



Session 2

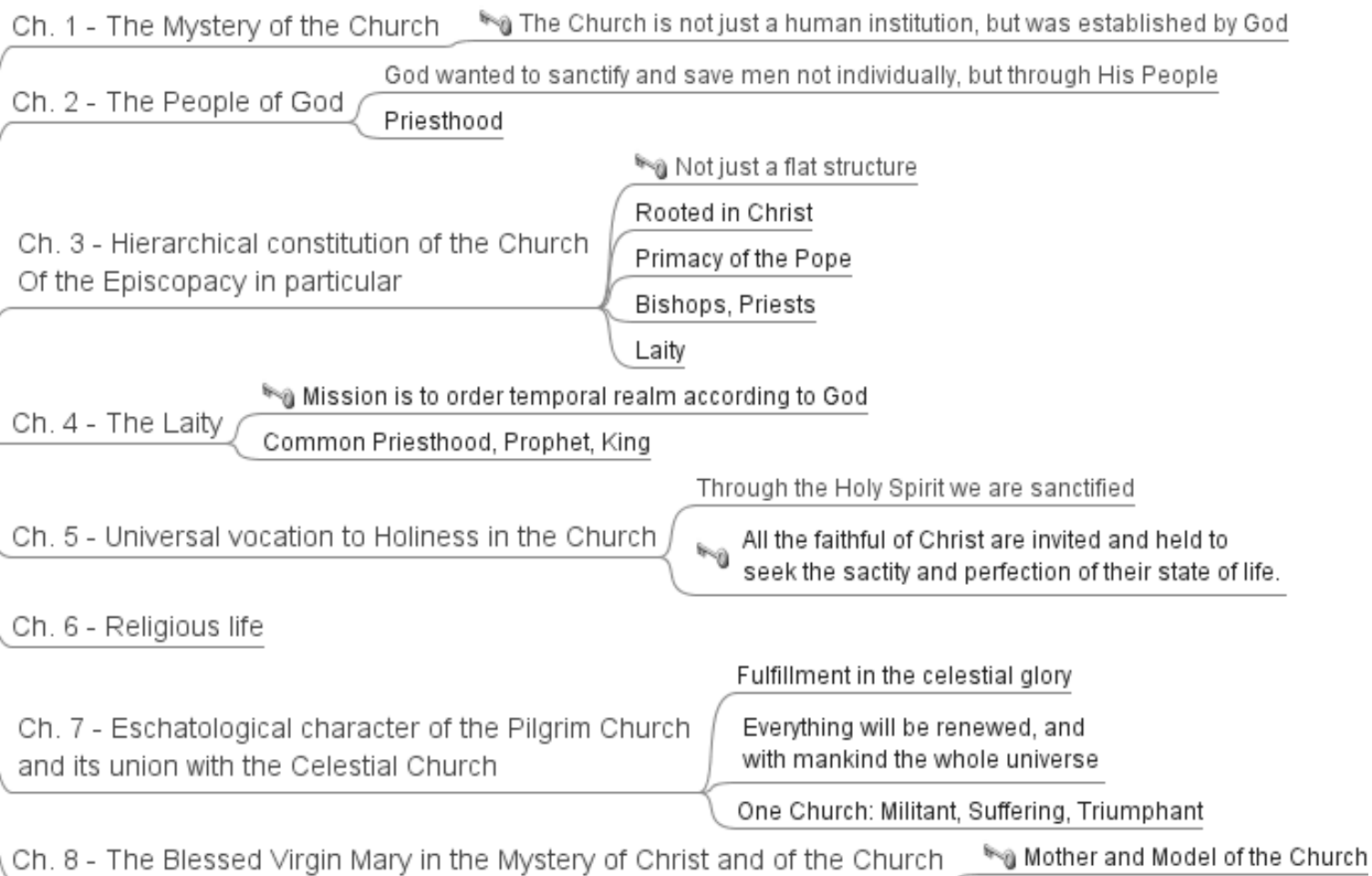
June 8, 2005





Lumen Gentium

Lumen Gentium
Dogmatic Constitution on the Church





Lumen Gentium

Does the Church belong to the people or to the hierarchy?

- “...All the elect, before time began, the Father "foreknew and pre-destined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that he should be the firstborn among many brethren" (Rom 8:29). He planned to assemble in the holy Church all those who would believe in Christ...”

