

DECREE ON THE APOSTOLATE OF THE LAITY  
***APOSTOLICAM ACTUOSITATEM***  
NOVEMBER 18, 1965

This decree fleshes out in more detail the ideas presented in chapter 4 of *Lumen Gentium*. In particular, contrary to pre-Vatican II teaching, the lay apostolate must be a fully integrated part of the Church's overall apostolate to the world. This requires cooperation between the hierarchy and the laity. The hierarchy must promote and support the lay apostolate, while lay people should advise and assist the hierarchy at all levels of the Church. (#23-26)

**Formation for the lay apostolate**

The Council Fathers recognize that, in order for lay people to engage in the apostolate as suggested, they require formation, just as clergy and religious do. However, their formation cannot be based on a monastic model, but must be suited to their own way of life. (#29-32)