**Patterns of the Early Church**

What are the four patterns of the early Church that define the mission of the Church, and how does the Catholic Church accomplish that mission in the world today?

The first of the patterns is Kerygma, which means proclamation or sharing the message. It encompasses telling everyone of all ages and sizes that the Lord is truly the way, the truth and the life. As members of the church community we are obliged to invite them to repent their sins, accept Jesus Christ in faith, and be baptized with water in the Holy Spirit. The Church accomplishes this part of its mission through the preaching of the good news to lead people to Jesus.

The second of the patterns is Koinonia, which means community, fellowship, or Church. Koinonia calls the members of the Church to live the word of God every day. Living God’s word will allow the Church to attract more followers just as Jesus did. The Church is able to accomplish Koinonia through Christians demonstrating that Jesus is within their midst by the love they show to each other and to the world.

The third of the patterns is Diakonia, which is service or ministry to others. Members of the Christian community are called to perform concrete acts of service such as a food drive or volunteering at a soup kitchen. The Church achieves Diakonia by imitating the Lord and following the path of poverty, obedience, sacrificial love, and service.

Leitourgia is the final part of the mission of the Church. Leitourgia, or liturgy, calls us all to worship the Lord. This is the heart of the Church which invites its members to participate in morning and evening prayers, grace before meals, and Eucharist on Sundays and Holy Days.

Kerygma, Leitourgia, Koinonia, and Diakonia together create the mission of the Church which is to invite and enable her followers to share in the divine life. All of the tasks are integral to that sharing.

  

  