



WHY DOES THE CHURCH EXIST? WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?



#122 WHY DOES GOD WANT THERE TO BE A CHURCH? God wills the Church because he wants to redeem us, not individually, but together. He wants to make all mankind his people. No one gets to heaven by the asocial route. Someone who thinks only about himself and the salvation of his own soul is living a-socially. That is impossible both in heaven and on earth. God himself is not a-social; he is not a solitary, self-sufficient being. The Triune God in himself is "social", a communion, an eternal exchange of love. Patterned after God, man also is designed for relationship, exchange, sharing, and love. We are responsible for one another.

#123 WHAT IS THE TASK OF THE CHURCH? The Church's task is to make the kingdom of God, which has already begun with Jesus, germinate and grow in all nations. Wherever Jesus went, heaven touched earth: the kingdom of God was inaugurated, a kingdom of peace and justice. The Church serves this kingdom of God. She is not an end in herself. She must carry on what Jesus started. She should act as Jesus would act. She continues the sacred signs of Jesus (the sacraments). She hands on Jesus' words. That is why the Church, for all her weakness, is a formidable bit of heaven on earth.

SAINTS & INSPIRATIONAL STORIES

ST FRANCIS DE SALES

St Francis de Sales spent a great deal of his life going to the ends of the earth teaching people about God, and many times facing ridicule, rejection, and harsh living conditions. He shows us that the mission of the Church is to evangelize.



BLESSED JAMES ALBERIONE

Fr Alberione dedicated his whole life to spreading the Church's teachings in a modern world through media. He believed in using the gifts of technology to get to the word out since the mission of the Church is to spread the good news.



GOSPEL



ANSWERS

THEY CAME BRINGING TO JESUS A PARALYTIC CARRIED BY FOUR MEN. UNABLE TO GET NEAR JESUS BECAUSE OF THE CROWD, THEY OPENED UP THE ROOF ABOVE HIM. AFTER THEY HAD BROKEN THROUGH, THEY LET DOWN THE MAT ON WHICH THE PARALYTIC WAS LYING. WHEN JESUS SAW THEIR FAITH, HE SAID TO THE PARALYTIC, "CHILD, YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN."
- MARK 2: 1-12

ANSWER IN YOUR OWN WORDS:
