

**WE ARE ONE. ALL IS ONE. WE ARE ALL ONE.**

*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;  
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;  
there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.  
To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.*

Lay people are, put simply, the vast majority of the people of God.  
The minority – ordained ministers – are at their service.  
There has been a growing awareness of the identity and mission of the laity in the Church.  
We can count on many lay persons, although still not nearly enough,  
who have a deeply-rooted sense of community and great fidelity to the tasks of charity,  
catechesis and the celebration of the faith.

**WE ARE ONE. ALL IS ONE. WE ARE ALL ONE.**

*To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom;  
to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit,  
to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit;  
to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy;  
to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues;  
to another interpretation of tongues.*

At the same time, a clear awareness of this responsibility of the laity,  
grounded in their baptism and confirmation,  
does not appear in the same way in all places.  
In some cases, it is because lay persons have not been given the formation needed  
to take on important responsibilities.  
In others, it is because in their particular Churches  
room has not been made for them to speak and to act,  
due to an excessive clericalism which keeps them away from decision-making.

**WE ARE ONE. ALL IS ONE. WE ARE ALL ONE.**

*But one and the same Spirit produces all of these,  
distributing them individually to each person as the Spirit wishes.  
As a body is one though it has many parts,  
and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.  
For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks,  
slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.*

Even if many are now involved in the lay ministries,  
this involvement is not reflected in a greater penetration of Christian values  
in the social, political and economic sectors.  
It often remains tied to tasks within the Church,  
without a real commitment to applying the Gospel to the transformation of society.  
The formation of the laity and the evangelization of professional and intellectual life  
represent a significant pastoral challenge.

**WE ARE ONE. ALL IS ONE. WE ARE ALL ONE.**

*1 Corinthians 12:4-13 and The Joy of the Gospel §Other ecclesial challenges, ¶102*