

Gaudium et Spes, the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World,

This document has an emphasis on the Church looking outward to the rest of the world is consistent with Pope John XXIII's vision of "opening the windows," & with Pope Francis' recent admonition that the Church must not become "self-referential," but should instead reach out to those on her periphery and beyond. (Commentary by Daniel Castellano, 2013, <http://www.arcaneknowledge.org>)

#62 of Gaudium et Spes, Vatican II document:

. . . In pastoral care, sufficient use must be made not only of theological principles, but also of the findings of the secular sciences, especially of psychology and sociology, so that the faithful may be brought to a more adequate and mature life of faith.

. . . Let them blend new sciences and theories & the understanding of the most recent discoveries with Christian morality & the teaching of Christian doctrine, so that their religious culture & morality may keep pace with scientific knowledge & with the constantly progressing technology. Thus they will be able to interpret & evaluate all things in a truly Christian spirit.

Excerpts from Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the U.S. (www.usccb.org)

The Church's catechetical mission aims to help the faithful of all ages to grow in both human and Christian maturity, enriching the whole of life with the leaven of the Gospel. Consequently, appropriate goals & content will embrace all the faith dimensions of an adult life i.e. understanding & communicating the faith, skills needed for personal growth, the experience of family life, relationships, public service, & concern for the common good.

Excerpts from Called & Gifted for the Third Millennium: Reflections on the U.S. Catholic Bishops on the 30th Anniversary of the Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity & the 15th Anniversary of Called & Gifted (www.usccb.org)

The Gospel image of the vine & the branches reveals to us another fundamental aspect of the lay faithful's life & mission: the call to growth & a continual process of maturation, of always bearing much fruit. . . Holiness, community & ministry are facets of Christian life that come to full expression only by means of development & growth toward Christian Maturity.