

Laity as Prime Evangelizers, Sept. 8, 2016

The 21st century can be called the Time of the Laity as Evangelizers. Each lay Christian, even more than the clergy and vowed religious, is called to witness to Jesus and His People. We have seen the Legion of Mary, the Charismatic Movement, the Renew Movement of the 1980's, Cursillo, and other movements emerge. The laity are the prime movers in each group.

As one Oblate priest, the late David Power put it in his book Gifts That Differ, the laity and the clergy are not rivals, but partners. Pope Francis, in his efforts to declericalize the Catholic Church, is not attacking the clergy and the nuns, but freeing them.

So our website Mission-Unity-Dialogue has secured the insights of Mrs. Bernard (Lisa) Hunke, to help us energize the Church with the talents of the laity.

I hope you all had a restful summer, and that the academic year has begun well for your children, grandchildren, students, and all whose lives touch ours.

Every six years, the Oblates of Mary have a general chapter, with delegates from all over the world, to examine our faithfulness to our way of life. Eighty three priests and brothers will begin in Rome on Sept. 14, and hopefully end Oct. 11. Your prayers are most welcome, especially that we work better with our Oblate lay Associates, and all laity.