

Source: Vatican Council II Document Austin Flannery OP, 1975

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and making it holy unto Himself. Christ instituted the new testament, in His Blood, calling together a people made up of Jew and gentile, making them one. This was to be the new People of God.

The state of this people is that of the dignity and freedom of the sons of God, in whose hearts the Holy Spirit dwells. Its law is the new commandment to love as Christ loved us. Its end is the kingdom of God, which has been begun by God Himself on earth. The new Israel which while living in this present age goes in search of a future and abiding city, is called the Church of Christ.

No 10. Christ the Lord, High Priest taken from among men, made the new people "a kingdom and priests to God the Father". **The baptized, by regeneration and the anointing of the Holy Spirit, are consecrated as a spiritual house and a holy priesthood, they offer spiritual sacrifices and proclaim the power of Him who has called them. Everywhere on earth bear witness to Christ and give an answer to those who seek an account of that hope of eternal life which is in them.**

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. The ministerial priest, by the sacred power he enjoys, teaches and rules the priestly people; acting in the person of Christ, he makes present the Eucharistic sacrifice, and offers it to God in the name of all the people. But the faithful, in virtue of their royal priesthood, join in the offering of the Eucharist. They likewise exercise that priesthood in receiving the sacraments, in prayer and thanksgiving, in the witness of a holy life, and by self-denial and active charity.



people, a people who acknowledges Him in truth and serves Him in holiness. With it He set up a covenant. **Step by step He taught and prepared this people**, making known in its history both Himself and the decree of His will