



# The Church Ever Changing: Yet the Same

What does it mean to be Church today?



Describe what to you envision when you hear “the Roman Catholic Church?”



# What image of the Church do I experience when I think of the Church?



# Council of Trent 1545-1563

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- Established the Roman Catholic Church's authority during the Protestant Reformation
  - Rooted authority in both Scripture and Tradition
  - Reform of Doctrine and Church discipline (practices)
    - Clarifications of Doctrine: Creed, Scripture and its interpretation, Meaning of Sin, Justification, Sacraments and their necessity and meaning, Eucharist and the Mass, Saints and Indulgences.
    - Church Discipline: Church authority and role of Bishops, formation of clergy. Organization and Regulation of Church life and ministry.

The decrees and the influence of the Council have been operative in the Church for the next 400 years.

# First Vatican Council 1869

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- The council was formed to make several decisions about the role of Religious belief and the Catholic Church in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.
  - The Vatican Council I was formed so as to deal with the contemporary problems of arising influence of liberalism, rationalism and materialism. Besides, it also had the task of defining the Catholic doctrine about the Church of Christ.
  - its best-known decision was its decision of papal infallibility.
  - Ended abruptly due to the Franco-Prussian War

# The Call of the Vatican Council II



- Pope John XXIII- 25  
January, 1959

Announces intention to call  
council three months  
after his election in  
October.

*Aggiornamento*- “opening  
the windows to let a fresh  
breeze blow through the  
Church”



# Angelo Roncalli- John XXIII 1958-1963

## Why did Pope John call a Council?

- 1) Promote the enlightenment, edification, and joy of the Christian people
- 2) Extend an invitation to the faith of separated communities to participate in the quest for unity and grace
- 3) John XXIII- invitation to “make use of the medicine of mercy rather than that of severity...” (Opening address to the Council Fathers, October 11, 1962)



# Was Vatican II different than other Councils of the Church? Yes.....

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- Ecumenical Councils= assemblies of Bishops that make authoritative statements
  - Nicaea, Constantinople, Lateran, Trent, Vatican I
- Convened by Imperial and/or Papal leadership- church regulations part of civil code: to address religious and social concerns
- Lay participation (except Vatican I)
  - Imperial representatives and nobility/national representation
- Define doctrines, creedal declarations, and disciplinary canons (except Vatican II)
  - Condemnations, “Anathema sit”, declarations

# Vatican II- A Language of “*invitation and persuasion*”

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- Updating to address modern issues: Focus on the Present
- A return to the Sources of Christian Faith- Scriptures and Church Fathers: Respect for the Past- the result of theological investigation
- A process that is unfolding: eye toward the Future
- Dialogue seeking common ground- pastoral language to *win internal assent*, excites the imagination to make the Christian ideal appealing.

## “the signs of the times”

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- *Aggiornamento* – need for the Church to address the needs of the world by interpreting the Good News in light of emerging trends and movements
  - 1961- *Mater et Magistra*- role of the Church to address globalization and appeal for justice, charity, and collectivism.
  - 1963- *Pacem in terris*- call for the human family to unity and peace
- Role of the Church in the Modern World
  - Promotion of Christian Unity: Ecumenism-East & West, other Christian Communities
  - Role & Dignity of the Laity: Catholic Action
  - Clerical & Episcopal Roles and Responsibilities
  - Religious Freedom & Non-Christian Religions

# Distinguishing Characteristics of Vatican II

## ● Most obvious:

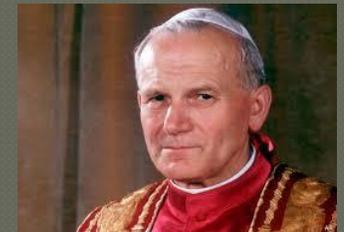
- **Massive Proportions**- # of participants= Patriarchs, Bishops, Periti
- **International Scope**- non-Catholic and non-Christian observers, Eastern Rite members
- **Diversity and Perspectives on Issues**
- **Extensive Media Coverage**
  - Pope John: Time Magazine's Man of the Year 1962
  - Major Newspaper/Television
  - "Letters from Vatican City"- Xavier Rynne (F X Murphy) popularized in *The New Yorker*
  - Religious and Secular media coverage



# Aggiornamento-Development -Ressourcement [the present, the future, the past]

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- Theology expressed from historical perspective: “Since Christianity draws its reality from history and not from some metaphysics, the theologian must have as his primary concern...to know this history and to train himself in it.” Marie-Dominique Chenu
- Aggiornamento:
  - 1) took what appeared normative and changed it
  - 2) no other council had used this as a defining principle
  - 3) Catholicism could be adaptive to modern concerns
  - 4) Made effort toward reconciliation between Church and changes taking place outside of it. Application of a “Development of Doctrine.”



Avoid the style of textbook theology and “Speak the vital language of Scripture and the Church Fathers”  
Joseph Ratzinger



- “Patristic theology originated in pastoral settings and was for the most part embedded in sermons and occasional treatises. It was based primarily on principles of classical rhetoric, the art of touching hearts and minds in order to win inner assent. It was thus “pastoral” and spiritual, not academic, in its orientation. It focused on the big truths of faith like the Trinity and the Incarnation and proposed an ideal of the Christian life...”

