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SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

Perfectae caritatis, 11
Ad gentes, 40



cmis
CONFERENCE MONDIALE
DES INSTITUTS SECLIERS

SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

Perfectae caritatis, 11

1. Secular Institutes are not religious communities but they carry with them in the world a profession of the evangelical counsels which is genuine and complete, and recognized as such by the Church. This profession confers a consecration on men and women, laity and clergy, who reside in the world. For this reason they should chiefly strive for total self-dedication to God, one inspired by perfect charity. These Institutes should preserve their proper and particular character, a secular one, so that they may everywhere measure up successfully to that apostolate which they were designed to exercise, and which is both in the world and, in a sense, of the world

2. Yet they should surely realize that they cannot acquit themselves of so immense a task unless their members are skillfully trained in matters both human and divine, and can thus be a genuine leaven in the world for strengthening and enlarging the body of Christ. Therefore directors should give especially serious care to the spiritual training of members and to the promotion of more advanced formation as well.

Ad gentes, 40

3. Thanks to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Secular Institutes are increasing every day in the Church. Under the authority of the Bishop, their programs can be fruitful in the missions in many ways as a sign of complete dedication to the evangelization of the world