



What Can *We* Do? The Role of the Laity in a Time of Crisis

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Two Dimensions of the Church

Hierarchy – Peter (Petrine)
Holiness – Mary (Marian)





“Although the Church possesses a hierarchical structure, nevertheless this structure is totally ordered to the holiness of Christ's members.”

-St. John Paul II, MD 27



“Mary goes before all of us in the holiness that is the Church’s mystery...That is why the ‘Marian’ dimension precedes the ‘Petrine.’”

-Catechism of the Catholic Church 773



The Crucifixion, Cosimo Rosselli, 1503



“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.”

-Tertullian




The Stoning of St. Stephen, Rembrandt, 1625, Musée des Beaux-Arts, Lyons



St. Benedict and St. Scholastica, Lorenzo Monaco, c. 1407



Hubert Hittier/AFP/Getty Images

A photograph capturing a somber moment at night. In the foreground, a woman with long, dark hair is seen from the side, her head bowed and her hand pressed against her forehead in a gesture of grief or despair. She is wearing a light-colored jacket. Behind her, a large crowd of people is gathered, many looking in the same direction with expressions of concern and sadness. The scene is illuminated by artificial lights, creating a stark contrast with the dark night. The background shows the silhouettes of buildings and trees, suggesting an outdoor urban setting.

ERIC FEFERBERG/AFP/GETTY IMAGE

Notre Dame fire: Historic Paris cathedral saved from total destruction

The first interior photos show a cathedral that's scarred, but standing

Faith Opens Doors

“So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there...He was amazed at their lack of faith.” –Mk 6:5-6

“O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”

–Mt 15:28





St Peter Weeping Before The Virgin, Guercino, 1647



Sensus Fidei (Sense of Faith)

“the faithful have an instinct for the truth of the Gospel, which enables them to recognize and endorse authentic Christian doctrine and practice and to reject what is false. That supernatural instinct...is called the *sensus fidei*...”

- ITC, *Sensus Fidei in the Life of the Church*, 2



Sensus Fidei (Sense of Faith)

“They react as a music lover does to false notes in the performance of a piece of music. In such cases believers interiorly resist the teachings or practices concerned and do not accept them or participate in them.”

- ITC, *Sensus Fidei in the Life of the Church*, 62

Sensus Fidei (Sense of Faith)

- Full participation in the life of the Church
- Listening to the Word of God
- Adherence to the Magisterium
- Holiness
- Seeking the edification of the Church

- ITC, *Sensus Fidei in the Life of the Church*, 88-105



Bl. John Henry Newman

“[T]here was a temporary suspense of the functions of the *‘Ecclesia docens’*. The body of Bishops failed in their confession of the faith. They spoke variously, one against another; there was nothing, after Nicaea, of firm, unvarying, consistent testimony, for nearly sixty years.”

- *On Consulting the Faithful in Matters of Doctrine*



Bl. John Henry Newman

“During that period, ‘the divine tradition committed to the infallible Church was proclaimed and maintained far more by the faithful than by the Episcopate’.”

- *On Consulting the Faithful in Matters of Doctrine*





What Can *We* Do?

- Fidelity understood as a *mission*
- Re-commit to the lay apostolate
- Pray, especially the Rosary
- Forgive and offer your sufferings
- Curl up next to Jesus in the boat
- Evangelize, *now more than ever*



Christ Asleep In His Boat, Jules Joseph Meynier