- John O’Malley

# Intermission

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- ⦿ And now a word from our sponsor....



# Results of the Council Constitutions

- **Four Constitutions:**
  - *Dei Verbum*- Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation
  - *Lumen Gentium*- Dogmatic Constitution on the Church
  - *Gaudium et Spes*- Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World
  - *Sacrosanctum Concilium*- Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy



# Council Documents: Decrees and Declarations

- *Ad Gentes*- Mission Activity
  - *Apostolicam Actuositatem*- Laity
  - *Christus Dominus*- Bishops in the Church
  - *Inter Mirifica*- Social Communication
  - *Optatam Totius*- Priestly formation
  - *Orientalium Ecclesiarum*- Eastern Churches
  - *Perfectae Caritatis*- Renewal of Religious Life
  - *Presbyterorum Ordinis*- Life of Priests
  - *Unitatis Redintegratio*- Ecumenism
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- *Dignitatis Humanae*- On Religious Freedom
  - *Gravissimum Educationis*- On Christian Education
  - *Nostra Aetate*- Relations with Non-Christians



# Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy *Sacrosanctum Concilium* 4 Dec, 1963



- “The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; it is also the fount from which all her powers flows.” #10.
- Eucharist: ... Our Savior instituted the Eucharistic sacrifice of his Body and Blood. This he did in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the Cross [Paschal Mystery] throughout the ages until he should come again,...a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a paschal banquet in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and pledge of future glory is given to us. #47.



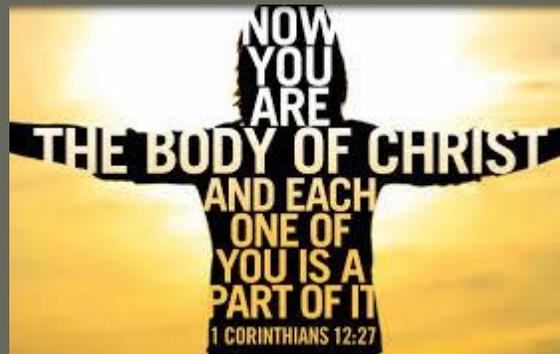
*Pastoral Constitution on the Church in  
the Modern World  
Gaudium et Spes, 7 Dec, 1965*

- “the laity are called to participate actively in the whole life of the Church; not only are they to animate the world with the spirit of Christianity, but they are to be witnesses to Christ in all circumstances and at the very heart of the community of mankind.” *Gaudium et spes*, #43.

## Dogmatic Constitution on the Church *Lumen Gentium*, 21 Nov. 1964

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- “the People of God share the priestly, prophetic, and kingly office of Christ, and carry on the mission of the whole Christian people in the Church and in the world.”
  - Universal Call to Holiness- Chapter V
- “all Christians are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of love...” (#40)





Howard Clark Kee

# Decree on Ecumenism

*Unitatis Redintegratio* 21 Nov. 1964

- “It is the Holy Spirit, dwelling in those who believe and pervading and ruling over the entire Church, who brings about that wonderful communion of the faithful and joins them together so intimately in Christ that this is the principle of the Church’s unity...”
- It is through the faithful preaching of the Gospel by the Apostles and their successors- the bishops with Peter’s successor at their head- through their administering the sacraments, and through their governing in love, that Jesus Christ wishes his people to increase, under the action of the Spirit...”  
#2.

# Declaration on Religious Liberty Dignitatis Humanae,

7 Dec. 1965



- “Contemporary man is becoming increasingly conscious of the dignity of the human person;... All men are bound to seek the truth, especially in what concerns God and his Church, and to embrace it and hold on to it as they come to know it.” #1
- “...the human person has a right to religious freedom. Freedom of this kind means all men should be immune from coercion on the part of individuals, social groups, and every human power so that within due limits, nobody is forced to act against his convictions in religious matters in private or in public...#2
- Dignity of the human person as known through the revealed word of God and by reason itself. #2

# Impact of the Second Vatican Council

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- How should we implement and interpret the Council?
  - New Code of Canon Law- 1983
  - Catechism of the Catholic Church
  - Role of local bishop, episcopal conferences, the Vatican Curia, and the Pope. (Restored Diaconate and Christian Initiation)
- What does it mean to be a Catholic in the world today?
  - I seek the wisdom that the Church offers!
  - “Being Catholic helps me in my daily life.”
  - In the Mass and the Sacraments I meet Jesus Christ.
  - A Catholic Christian lives in the world to make life better.
  - I like and need to belong to a community of believing people who support my faith.
  - “I think of my self as being spiritual!”
  - “The Church helps me answer questions about my life.”
  - Institutional religion is not necessary because.....!

# How do we look at the Catholic Church today?

- Mystical Community- union of people in the life of the Spirit
- Sacrament- visible sign of Christ in the world: How Catholics view the world
- Servant- commitment to social justice option for the poor
- Herald-announces the Good News of Jesus: gospel centered
- Institution- emphasis on the structure and order
- Community of Disciples- followers of Jesus

# Prayer of Pope John

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- Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.

• Pope John XXIII