

Our Identity as Christians

To See Ourselves in a New Light:	
FROM	TO
<u>My horizon:</u> Christ has redeemed me.	<u>Our horizon:</u> Christ redeemed the world.
<u>My task:</u> I am called to be a disciple.	<u>Our task:</u> I am called to be an apostle.
<u>My focus:</u> My own perfection.	<u>Our focus:</u> The needs of others.

To See the Church in a New Light:	
FROM	TO
<u>Purpose:</u> Our personal salvation.	<u>Purpose:</u> The salvation of the world.
<u>Our horizon:</u> The parish community and those who come to the parish seeking help or instruction.	<u>Our horizon:</u> Life beyond the parish: the parish is "the Church inserted into the neighborhoods of the world."
<u>Our structure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community consists of ordained and lay members. • The ordained are the ministers; the laity are recipients of ministry. 	<u>Our structure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The whole Church is the People of God. • Each member of the Church is an apostle. • The difference between ordained and laity is only significant within the Church.

To See the World in a New Light:	
FROM	TO
<u>Horizon:</u> The Church is a "perfect community" and lives apart from the world.	<u>Horizon:</u> The Church dwells in the world for the sake of the world.
<u>Assumption:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "secular" is opposed to the sacred. • To seek holiness, one must leave the world behind. 	<u>Assumption:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "secular" makes manifest the sacred. • We can become holy by our life in the world.

Sharing Questions (briefly share one of the following questions - 5 minutes each)

1. Do you believe that you are an apostle? If so, what difference does knowing that you are an apostle make? If not, why not?
2. What part of the Church's secular mission do you find most compelling or urgent? Why?