



VATICAN II

Proclaiming the Joy and Hope of Christ to the Modern World

A PARISH VIDEO STUDY WITH PROF. LUCAS POLLICE, MTS



PARTICIPANT STUDY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Vatican II: Proclaiming the Joy and Hope of Christ to the Modern World!

For nine sessions, we will rediscover the true teaching and vision of Vatican II - and rediscover the New Evangelization for our world today.

Vatican II provides a pastoral vision and renewal that is the foundation for the New Evangelization. The documents of Vatican II reveal a renewal of the mission of the Church to bring Christ to the modern world. The Council shows how every Catholic is called through their Baptism and Confirmation to continue the saving mission of Christ in the world today.

The Council took place from 1962-1965 - but the “event” of Vatican II lasted until the end of Benedict XVI's papacy, who was the last pope to be present at the Council itself. This means that the Church is still unpacking and implementing the Council. This also means that it's important for Catholics to understand what the Council really was. While there have been many “spirits” of the Council that claim authority apart from the actual teachings of the Council documents, it's important to understand the true teaching and vision of the Council.

If you look at any of the previous 20 ecumenical councils, it always takes at least 50-100 years for the dust to settle in the life of the Church after the council. Popes from St. John Paul II to Francis have insisted that there needs to be a rediscovery of the true spirit of the Council by the reading of the documents themselves, as interpreted and implemented in the life of the Church by the Magisterium.

This course is intended to help you do just that!



EPISODE LIST

Session 1 - What is the Real Vatican II?

Scan to access videos!



Session 2 - The Missionary Renewal of Vatican II

Session 3 - The Documents and Themes of the Council

Session 4 - *Lumen Gentium*: The Church Renewed for Mission

Session 5 - *Dei Verbum*: The Word of God in the Life of the Church
(TO BE RELEASED AUGUST 20, 2025)

Session 6 - *Sacrosanctum Concilium*: The Source and Summit of the Christian Life
(TO BE RELEASED SEPTEMBER 17, 2025)

Session 7 - *Gaudium et Spes*: Joy and Hope for the Modern World
(TO BE RELEASED OCTOBER 29, 2025)

Session 8 - The Implementation of the Council in the Life of the Church
(TO BE RELEASED NOVEMBER 19, 2025)

Session 9 - The New Evangelization: The Extraordinary Mission of Our Time
(TO BE RELEASED DECEMBER 17, 2025)

WHAT TO EXPECT FOR EACH SESSION

Opening Prayer: Each session begins with the opening prayer that was used to commence Vatican II.

Class Outline: The outline gives you a brief high-level overview of the session.

Video: Each 45 minute video provides a teaching on a different topic or aspect of Vatican II.

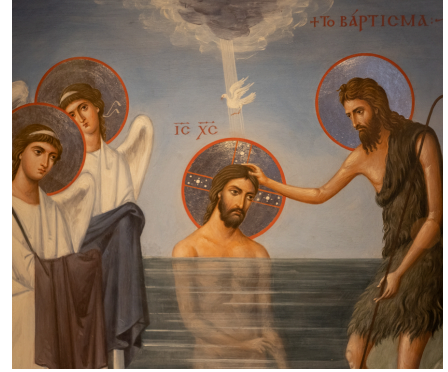
Discussion Questions: These questions will help spark further discussion for a small group - or inspire deeper reflection if you're taking the class on your own!

Closing Prayer

Living It Out: This section provides a starting point for some practical ways to live out the teachings of Vatican II.

Going Deeper: Further reading recommendations to help you learn more about the topics being covered.

LUMEN GENTIUM: THE CHURCH RENEWED FOR MISSION



OPENING PRAYER

Prayer of Vatican II

We stand before you, Holy Spirit,
conscious of our sinfulness,
but aware that we gather in your name.
Come to us, remain with us,
and enlighten our hearts.
Give us light and strength
to know your will,
to make it our own,
and to live it in our lives.
Guide us by your wisdom,
support us by your power,
for you are God, sharing the glory of Father and Son.

