

Participation of a family In the life and mission of the Church and in the development of the society.

Summary

Christian family on the strength of baptism and grace of the sacrament of matrimony becomes part of the mystery of the Church and becomes the participant of the Church's saving mission. In this way, it becomes not only *saved* but also *saving* community. (compare FC 49).

Therefore, since the Council the family has been called after Saint Chrysostom (hom 20 Ep 5, PG 62, 135-140) *the domestic Church* (KK 11), *the Church in miniature* (FC 49), *the domestic sanctuary of the Church* (DA 11). Thus, the family is not only the object of Church's mission, but also the subject of the Church, and it does it by the participation in the prophetic, priestly, and royal mission of Jesus Christ and His Church (FC 50).

By the will of God the Creator, who created the marriage union, the family is *the first and vital cell of society* (DA 11, FC 42). It constitutes the foundation of every community because it secures biological existence and spiritual growth for it.

The family is a perfect environment of the humanization and personalization of the society, thus it can protect the society against anonymity, mass culture, and dehumanization, which lead to various ways of escape from this society: to alcoholism, drug addiction, terrorism (FC 43).

The responsibility of the family towards the society does not limit itself to social tasks towards own members. The family as a whole should also respond to the needs of the society, and especially of other families.