Towards Co-Responsibility of Priests and Laity: Wisdom from the Past, Hope for the Future

In this year dedicated to the priesthood, it seems appropriate to reflect on the treasures of our tradition which speak to the ways that co-responsibility has been promoted in the past while recognizing, in the words of the Holy Father, that “[t]here is still a long way to go. Too many of the baptized do not feel part of the ecclesial community and live on its margins, only coming to parishes in certain circumstances to receive religious services. Compared to the number of inhabitants in each parish, the lay people who are ready to work in the various apostolic fields, although they profess to be Catholic, are still few and far between.” - Pope Benedict XVI

Using Rome as a classroom, this program will offer a historical and theological survey of how laity and ordained have promoted the communion of the Church.

Some key historical figures included in the program are St. Paul and his co-workers, St. Justin Martyr, St. Lawrence, St. Gregory the Great, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Bridget of Sweden, St. Frances of Rome, St. Vincent Pallotti, and St. John Henry Newman.

Sunday, June 6 to Saturday, June 12, 2010

Celebrate the Close of the “Year of the Priest” in The Eternal City!

Special attention will be given to the ways co-responsibility is lived today by focusing on some specific examples: Sant’Egidio and other new lay ecclesial movements.

Since the program coincides with the closing celebrations for the “Year of the Priest,” we will arrange for participants to take part in select scheduled events.

For more information, please contact Kristine Hudak, Academic Resource Coordinator, at (973) 761-9633 or Kristine.hudak@shu.edu

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