

“I am Mission”

Every Mission Sunday (the fourth Sunday in October), the Church invites all of us to take a fresh look at our MISSION. The title of this paper is taken from the Message of Pope Francis on Mission Sunday 2019. Pope Francis was reminding us all that our Mission – as priests, religious and laity – is both personal and important.

This October, Mission Sunday takes on a deeper significance as it will be celebrated during the first session of the Synod on Synodality, with the themes of Communion, Participation and Mission. Our Mission is “to witness to the love of God in the midst of the whole human family... especially to those on the periphery.” (*Vademecum*)

In this year 2023, we are also expected to familiarise ourselves with the documents of Vatican II, in order to prepare well for the Jubilee Year 2025.

I shall share a few of the features and challenges mentioned in the Decree on the Apostolate of Lay people (*Apostolicam Actuositatem - AA*) that was promulgated Nov. 18, 1965. The document was five years in the making. From the lone layperson at the first session (thanks to Pope John XXIII), the final session under Pope Paul VI had laymen, laywomen and religious brothers and sisters too.

Pre-Vatican II, the laity’s work for the Lord was dependent on the bishop. Post-Vatican II, the laity too have a mission by virtue of their Baptism (in addition to the sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist). The laity shares the mission to evangelise and sanctify all people – (especially through the family), mandated by the Lord Himself. (*AA*)

How do we fulfil the Mission in 2023?

1. Be authentically You! It is important that we do what is expected of us in our school, college, workplace, and do it well! This earns the respect of people of other faiths who see us walking the talk e.g. not jumping a queue for a bus, refusing to gossip, completing our work on time, etc.
2. Be peace-makers. Playing politics in the parish Cells/Associations and even the PPC must be controlled by each individual. We are invited to be peace-makers, keeping the overall goals in focus.
3. Pray – for the Universal Church, our Archdiocese, your parish, SCC and cluster.
4. Connect with others in Parish Cells and Associations. Offer a joint programme that helps the parish to understand “Collaboration”.

Questions for reflection:

1. How can I support the mission of Jesus today?
2. How can we reach out to ensure **No one is in want**?