

THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

October 11, 1962
through
December 8, 1965

First Ecumenical Council

- ▣ Council of Jerusalem 50 AD
- ▣ held to decide the entrance of Gentiles into the Church.
- ▣ Prior to this council there was division in the Church between Jews and Greeks
- ▣ Only Council recorded in the Scriptures: Acts 15

The Creedal Councils

- ▣ Nicaea I 325 AD Heresy of Arianism
- ▣ Constantinople I 381 AD Holy Spirit in the Trinity
- ▣ Ephesus 431 AD Heresy of Nestorianism
- ▣ Chalcedon 451 AD Leo I Two Natures of Christ
- ▣ The Councils addressed the theology of the Trinity and specifically the two natures of Christ which were the cause of division in the Church. Developed the Creed

Other Eastern Councils

- ▣ Constantinople II 553 Two natures always
- ▣ Constantinople III 680/1 Jesus has two wills
- ▣ Nicaea II 787 Addressed iconography and the role of Saints, God alone is adored
- ▣ Constantinople IV 869/70 Internal fight over the Patriarch. Photius deposed.

The Lateran Councils

- ▣ Lateran I 1123 Confirm the right of Popes to appoint bishops in Germany
- ▣ Lateran II 1139 End a schism, get rid of an antipope and impose celibacy on clergy in the West.
- ▣ Lateran III 1179 Papal Elections, Standards for bishops, Pope vs Frederick Barbarosa
- ▣ Lateran IV 1215 Inquisition, Annual Communion and confession, marriage law and canon law in general, Relic abuse

Other Councils of the Middle Ages

- ▣ Lyons I 1245 Addressed removal of German Emperor
- ▣ Lyons II 1274 Aimed to end E-W Schism but failed
- ▣ Vienne 1311/12 Condemned the Knights Templar
- ▣ Constance 1414/18 Addressed the Great Western Schism
Removed three antipopes and choose Martin V. Claimed Councils had supreme authority.
- ▣ Florence 1431/45 Series of Councils that met in various cities to govern the church. Concludes with two Councils and two Popes resigning to one pope alone Eugene IV.
- ▣ Lateran V 1512/17 Called as a reform council of Clergy, laity and papacy by Julian II but failed under Leo X.

The Council of Trent

- ▣ Trent 1545/63 Addressed the Protestant Revolution by a counter reformation against Luther, Calvin and Zwingli.
- ▣ Began manual theology, against Protestant-Catholic interaction and marriage, the Index, Teaching on Faith and Grace, Differentiated teachings of two groups.
- ▣ Stressed devotions and saints. Rejected vernacular Scriptures, Set number of sacraments, confirmed traditions since the 12th century, Revelation is Scripture + Tradition, Reform of bishops and clergy, change not needed just reform of action

The First Vatican Council

- ▣ Vatican I 1869/70 Called by Pius IX at a time when Europe was moving into the Enlightenment, modern movements and nations were forming.
- ▣ It was called to strengthen the role of Pope over the Universal Church and Bishops over their dioceses. Only concluded the discussion on infallibility before it abruptly ended with invasion of the papal states by the nationalist army.

Second Vatican Council

- ▣ Called by John XXIII on January 25, 1959 At a Mass at St. Paul-Outside-the-Walls.
- ▣ “He had observed, he said, the need to provide an updating of church practice and language to more adequately address the modern world.” Aggiornamento was the order of the day; it was time for the Church “to bring herself up-to-date where required.”

Participants

- ▣ 2908 eligible Council fathers at the call.
 - ▣ Europe 1089
 - ▣ South America 489
 - ▣ North America 404
 - ▣ Asia 374
 - ▣ Africa 296
 - ▣ Central America 84
 - ▣ Oceania 75
- ▣ 134 nations represented

- ▣ All session conducted in Latin, all documents written in Latin except the Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World – original is in French.
- ▣ 460 official periti – experts in designated areas
- ▣ Council Sessions were lead by one of ten designees who presided over the council in the pope's absence.
- ▣ Sessions were from 9:00 am to 12:15. Work began at 10:15 after Mass and announcements.

The First Session 1962

- ❑ Conflict between the conservative of the curia and the vast majority of the bishops is evident from the beginning.
- ❑ Documents are debated and most early drafts are rejected.
- ❑ The Pope orders all documents to be reworked with the guidance of a central committee not of curial members
- ❑ Document on the Liturgy is most forward thinking and is debated, amended and has its first chapter accepted by large majority.
- ❑ The nature of Church is debated and the position of modern theologians is accepted.

