

Unity of the Church

References:

Notes For Servants:

- 1.
- 2.

Objectives:

General:

Specific:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Instructions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Bible Verse:

“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.”

(1 Cor 3:6-7)

Lesson:

Unity of the Church

Adam and his descendants sinned and all of them deserved death. But Divine love interfered and Christ was incarnated. He shared with us in flesh and blood and lived among us. Then He was crucified and paid the price of our sins. He rose to live there-after in new body which is His Church. The Church has become the Body of Christ and He is the Head. He lives in Her and She lives in Him.

A WONDERFUL RELATIONSHIP:

How wonderful is the relationship between Christ and His Church! He is not a God who stands in heaven afar off His Church Neither is He a King sitting high above his people. But He is the Head, and the Church is His Body; and we the believers make up this body. We are not merely individuals bound by the tie of religion, but we are members of the body of Christ.

Many members in One body; though numerous they make up the body; and each one of them has its own use to the body and the life of each depends on its relation to the head.

Similarly, we, who are numerous, are members of the body of Christ; each one of us has his own work and use. And the spiritual life of each of us depends on his relation to the Church and on the relation to her head. This is not a symbol or a simile, but a living reality, for Christ lives actually in each member. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." (Gal 2:20)

NOW?!

Because when the member gets fixed in the body and lives by it, the member no longer represents itself only, but it represents the body too; which is influenced by it and influences it. It becomes one, if suffering, the whole suffers with it, and the head, too, suffers (1 Cor. 12:26). And if one member rejoices, the whole body rejoices with it; and the head, too, rejoices at his joy. likewise, is it in the Church. We all share together in suffering, pride and joy; and Jesus with us too.

Saul used to persecute the Christians, "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest." (Acts 9:1), and on his way to Damascus the Lord appeared to him and told him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He did not tell him, "Why do you persecute my Church or my disciples?" Saul's persecutions to the Christians and inflicting pain on them were persecutions to Christ personally and suffering to Him for the suffering of members on earth is suffering for the head in heaven: "In all their affliction he was afflicted," (Isa 63:9)

And on the day of the great judgement, He will tell those on His right side, "For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink." (Mat. 25:42)

A HUGE. ARMY:

A very big church, A countless army.

- Embraces the churches in our district, and in our city, but in the whole of our nation.
- Embraces the churches in the whole world, of every race, colour and nation.
- And embraces the believers who departed to heaven and are singing hymns with Christ to the One sitting on the throne, and praying on our behalf all the while.

NUMEROUS GIFTS:

Many members are in the body; two eyes, two ears, two legs, two feet. Bones, flesh and skin, we need a long time to mention them all. But the body needs them all and cannot dispense with any of them, for a very important reason; because they are various and each has its own function which differs from that of another; and the other members cannot fulfil it.

Let us notice the Following:

- Each member serves the body within its own specialization: the eye for seeing, the ear for hearing, the feet for carrying. the whole body.
- Each member completes the work of the other members: the eye completes the work of the ear, and the hand completes the work of both.
- Each member cares for the rest of the members: the hand cares for the eye and the ear, and the eye and the ear guards it.
- And all the members cannot dispense with anyone of them.
Similarly; too, the Church — the Body of Christ — embraces many members: priests, teachers, servants and served, rich and poor, the learned and the ignorant.
- Each member serves the Body in his own specialization, he who teaches, in his teaching; he who contributes, in liberality. If you are a leader exert yourself to lead....etc.
- Each member completes the work of the remaining members.
- Each member cares for the rest of the members.

I AM RESPONSIBLE

As a member of the Body of Christ:

- I am responsible for myself to preserve it pure; for I aim no longer for myself alone but for the whole Body of Christ. Every sin I commit defiles, the whole body, “Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of a harlot?”
- And I w responsible for the whole Church in the situation God has Met for me. My love, energy and efforts, I lay down for the sake of the Body of whose members I am one and for the sake of perpetual construction. The blood of the inflicted, the persecuted, and the martyrs was not a burden. They were members of construction in the Body of Christ; they were completing the work which Christ had started on the Cross. That is why St. Paul, the apostle, says, “Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of

the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church.” (Col 1:24)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In the Church, there are many kinds of services. Mention some of them.
2. In the Body of the Church, some members are superior to others as in the human body there are the eye, hand and leg though they are all necessary and cannot be dispensed with. Who are, in your opinion, the ones superior over others, and the ones less privileged? Show clearly the work of each and the extent of the Church's need for it.

Conclusion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.