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“Rejoice and Be Glad” (“*Gaudete et Exsultate*”) Assignment Answer Key

Part 1: Explain and Annotate	
1. (Paragraphs 1–2) Explain the meaning of the Latin title <i>Gaudete et Exsultate</i>, where it comes from, and Pope Francis’s goal in writing this apostolic exhortation.	<i>Gaudete et Exsultate</i> means “rejoice and be glad” (Matthew 5:12) and comes from the words Jesus in the Beatitudes (1). Pope Francis says, “My modest goal is to repropose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges and opportunities” (2).
2. (Paragraphs 3–9) In addition to the examples in Scripture and among the beatified and canonized, who else does Pope Francis specifically recognize as part of the saints who encourage and accompany us? In your answer, be sure to explain what is meant by “the middle class of holiness” (7).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “These witnesses may include our own mothers, grand-mothers or other loved ones” (3) . . . “in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile” (7).• The “middle class of holiness” refers to the ordinary people in our daily lives, like our next-door neighbors and “those who, living in our midst, reflect God’s presence” (7).
3. (Paragraphs 10–13) Copy the quote from paragraph 10 in Second Vatican Council’s <i>Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium, 1964)</i> and explain what it means.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Strengthened by so many and such great means of salvation, all the faithful, whatever their condition or state, are called by the Lord—each in his or her own way—to that perfect holiness by which the Father himself is perfect” (10; <i>The Church</i>, 11).• Everyone is called to holiness, “each in his or her own way,” meaning that there are many actual ways of being holy. “The important thing is that each believer discern his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:7), rather than hopelessly trying to imitate something not meant for them” (11).
4. (Paragraphs 14–18) How does Pope Francis explain what being holy does and does not require of us?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DOES: “We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves” (14).• DOES NOT: We do not have to be in religious life to be holy; holiness is not “only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer” (14).



<p>5. (Paragraphs 19–24) How is our mission on Earth—the path of holiness—connected to the Paschal Mystery?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "A Christian cannot think of his or her mission on earth without seeing it as a path of holiness" (19). • That mission of holiness "consists in uniting ourselves to the Lord's death and resurrection in a unique and personal way, constantly dying and rising anew with him. But it can also entail reproducing in our own lives various aspects of Jesus' earthly life: his hidden life, his life in community, his closeness to the outcast, his poverty and other ways in which he showed his self-sacrificing love. The contemplation of these mysteries, as Saint Ignatius of Loyola pointed out, leads us to incarnate them in our choices and attitudes" (20).
<p>6. (Paragraphs 63–66) Why are the Beatitudes referenced in this discussion on holiness?</p>	<p>"Jesus explained with great simplicity what it means to be holy when he gave us the Beatitudes" (63). "The word 'happy' or 'blessed' thus becomes a synonym for 'holy.' It expresses the fact that those faithful to God and his word, by their self-giving, gain true happiness" (64).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Part 2: The Beatitudes</p>	
<p>In your small group, read your assigned beatitude and answer its corresponding question. You may write your response here.</p>	<p><i>Possible student responses to these questions can be found on the handout "The Beatitudes Answer Key" (TX006415), page 285.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Part 3: Personal Response</p>	
<p>Inspire: Choose one of Pope Francis's quotes on cultivating holiness found in "Rejoice and Be Glad." Write the quote here, along with the paragraph number, and briefly explain why you find this quote so inspirational.</p>	<p><i>Student responses will vary.</i></p>

(The quotations on this handout are from Pope Francis's encyclical "Rejoice and be Glad" ["*Gaudete et Exsultate*"], at http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html#REJOICE_AND_BE_GLAD. Copyright © Libreria Editrice Vaticana.)