You desire justice for all;
enable us to uphold the rights of others;
do not allow us to be misled by ignorance
or corrupted by fear or favor.
Unite us to yourself in the bond of love
and keep us faithful to all that is true.
As we gather in your name, may we temper
justice with love,
so that all our discussions and reflections
may be pleasing to you, and earn the reward
promised to good and faithful servants.
We ask this of You who live and reign with the
Father and the Son, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

CLASS OUTLINE

I. Ecclesiology in *Lumen Gentium*

- Reflecting the Light of Christ to the world: a missionary ecclesiology for the New Evangelization
- The Church shares in the mission of the Trinity and exists for the human race to be united to God
- The Church is the Sacrament of Salvation and is inseparable from Christ
- The Church is Catholic: The Messianic People of God
- The Church is Apostolic: The Hierarchy of the Church

II. The Role of the Laity in *Lumen Gentium*

- The Messianic mission of the laity
- The priestly, prophetic, and kingly mission of the laity

III. The Universal Call to Holiness

- The means to holiness
- Mary as the model of all Christians
- Everyone is called to work for the sanctification of the world



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the Church reflect the Light of Christ? What makes the Church more effective in mission? Why is the Church a divine institution, and how is this reality revealed to the world?

2. How can we understand Vatican II as a new Pentecost and a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit? How do the gifts of the Holy Spirit help build up the Church and promote the work of evangelization? How can we be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit?

3. What is the priestly mission of the laity? How is the baptismal priesthood different than the ordained priesthood? What is the relationship between the baptismal priesthood and the prophetic and kingly mission of the laity?

4. The universal call to holiness is a key theme of *Lumen Gentium*. What are the means to holiness? How do these means draw us closer to Christ? What is the relationship between personal holiness and the work of evangelization?

5. *Lumen Gentium* discusses Mary as the model for the Church and for all Christians. Why is her example the model we need to follow? How does she inspire you to become more closely conformed to Christ?



CLOSING PRAYER

Some Definite Service by St. John Henry Newman

God knows me and calls me by my name....
 God has created me to do Him some definite service;
 He has committed some work to me
 which He has not committed to another.
 I have my mission—I never may know it in this life,
 but I shall be told it in the next.
 Somehow I am necessary for His purposes...
 I have a part in this great work;
 I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection
 between persons.
 He has not created me for naught. I shall do good,
 I shall do His work;
 I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth
 in my own place, while not intending it,
 if I do but keep His commandments
 and serve Him in my calling.
 Therefore I will trust Him.

Whatever, wherever I am,
 I can never be thrown away.
 If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him;
 In perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him;
 If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him.
 My sickness, or perplexity, or sorrow may be
 necessary causes of some great end,
 which is quite beyond us.
 He does nothing in vain; He may prolong my life,
 He may shorten it;
 He knows what He is about.
 He may take away my friends,
 He may throw me among strangers,
 He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink,
 hide the future from me—
 still He knows what He is about....
 Let me be Thy blind instrument. I ask not to see—
 I ask not to know—I ask simply to be used. Amen.

From *Meditations and Devotions*, "Meditations on Christian Doctrine," "Hope in God-Creator," March 7, 1848,
<https://www.newmanreader.org/works/meditations/meditations9.html>

LIVING IT OUT

In *Christifideles Laici*, Pope St. John Paul II says, "If lack of commitment is always unacceptable, the present time renders it even more so. It is not permissible for anyone to remain idle." Why is the work that awaits us so great? Where is the Lord calling you to work for the sanctification of others? What charisms or graces has the Lord given you for this work, and how can you cultivate those gifts?

GOING DEEPER

- *Lumen Gentium* - Dogmatic Constitution on the Church
- Fr. Blake Britton, *Reclaiming Vatican II: What It (Really) Said, What It Means, and How It Calls Us to Renew the Church* - Chapter 4
- George Weigel, *To Sanctify the World: The Vital Legacy of Vatican II* - Chapter 11

FOR THE NEXT CLASS

- *Dei Verbum* - Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation