The Second Vatican Council

Reflect:
- What are your associations with Vatican II? Where did they come from?
- What was Vatican II all about?

One Line Summary:
The Church engaged the modern world in a positive way . . . by recovering the riches of its own tradition.
- Aggiornamento
- Ressourcement
The Vision of Vatican II

1. We Share the Story of God’s Love
2. We Celebrate Christ With Us
3. We Go to God Together
4. We Are Leaven in the World

—Pope Benedict XVI

We Share the Story of God’s Love

Dei Verbum
Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation

We Celebrate Christ With Us

Sacrosanctum Concilium
Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy

Vatican II’s Principles of Liturgical Reform

- Reform Rooted in Ressourcement
- Guided by Centrality of Christ
- Full, Conscious and Active Participation
- Local Adaptation

“Pope John Paul II rightly pointed out the Council as a ‘compass’ by which to take our bearings in the vast ocean of the third millennium. . . . As the years have passed, the conciliar documents have lost none of their timeliness. Their teachings indeed are proving particularly relevant to the new situation of the Church and the current globalized society.”

- Dei Verbum
- Sacrosanctum Concilium
- Lumen Gentium
- Gaudium et Spes
We Go to God Together
Lumen Gentium
Dogmatic Constitution on the Church

The Two Pillars of Vatican II

Lumen Gentium
- Dogmatic Constitution on the Church
- Who are we?
- Nature of the Church

Gaudium et Spes
- Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World
- What do we do?
- Mission of the Church

The Nature of the Church

Baptismal Ecclesiology
- People of God
  - The Lay Apostolate
  - Universal Call to Holiness

People of God

Lumen Gentium (Draft 2)
1. Church as Mystery
2. Hierarchy
3. Laity
4. Call to Holiness

Lumen Gentium (Draft 3)
1. Church as Mystery
2. People of God
3. Hierarchy
4. Laity
5. Call to Holiness...

People of God

The Nature of the Church

Baptismal Ecclesiology
- People of God
  - The Lay Apostolate
  - Universal Call to Holiness
A Positive Theology of the Laity

Through Baptism the Laity are . . .
- incorporated into Christ,
- appointed directly to the apostolate,
- share in the priestly, prophetic, and royal office of Christ, and
- carry out the mission of the whole Christian people.

The Nature of the Church

Baptismal Ecclesiology
- People of God
- The Lay Apostolate
- Universal Call to Holiness
We Are Leaven in the World
Lumen Gentium
Dogmatic Constitution on the Church

Context of the Council
- The Modern World Meant . . .
  - Reformation
  - Science
  - Nation States
- The Church in the United States . . .
  - Distinctive Rituals
  - Parallel Institutions

Birth of Gaudium et Spes
Church *ad intra* and Church *ad extra*

Vatican II’s Broader Ecclesial Vision
“Thus the church, at once ‘a visible organization and a spiritual community,’ travels the same journey as all of humanity and shares the same earthly lot with the world: it is to be a *leaven* and, as it were, the soul of human society in its renewal by Christ and transformation into the family of God.”
(Gaudium et Spes, n. 40)

Substance and Style

VATICAN II:
- GENRE: Panegyric
- VOCAB: Dialogue, “Brothers & Sisters”
- GOAL: Encourage INTERNAL ASSENT

PAST COUNCILS:
- GENRE: Canon
- VOCAB: Threat, Intimidation, Punishment
- GOAL: Change EXTERNAL BEHAVIOR
The Vision of Vatican II

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2. We Celebrate Christ With Us
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Ancient History of New Life?
Teaching Vatican II Today
Edward P. Hahnenberg, Ph.D.