)

Voices of the Church

St. John Paul II

Summary: The lay faithful are sharers in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly mission of Christ. They exercise the priestly office by uniting their daily lives to the Eucharist. They exercise the prophetic office by witnessing to the Gospel in word and deed, and the kingly office by ordering the affairs of the world according to God. This is not a lesser Christianity; it is the Christian life of the baptized in the world.

Christifideles Laici, 14

Second Vatican Council

Summary: The laity derive the right and duty to the apostolate from their union with Christ the Head. Incorporated into his Body by Baptism and strengthened by the Spirit in Confirmation, they are assigned to the apostolate by the Lord himself. The apostolate is exercised in faith, hope, and charity, which the Spirit pours into all the members of the Church.

Apostolicam Actuositatem, 3

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Summary: Christ is the source of the Church's whole apostolate, and its fruitfulness depends on the members' living union with him. Charity, drawn above all from the Eucharist, is the soul of the whole apostolate.

CCC 864

Ready Response

If someone says: "If only priests can absolve and consecrate, lay people are just spectators."

You can say: Timothy's faith came from his grandmother and his mother before an Apostle ever laid hands on him, and Paul names them. Every baptized person shares Christ's priestly, prophetic, and kingly mission, in

places no priest will ever go. What not everyone holds is one office inside that mission. The priest exists to feed and send the rest of us.

Live It This Week

Receive. Choose one sustainable practice of prayer, learning, or sacramental preparation that this study showed you need. Start it this week.

Accompany. Invite one person into a next step: a conversation, a Mass, a prayer, or another study. Then listen more than you talk.

Continue. Set the next conversation or meeting before you leave tonight. Faithful accompaniment needs patience, not one perfect explanation.

Scripture Memory

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

Acts 2:42 (RSV2CE)

A Personal Response

Who is the one person I named tonight, and what is the first step I promised to take?

Before Next Session

This was the last session. Keep the eight Take-Homes together and reread one each week. When you are ready for more, the Catholic Armory catalog has two companion studies. Unless Someone Guides Me is on the authority of the Church, and Abide is on the Eucharist and staying in Christ. Bring a friend to whichever you choose.

In the Catechism this week: 863-864; 897-900; 1411; 1461; 1546-1547.