

Preparation of Laity for Mission

1. The Christian life, in its individual and communal expression, is essentially missionary. *"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole of creation"*(Mk 16:15)
2. Mission is the final goal of all that believers do and all their actions need to be seen in relationship to it. Every act of the believer potentially a missionary act
3. Mission is sharing what God has done for us in Jesus.
God is light (1 Jn 1:5) I am the light of the world (Jn 8:12; 9:5) You are the light of the world (Mt 5:14-16).
4. What God has done in Jesus is draw us to a share in the divine life by sharing in the life of the Son, Jesus. *"become partakers of the divine nature"* (2 Pet 1:4); *"Because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Äbba! Father!"* (Gal 4:6)
5. Mission is not just telling others about what God has done in Jesus; it is living in a way that makes it present to them. *"We can bring the Gospel to others only if it has made a deep impact on our lives"* (Pope Francis)
6. What God has done for us can only embodied in the life of a person. *We cannot define a marriage without pointing to two people relating in a particular way. It does not exist apart from them. We cannot point to the Christian mystery without pointing to a believer who is relating to Jesus.*
7. Mission is the work of Jesus working in and through the believer. The deeper the intimacy with Jesus, the more effective the mission. *"Though it is true that this mission demands great generosity on our part, it would be wrong to see it as a heroic individual undertaking, for it is first and foremost the Lord's work, surpassing anything which we can see and understand. (Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel, 12) " We must remember, however, that we are not the protagonists in mission work, but our joy is in the Lord and his grace", (Pope Francis, Angelus, 7/7/2013)*
8. What makes an action missionary is not the act itself, but what the believer brings to it. *"Our fundamental purpose is not to go out and help the poor. For us, this has only been a means. Our purpose is to maintain the Catholic faith within us, and to allow its diffusion to others through the instrument of charity"* (Frederic Ozanam)
9. Formation for mission should focus on one's relationship to Jesus. The greater one's intimacy with Jesus, the more effective and powerful is one's missionary presence.
10. It is a critical mass of mature believers that makes a community or an institution an instrument of mission.