

They also share with us in prayer and other spiritual benefits. We can say that they are joined with us in the Holy Spirit, **for to them too He gives His gifts and graces.** Mother Church never ceases to pray, hope and work that this may come about.

No 16 THE CHURCH AND NON - CHRISTIANS

Those who have not yet received the Gospel are related in various ways to the people of God. First are the people to whom the testament and the promises were given. The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, amongst these there are the Muslims, who, professing to hold the faith of Abraham, adore the one and merciful God, who on the last day will judge mankind. God is close to those who in shadows and images seek the unknown God, for it is He who gives to all peoples life and breath and all things, and wills that all be saved. Those who through no fault of their own do not know the Gospel of Christ or His Church, yet sincerely seek God and moved by grace strive by their deeds to do His will through the dictates of conscience. Divine Providence is not denied to those who, without blame on their part, have not yet arrived at an explicit knowledge of God and with His grace strive to live a good life. Whatever good or truth is found amongst them is looked upon by the Church as a preparation for the Gospel. The Church fosters the missions with care and attention.

NO 17 CHARACTERISTICS OF A MISSIONARY CHURCH

The Church is compelled by the Holy Spirit to do her part, that God's plan may be fully realized, By the proclamation of the Gospel she prepares her hearers to receive and profess the faith. Through her work, whatever good is in the minds and hearts of men, whatever good lies latent in the religious practices and cultures of diverse peoples, is not only saved from destruction but is also cleansed, raised up and perfected unto the glory of God, the confusion of the devil and the happiness of man. The obligation of spreading the faith is imposed on every disciple of Christ, according to their state. Thus are fulfilled the words of God, spoken through His prophet: "From the rising of the sun until the going down of the same, my name is great, and in every place a clean oblation is sacrificed and offered up in my name".

In this way the Church both prays and labors in order that the entire world may become the People of God, the Body of the Lord and the Temple of the Holy Spirit, and that in Christ, the Head of all, all honor and glory may be rendered to the Creator and Father of the Universe. ✠

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SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:
COMMUNION (INCLUSIVE), PARTICIPATION (CREATIVE) & MISSION (BRIDGE BUILDING)

MONTHLY FOCUS:
CHURCH AND
VOLUNTARISM

FOCUS EVENT:
ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
SEASON



LUMEN GENTIUM

Vatican II DOGMATIC CONSTITUTION ON THE CHURCH
PROMULGATED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE PAUL VI ON NOVEMBER 21, 1964

NO 15 THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

The Church is linked with those who, being baptized, are honored with the name of Christian, though they do not profess the faith in its entirety or do not preserve unity of communion with the successor of Peter. Many honor Sacred Scripture, taking it as a norm of belief and a pattern of life. They lovingly believe in God the Father Almighty and in Christ, the Son of God and Saviour. They are consecrated by baptism, in which they are united with Christ. They also recognize and accept other sacraments within their own Churches or ecclesiastical communities. Many of them rejoice in the episcopate, celebrate the Holy Eucharist and cultivate devotion toward the Virgin Mother of God.