



Newsletter – December 2020

CFSM Singapore
2 Highland Road, #03-12
Singapore 549102

Website: <http://www.cfsm.org.sg>

Contact email: cfsmsg@gmail.com

The kingship of the faithful

Through baptism we receive the divine adoption from Christ and become members of the Church, the body of Christ. Our common vocation is to contribute to the communion and mission of the Church but we do it according to our personal vocation. Lay faithful “are in their own way made sharers in the priestly, prophetic and kingly office of Christ. They carry out their own part in the mission of the whole Christian people with respect to the Church and the world.”¹ The purpose of this letter is to help us understand how they take part in the kingly office of Christ.

First of all, it’s good to remember that the kingly office of Christ refers to his mission to bring the Kingdom of God on earth. This kingdom of God is a matter of “righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14:17). The Church has received the mission to make this kingdom visible through its cooperation with Christ.

As members of the Church, we have received this calling to cooperate with Christ at the building of the kingdom by working for “righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” This work is the work of the Holy Spirit in us and through us and involves a real commitment of all of us, whoever we are, according to our vocation.

There are **three areas** in which the baptised are called to take part in this kingship office of Christ:

1. **In their personal life**, they are called to make the Kingdom come in them by dominating their disordered passions (vainglory, envy, wrath, sloth, greed, gluttony and lust) and living according the virtues (faith, hope, charity, prudence, temperance, courage and justice) in order to be free from sin and to lead a holy life.(cf. Romans 7:15-20)
2. **In the Church**, they are called to serve according to their vocation. The lay faithful will participate in the growth and governance of the Church through

¹VATICAN II, Constitution *Lumen gentium*, 31.

their collaboration and support to their parish and to their movements according to their skills and abilities. (Cf. *Lumen Gentium*, 37)

3. **In the world**, they are called to work at the building of the Kingdom by working for peace and justice, by bearing witness of the presence of the Kingdom of God through their holy life, by showing love to those who feel unwanted, compassion to the sick, mercy to sinners and charity to the poor. (Cf. CCC 786)

Through these areas, it appears that we share in the kingship office of Christ when we become the faithful servant of the Lord. There many ways to serve the Lord. But to really bear witness of the kingship office of Christ, we have to renounce to sin and lead a holy life with the help of God and of his Church. And we need the help of the Church to experience the saving power of the Sacraments. But the Church also needs our active participation. And the lay faithful will help the Church fulfil her mission by volunteering to serve according to their skills and ability. However, the first mission of the lay faithful is to serve in their families and in the world to shape them in the spirit of the Gospel.

Roman 7:15-20:

¹⁵ I do not understand my own behaviour; I do not act as I mean to, but I do things that I hate.¹⁶ While I am acting as I do not want to, I still acknowledge the Law as good,¹⁷ so it is not myself acting, but the sin which lives in me.¹⁸ And really, I know of nothing good living in me -- in my natural self, that is -- for though the will to do what is good is in me, the power to do it is not:¹⁹ the good thing I want to do, I never do; the evil thing which I do not want -- that is what I do.²⁰ But every time I do what I do not want to, then it is not myself acting, but the sin that lives in me.

Vatican II, Constitution *Lumen Gentium*, 37

“The laity has the right, as do all Christians, to receive in abundance from their spiritual shepherds the spiritual goods of the Church, especially the assistance of the word of God and of the sacraments. They should openly reveal to them their needs and desires with that freedom and confidence which is fitting for children of God and brothers in Christ. They are, by reason of the knowledge, competence or outstanding ability which they may enjoy, permitted and sometimes even obliged to express their opinion on those things which concern the good of the Church. When occasions arise, let this be done through the organs erected by the Church for this purpose. Let it always be done in truth, in courage and in prudence, with reverence and charity toward those who by reason of their sacred office represent the person of Christ. [...]

Let the spiritual shepherds recognize and promote the dignity as well as the responsibility of the laity in the Church. Let them willingly employ their prudent advice. Let them confidently assign duties to them in the service of the Church, allowing them freedom and room for action. Further, let them encourage lay people so that they may

undertake tasks on their own initiative. Attentively in Christ, let them consider with fatherly love the projects, suggestions and desires proposed by the laity. However, let the shepherds respectfully acknowledge that just freedom which belongs to everyone in this earthly city.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 786

“The People of God shares in the royal office of Christ. He exercises his kingship by drawing all men to himself through his death and resurrection. Christ, King and Lord of the universe, made himself the servant of all, for he came “not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” For the Christian, “to reign is to serve him,” particularly when serving “the poor and the suffering, in whom the Church recognizes the image of her poor and suffering founder.” The People of God fulfils its royal dignity by a life in keeping with its vocation to serve with Christ.”

Sharing

See

1. Do I live in peace with myself? Had I ever experienced or witnessed the liberating power of Christ? What is my greatest virtue? Can I control my temper? How do I feel when people disagree? How do I feel when I am disobeyed?
2. Do I experience peace in my parish? In the movement? What do I do in my parish? In the movement? How do I serve? Did I try to control everything? Everybody?
3. Do I live in peace at home? At work? How do I serve in my family? In my work place? Do I try to control everything? Everybody?

Judge

1. What does it mean to me to reign over myself? How can we be free from addictions and sin? How can we grow in virtue?
2. How is my parish or the movement managed? Who makes the (pastoral) decisions? How the roles and responsibilities are shared?
3. What were the origins of the last conflicts at home? At work? How did I manage to make peace? Why can't I make peace?

Act

1. What do I need to change in order to reign over myself better? What virtue should I grow? What help should I ask for?
2. What can I do for my parish or the movement to make it grow in the spirit of the gospel?
3. What can I do for my family or the families of my neighbour to bring peace to the homes? Where could I find help?
What can I do to bring peace to my workplace? Where can I find help?

CFSM Spiritual Director Father Dominique and CFSM Executive Committee wishes all CFSM members and their families a Blessed Holy Christmas.

