



CHRISTENDOM AGE VS APOSTOLIC AGE

Needs of Church:

Maintenance of socio-political structure

Particular Role of the Church:

“to deepen, consolidate, nourish, and make ever more pure the faith of those who are already called believers” –Paul VI

Particular Role of the Laity:

Embodiment of Christian Life in Daily Living

emphasis on individual participation in sacraments, prayer, and family life continued, highlighting the importance of living out faith personally and publicly

Mediators and Integrators of Culture

Lay saints such as St. Thomas More, who demonstrated how Christian values can influence public life and governance.

Sustain the Church's Structure

Lay guilds and community structures supported the Church’s mission in arts, education, and healthcare.

Needs of Church:

Apostolic Witness and building of a distinctively Christian cultural vision and way of life

Particular Role of the Church:

“through worship in communion of doctrine...the members of Christ's body are formed for evangelization and works of Christian love” -John Paul II

Particular Role of the Laity:

Active Participation and Evangelization

Actively sharing the faith within their families, workplaces, and communities through Christian apprenticeship and accompaniment

Witness through Martyrdom

Lay Christians bear witness to the faith through martyrdom (both literally & the loss of friends, careers, and social status)

Charitable Works

More direct concern for the poor and marginalized because of the realities of a non-Christian society’s values