

Reflection Questions for Chapter 4—Lumen Gentium

Read Chapter 4 The Church (Lumen Gentium) in Reclaiming Vatican II by Fr. Blake Britton. Begin with Pope John XXIII's prayer for the Vatican Council: "Almighty God! In Thee we place all our confidence, not trusting in our own strength. Look down benignly upon these members of Thy Church. May the light of Thy supernal grace aid us in taking decisions and in making laws. Graciously hear the prayers which we pour forth to Thee in unanimity of faith, of voice, and of mind." Your reflections will be shared **October 18th** in your small group. Your group may not get to all the questions. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to those questions most important for your group.

Fr. Blake writes that Lumen Gentium is considered "its crowning jewel." *After reading about Lumen Gentium, what are three important take-aways for you personally? Share at least one in your small group.*

Ch. 4:94-98 The "Church" is defined as the "sacrament of salvation." (LG 48)
How do you describe the Church? Did your viewpoint change after reading this section?

Ch. 4:98-102 In this section we read that "the desire for ecumenism is not meant to come at the cost of the Catholic Church's unique character." "True ecumenism is not the conglomeration of many creeds, but the unity of all peoples under a single creed." *How do you see the Church accomplishing this? What can you do to help foster a "spirit of peace and mutual fraternity" in your own circle?*

Ch. 4:103-104 This section talks about "The People of God and the Universal Call to Holiness." *What is the reason that all members of the Church are called to holiness? Who are the laity?*

Ch. 4:104-108 As we read about the common priesthood of the faithful, St. Peter writes that we are God's people and ties us together as "a chosen race" and a "royal priesthood." Fr. Blake describes the friendship between a lay

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person and a priest as "mirrors to each other." *How does he describe a holy layperson's role in the life of the Church?*

Ch. 4:108-112 Our baptism is a call to sainthood. Fr. Blake writes that, "Whatever situation I find myself in, that is where Jesus wants me to become a saint." Holiness can be found right in front of us. *Where is God calling you? In what ways could you increase your participation in the Church?*

Ch. 4:112-125 Our Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother. Her life is naturally bound to the life of our Church. She continues to guide us to see the glory of her Son. Jesus made it clear that a relationship with Mary was not only essential for *Him* but it is also essential for *us*. On pg. 122 Fr. Blake writes, "if Mary had not been present at the Crucifixion to witness and accept the sacrifice of her son...then no other human person could share in the fruit of its salvation." *What are your thoughts on this?*

What ideas about Mary were new to you? Has your relationship with Mary changed during your life?

Thinking about all that you have read in Lumen Gentium... *What are three ideas that you could share with others to help them have a better understanding of our faith?*

The month of October is the Month of the Rosary. Consider praying the Rosary a few times each week this month. Think about how Father Andrie suggested in his homily that Mary is holding one end of the Rosary as you are holding the other, praying. She is our intercessor with her Son.

Finally, Fr. Blake reminds us that "Lay persons should pray constantly for priests, deacons, and religious, begging God to keep them safe and restore a sense of joy in their hearts." Let us remember to do this!