

Central Developments in the Schema on the Church

- The document begins with the church's theological foundations in the triune life of God.
- The chapter on the people of God precedes the chapter on the hierarchy, highlighting the priority of church unity and the equality of all the church's members.
- In affirming the universal priesthood of all believers, the constitution retrieves an ancient but long-neglected biblical insight.
- The text acknowledges that non-Catholic Christians are incorporated (even if not "fully") in the life of the church.
- The principle of collegiality is affirmed, granting that the bishops share with the bishop of Rome supreme power and authority exercised in service of the universal church.
- The positive role of the laity in the life of the church is affirmed.
- The document insists that all Christians are called to the perfection of charity and holiness.
- The pilgrim character of the church is affirmed and its need for reform and renewal acknowledged.
- Mary is more fully connected to the church.

From: R. Gaillardetz.
The church in the Making, p. 27.
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