

Vatican II

Diving Deeper

1. Why did Pope John XXIII call Vatican II? What is an ecumenical council? How many have there been?
2. What have you heard about Vatican II before watching this episode? What did you learn from watching this episode? What further questions do you have?
3. Have you read any documents from Vatican II? Did you know that Pope Saint John Paul and Pope Benedict were present at the drafting of the Vatican II documents? John Paul II said the council has been “a gift to the Church.” It remains a “fundamental event” not only to understand the Church, but especially to explore “the abiding presence of the risen Christ beside his Bride in the course of world events.” What does this mean? (Quote from the article in the resources section)
4. Can you think of other examples of organizations clarifying their mission and getting back to their roots? There is certainly a theme like this in sports movies, when the main character has to go back to the basics in order to reach levels. How do you see this as similar to the Second Vatican Council?

Activities

Discussion of Vatican II documents. Often people focus on “Vatican II” as a fixed event rather than a council - a series of meetings and drafting of documents. Here are a couple of passages from *Gaudium et Spes* to read aloud and discuss.

Gaudium et Spes:

The Church has always had the duty of scrutinizing the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel. Thus, in language intelligible to each generation, she can respond to the perennial questions which men ask about this present life and the life to come, and about the relationship of the one to the other. (#4)

The church, by reason of her role and competence, is not identified with any political community nor is it tied to any political system. It is at once the sign and the safeguard of the transcendental dimension of the human person. (#76)

Indeed, the Lord Jesus, when He prayed to the Father, "that all may be one. . . as we are one" (John 17:21-22) opened up vistas closed to human reason, for He implied a certain likeness between the union of the divine Persons, and the unity of God's sons in truth and charity. This likeness reveals that man, who is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself, cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself. (#24)

Everyday life Activity

Using notecards or a white board, have your students look up these Scripture passages and see if they can match them with the parts of the Mass. See the resource page for even more examples of the Scriptures coming to life in the Liturgy.

Parts of the Mass:

1. Greeting
2. Sanctus
3. Words of Institution
4. Gloria

Scripture Passages:

1. 2 Timothy 4:22
2. Revelation 4:8
3. Matt. 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:19-20, 1 Cor. 11:24-25
4. Luke 2:14

Resources

- Article: [What two future popes saw at the Second Vatican Council](#)
- Video: The Endow Podcast [Joy and Hope \(Gaudium et Spes\): A Conversation with Dr. Larry Chapp and Father Daniel O'Mullane](#)
- Reference: [List of the 16 Documents of Vatican II](#)
- Reference: [Biblical Texts related to Catholic Liturgy](#)