

The Ecclesial Community: a place in which to grow our faith

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The ecclesial community brings together the children of God who enter it by baptism which confers on the baptised the theological virtues of hope, faith and love. Thus the Christian attached to the risen Christ cannot live these virtues fully without the others. The word of God is the Word "to live, to put in practice".

The first community of Christians was nourished by these virtues which strengthened their unity. "The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, as everything they owned was held in common...None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from the sale of them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any who might be in need." (Ac 4, 32-35)

Where there is Christ, there is love, unity and sharing. But by this love, coming from Jesus' heart, the Christian shares with the other children of God, not only nourishment, but also joy, sorrow, life, ideas, initiatives, enlightening thoughts, rewarding experiences in the family, at work, in prayer. These favour unity in faith.

"They may be one as we are one." (Jn 17, 22).

The Catholic Church in DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo) lives the experience of the Basic Living Ecclesial Communities "B.L. E.C.", managed by the laity, bringing parishioners together weekly to share not only in the Word of God but also in food, joy, sorrow, illness, mourning, etc., in short, all social problems. This is where the Christians grow and mature their faith and their fraternity.