Second Session 1963

- ▣ Pope John XXIII died on June 3, 1963 and Pope Paul VI was elected on June 21, 1963. The next day he announces he'll continue the Council on September 29.
- ▣ A Steering Committee of Suenens, Dopfner, Lercaro and Agagianian is set to guide the process.
- ▣ Paul IV sets four goals:
 - ▣ 1. To raise the understanding of ourselves as the Church, including a precise definition of the nature of the church as mystery.
 - ▣ 2. to reform the church, especially liturgy, but not to turn the life of the Church upside down.
 - ▣ 3. To bring together all Christians in unity – the Council's "special drama"
 - ▣ 4. To engage in dialogue with the contemporary world, not our own limited affairs.

Second Session 1963

- ▣ New documents are presented and the focus of the progressives is most evident
- ▣ Sacrosanctum Concilium – Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy approved on December 4, 1963 with a vote of 2147 to 4
- ▣ Inter Mirifica Decree on the Instruments of Social Communication approved December 4, 1963 with a vote of 1960 to 164

Third Session 1964

- ▣ Debates continue on the Church document, on religious liberty, divine revelation and lay apostolate, priestly life and ministry, the Eastern Churches, the Church in the modern world, religious life and priestly formation.
- ▣ Three documents promulgated:
- ▣ Lumen Gentium, The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church approved on November 21, 1964 by a vote of 2151 to 5.
- ▣ Unitatis Redintegratio Decree on Ecumenism approved on November 21, 1964 by a vote of 2137 to 11.
- ▣ Orientalium Ecclesiarum, Decree on the Eastern Churches approved on November 21, 1964 by a vote of 2110 to 39.

Fourth Session 1965

- ▣ Debate on issues from September 14 until October 16. Then focus is on finalizing document with voting on final drafts and amendments and voting.
- ▣ **October 28, 1965 five documents promulgated:**
- ▣ *Nostra Aetate*, Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christians by a vote of 2221 to 88
- ▣ *Christus Dominus*, Decree on the Bishops' Pastoral Office by a vote of 2319 to 2
- ▣ *Perfectae Caritatis*, Decree on the Appropriate Renewal of Religious Life by a vote of 2321 to 4
- ▣ *Optatam Totius*, Decree on Priestly Formation by a vote of 2318 to 3
- ▣ *Gravissimum Educationis*, Declaration on Christian Education by a vote of 2290 to 35

Fourth Session 1965

- ▣ **November 18, 1965 two documents promulgated:**
- ▣ Dei Verbum, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation by a vote of 2344 to 6
- ▣ Apostolicam Actuositatem, Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity by a vote of 2305 to 2

- ▣ **December 7, 1965 four documents promulgated:**
- ▣ Dignitatis Humanae, Declaration on Religious Freedom by a vote of 2308 to 70
- ▣ Ad Gentes, Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity by a vote of 2394 to 5
- ▣ Gaudium et Spes, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World by a vote of 2309 to 75
- ▣ Presbyterorum Ordinis, Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests by a vote of 2390 to 4

- ▣ **The Second Vatican Council is closed with liturgy on December 8, 1965.**

Four Constitutions

- ▣ Dogmatic Constitution on the Church *Lumen Gentium* (*Light of the People*) 1964
- ▣ Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation *Dei Verbum* (*Word of God*) 1965
- ▣ Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (*Most Sacred Council*) 1963
- ▣ Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World *Gaudium et Spes* (*Joy and Hope*) 1965

Nine Decrees

- ▣ On the Instruments of Social Communications Inter Mirifica 1963
- ▣ On Ecumenism Unitatis Redintegratio 1964
- ▣ On Eastern Catholic Churches Orientalium Ecclesiarum 1964
- ▣ On the Bishops' Pastoral Office Christus Dominus 1965
- ▣ On Priestly Formation Optatum Totius 1965
- ▣ On the Appropriate Renewal of Religious Life Perfectae Caritatis 1965

Decrees continued

- ▣ On the Apostolate of the Laity Apostolicam Actuositatem 1965
- ▣ On the Ministry and Life of Priests Presbyterorum Ordinis 1965
- ▣ On the Church's Missionary Activity Ad Gentes 1965

Three Declarations

- ▣ On Christian Education Gravissimum Educationis 1965
- ▣ On the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christians Nostra Aetate 1965
- ▣ On Religious Freedom Dignitatis Humanae 1965