Lumen Gentium, §2

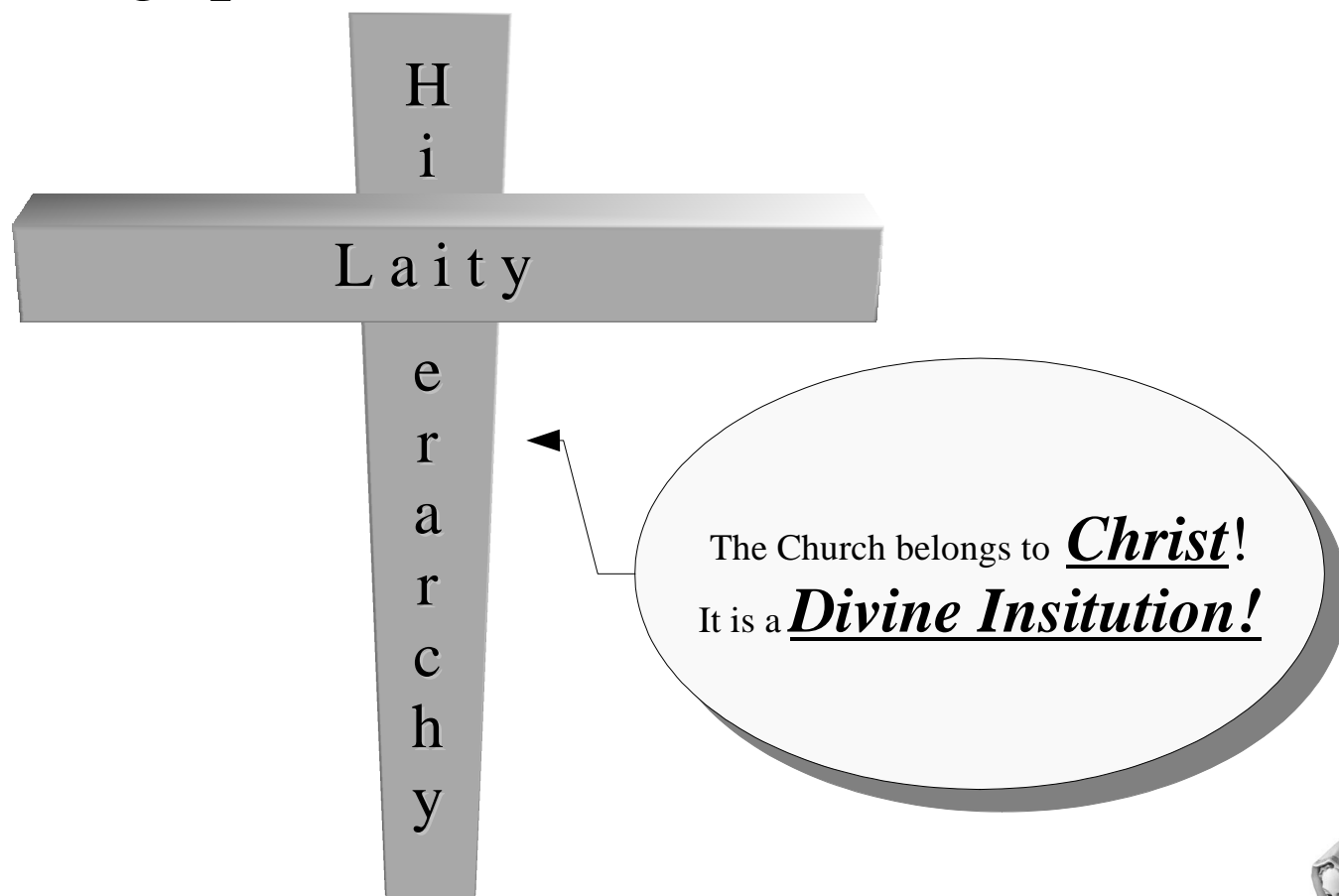




Lumen Gentium

Does the Church belong to the people or to the hierarchy?

- This is the wrong question!!





Lumen Gentium

Does the Church belong to the people or to the hierarchy?

- “...But, the society structured with hierarchical organs and the Mystical Body of Christ, are not to be considered as two realities, nor are the visible assembly and the spiritual community, nor the earthly Church and the Church enriched with heavenly things; rather they form one complex reality which coalesces from a divine and a human element. For this reason, by no weak analogy, it is compared to the mystery of the incarnate Word...”

Lumen Gentium, §8

- The Church is one!





Lumen Gentium

The Church and other Christians

- “...The Church recognizes that in many ways she is linked with those who, being baptized, are honored with the name of Christian, though they do not profess the faith in its entirety or do not preserve unity of communion with the successor of Peter...”

