

For Reflection and Sharing

As you consider the following texts

- ◆ *what encourages you?*
- ◆ *what challenges you?*
- ◆ *what invites you to strengthen your life of faith and service?*

From John Henry Newman, 1851

I want a laity,
not arrogant, not rash in speech, not disputatious,
but men [and women] who know their religion,
who enter into it,
who know just where they stand,
who know what they hold, and what they do not,
who know their creed so well that they can give an account of it,
who know so much of history that they can defend it.

I want an intelligent, well-instructed laity... ;

I wish you
to enlarge your knowledge, to cultivate your reason,
to get an insight into the relation of truth to truth,
to learn to view things as they are,
to understand how faith and reason stand to each other,
what are the bases and principles of Catholicism

You ought to be able
to bring out what you feel and what you mean,
as well as to feel and mean it;

And one immediate effect of your being able to do all this
will be your gaining that proper confidence in self
which is so necessary for you ...

You will fall back upon yourselves;
you will be calm, you will be patient.

From Pope John Paul II in Christ's Faithful Laity, 1988

A new state of affairs today both in the Church and in social, economic, political and cultural life, calls with a particular urgency for the action of the lay faithful. If lack of commitment is always unacceptable, the present time renders it even more so. It is not permissible for anyone to remain idle.

(CL)#3

A faith that does not affect a personal culture is a faith not fully embraced, not entirely thought out, not faithfully lived.

(CL)#59

From Pope Francis' Address to Pontifical Council of Laity, 2016

We need lay people who are formed well,
animated by a clear and sincere faith,
whose lives have been touched by
a personal and merciful encounter with
the love of Jesus Christ.

We need lay people who take risks,
who soil their hands,
who are not afraid of making mistakes,
who move forward.

We need lay people with a vision of the future,
who are not enclosed in the petty things of life.