

**The Church 40 years
on
No. 7**

**Pilgrims nourished
and sent
The Pilgrim Church**

Chapter Seven
The Dogmatic Constitution on the
Church
Second Vatican Council, 1965

A Small group reflection

Inside:

- 1. How to use this reflection**
- 2. Part One: Our experience of being pilgrims**
- 3. Part Two: What scripture & the Vatican Council II teaches**
- 4. Part Three: Our journey continues.**

Published by the Singapore Pastoral
Institute

For internal circulation only.

**How to use this
reflection**

Contents: The guide provides texts for reflection and brief supplements on the texts. At the end, there are questions suggested for reflection and sharing.

Method: There is no fixed method. Groups that meet regularly may use their established ways of presenting the materials, reflection and sharing. For others, it is suggested that a facilitator leads the reflection and sharing.

[**Note:** The texts are not easy to read. Have the reader(s) prepare. After each text, pause, and give time for the others to read the texts quietly on their own. The reflection questions provided are only suggestions – do not be limited by them.]

Comment: You will need a Bible. Allow people to find the passages in their own bibles and work with the texts themselves. The flyer that accompanies this booklet has the chapter summary from Lumen Gentium.

Caution: This is the fourth of a series of eight reflections on the Church. Try to stay focused on the aspects of Church discussed in each chapter. Used in conjunction with the flyer will help.

PILGRIMS – NOURISHED AND

The Pilgrim Church Lumen Gentium Chapter Seven

Part 1

A. OUR EXPERIENCE OF BEING PILGRIMS

- Can anyone in our group tell us a story of how they made a journey which helped them discover their faith?
- What were the important moments?
- How did life change for you?

Part 2

B. WHAT SCRIPTURE AND THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL TEACHES

- Let us read the following three scripture texts together and reflect on a few points.

1 Kings 19:1- 8 – Elijah's journey to Horeb.

Luke 24: 13-35 – The two disciples journey to Emmaus

Luke 1: 39 – 45 – Mary visits Elizabeth

- Keep a moment of silence after each reading.

- **Questions for reflection**

What happened to Elijah and the Two Disciples once they had eaten the bread provided by God?

What was Mary's first action on receiving the Holy Spirit?

What does this tell us about our participation at Eucharist and our daily lives?

- Read the following text from Chapter Seven of Lumen Gentium.

Lumen Gentium 48

Christ lifted up from the earth, has drawn all peoples to himself. Rising from the dead he sent his life-giving Spirit upon his disciples and through him set up his Body, which is the Church as the universal sacrament of salvation.

Sitting at the right hand of the Father is continually active in the world in order to lead all peoples to the Church and through the Church, to join them more closely to himself; and, by nourishing them with his own Body and Blood, make them partakers of his glorious life. The promised and hoped for restoration, therefore, has already begun in Christ. It is carried forward in the sending of the Holy Spirit and through him continues in the Church in which, through our faith, we learn the meaning of our earthly life, while we bring to term, with hope of future good, the task allotted to us in the world by the Father, and so work out our salvation (Phil 2:12).

Reflect for a few moments on what is important for you in the above text. Say why.

Supplement

Jesus Christ founded the Church so that all peoples could come to know God. Our road is full of potholes and narrow or steep stretches but we are not alone. We have been called to be a pilgrim people led by Christ.

In order to sustain his pilgrim people, Jesus is constantly giving himself to us. The Eucharist is not a feast of the elite but rather a feast for the journey. Jesus longs to reach out to all our brothers and sisters around us and he wants to do it through you and me. We faithfully live out the meaning of the Eucharist when we go out and work in Jesus, to bring peace between peoples, justice for the oppressed and unjustly treated and restoration to nature and the environment.

Part 3

C. OUR JOURNEY CONTINUES

- Pray for a few moments using some words from the Scripture texts above.
- Sing a hymn which speaks of a road or journey if possible.

CONCLUDING REFLECTION

- Whether we like it or not we have been called to be part of a pilgrim people. It is up to each of us to decide what kind of traveling companion we will be.
- Are you just dragged along without any personal effort in the wake of the hundreds of others who are actively living their faith? It's a free ride!
- Are you a stranger in a crowd and you would like to keep it that way, rather than be a traveling companion?
- Would you like something to change in this regard? What can you do?
- How will you continue the journey?

On the following page you will find a list of books that can be found at the SPI library which will help us grow in our understanding of the pilgrim church.

List of books from SPI Library

- 1 *The way of a pilgrim* by Dennis Billy, Ligouri, Missouri
- 2 *Pilgrim Journey* by James Connolly, Redemptorist Publications, India, 1987
- 3 *On Pilgrimage* by Dorothy Day, William B Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999
- 4 *The Pilgrim God a biblical journey* by Br John of Taize, Pastoral Press
- 5 *The way of the Lord a new testament pilgrimage* by Br John of Taize, Pastoral Press
- 6 *To be a pilgrim* by Cardinal Basil Hume, St Paul Publications, 1986
- 7 *Hearts set on the pilgrimage* by Joan Puls, Twenty-Third Publications
- 8 *The pilgrim's tale* by Bernard McGinn (ed), Paulist Press, 1999
- 9 *Basil in Blunderland* by Cardinal Basil Hume, Darton, Longman & Todd
- 10 *The way to Christ* by Karol Wojtyla, HarperSan Francisco
- 11 *The way of a pilgrim* by Helen Bacovcin, Doubleday, 1978
- 12 *Walk to Jerusalem* by Gerard W Hughes, Darton, Longman & Todd, 1991
- 13 *In search of a way* by Gerard W Hughes, Darton, Longman & Todd, 1986
- 14 *Church community for the Kingdom* by Fuellenbach, John, SVD, Orbis Books, 2004