Lumen Gentium, §15

- “... In all of Christ's disciples the Spirit arouses the desire to be peacefully united, in the manner determined by Christ, as one flock under one shepherd, and He prompts them to pursue this end...”

Lumen Gentium, §15





Lumen Gentium

Salvation outside the Church

- “...Basing itself upon Sacred Scripture and Tradition, it teaches that the Church, now sojourning on earth as an exile, is necessary for salvation[...]Hence they could not be saved who, knowing that the Catholic Church was founded as necessary by God through Christ, would refuse either to enter or to remain in it.”

Lumen Gentium, §14

- The Church is for the salvation of the world!





Lumen Gentium

The importance of faithfulness

- “...He is not saved, however, who, though part of the body of the Church, does not persevere in charity. He remains indeed in the bosom of the Church, but, as it were, only in a "bodily" manner and not "in his heart."...”

Lumen Gentium, §14

- We need to be faithful Catholics!





Lumen Gentium

The Church and non-Christians

- “... Those also can attain to salvation who through *no fault of their own* do not know the Gospel of Christ or His Church, yet sincerely seek God and moved by grace strive by their deeds to do His will as it is known to them through the dictates of conscience...”

Lumen Gentium, §16





Lumen Gentium

Priesthood and the Laity

- “...Though they differ from one another in essence and not only in degree, the common priesthood of the faithful and the ministerial or hierarchical priesthood are nonetheless interrelated: each of them in its own special way is a participation in the one priesthood of Christ.”

Lumen Gentium, §10

- “...For the distinction which the Lord made between sacred ministers and the rest of the People of God bears within it a certain union, since pastors and the other faithful are bound to each other by a mutual need...”

Lumen Gentium, §32





Lumen Gentium

The Vocation of the Laity

- “The Church itself was now defined, following the council teaching, as the people of God, a community in which the clergy-laity distinction was much less important”
Evolving Visions of the Priesthood, p. 11
- “[Those in Holy Orders] ...are by reason of their particular vocation especially and professedly ordained to the sacred ministry”
Lumen Gentium, §31
- “...But the laity, by their very vocation, seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God.”
Lumen Gentium, §31

Misinterpretation of the Council





Lumen Gentium

The Laity – Common Priesthood

- “...Now the laity are called in a special way to make the Church present and operative in those places and circumstances where only through them can it become the salt of the earth ...”
Lumen Gentium, §33
- “For all their works, prayers and apostolic endeavors, their ordinary married and family life, their daily occupations, their physical and mental relaxation, if carried out in the Spirit, and even the hardships of life, if patiently borne—all these become “spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (Pet. 2:5)”
Lumen Gentium, §34





Lumen Gentium

The Laity – Prophetic Function

- “ ...Let them not, then, hide this hope in the depths of their hearts, but even in the program of their secular life let them express it by a continual conversion and by wrestling "against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness. ...”
Lumen Gentium, §35
- “The Christian family loudly proclaims both the present virtues of the Kingdom of God and the hope of a blessed life to come. Thus by its example and its witness it accuses the world of sin and enlightens those who seek the truth.”
Lumen Gentium, §35





Lumen Gentium

The Laity – Kingly service

- “ ...Christ has communicated this royal power to His disciples that they might be constituted in royal freedom and that by true penance and a holy life they might conquer the reign of sin in themselves...”

Lumen Gentium, §36

- “Therefore, by their competence in secular training and by their activity, elevated from within by the grace of Christ, let them vigorously contribute their effort, so that created goods may be perfected by human labor, technical skill and civic culture for the benefit of all men according to the design of the Creator and the light of His Word.”

Lumen Gentium, §36





Lumen Gentium

The Laity – Kingly service

- “ ... remembering that in every temporal affair they must be guided by a Christian conscience, since even in secular business there is no human activity which can be withdrawn from God's dominion...”

Lumen Gentium, §36

- “...But that ominous doctrine which attempts to build a society with no regard whatever for religion, and which attacks and destroys the religious liberty of its citizens, is rightly to be rejected.”

Lumen Gentium, §36





Reminders

- Read Lumen Gentium Chapter 4 §30-38, and Chapter 8 §52-69
- Documents can be found at http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/
- Or buy the book:
Volume I: The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents
Vatican Council II. Austin Flannery, O.P. 2004. Costello Publishing Company.
- Next class – We're back to the double-classroom
Babysitting will be available

