



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

Session 6 - *Sacrosanctum Concilium*: The Source and Summit of the Christian Life

Session 7 - *Gaudium et Spes*: Joy and Hope for the Modern World

Session 8 - The Implementation of the Council in the Life of the Church

Session 9 - The New Evangelization: The Extraordinary Mission of Our Time

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 45-60 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.



THE NEW EVANGELIZATION: THE EXTRAORDINARY MISSION OF OUR TIME



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, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

CLASS OUTLINE

I. What's New about the New Evangelization

- New Cultural Reality
- New Ecclesial Reality
- New Missionary Landscape
- The Road to Emmaus as a Biblical paradigm for the New Evangelization
- Divine Pedagogy: Encounter, Reveal, Invite, Initiate

II. Practical Steps for the New Evangelization

- Being "all in" for Christ and knowing the Faith
- Universal call to holiness: holiness is key!
- The Eucharist as the Source and Summit

- Missionary discipleship H.A.B.I.T.S:
 - Holy Hour
 - Accountability
 - Bible Study / prayer
 - Incubating in parish
 - Tell others about the faith
 - Sacraments
- Being fishers of men and women - B.A.I.T.
 - Be open to opportunities to evangelize
 - Ask God to open hearts
 - Invite others
 - Tell people what God has done for you
- Going forward in hope



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does evangelization look different when the culture no longer has Christendom as its foundation? Where can we find hope for evangelization in the current cultural landscape? How does the divine pedagogy that Jesus shows us at the Road to Emmaus help guide us in our approach to others?

2. How can we evangelize Catholics who have drifted away from the Church, or who barely practice their faith? How might God be asking us to pray for and to reach out to those who are no longer practicing?

3. What does it mean to be “all in” for God? Why is lukewarmness an easy temptation to fall into, and how can we combat it?

4. Why can't we separate discipleship from being a missionary? How does the grace of our Baptism and Confirmation give us what we need to be fruitful in the work of evangelization?

5. Why is personal holiness so important for evangelization? Are there any people in your life whose holiness inspires you to grow holiness as well? What about these people is attractive to you?

CLOSING PRAYER

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my work, too, may be holy;
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
That I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
To defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,
That I always may be holy.
Amen.

-ST. AUGUSTINE



The Woman at the Well - Carl Heinrich Bloch
(19th Century, Chapel at Frederiksborg Palace in Copenhagen, Denmark)

LIVING IT OUT

Consider the H.A.B.I.T.S. of a missionary disciple: Holy Hour, accountability, Bible study and prayer, investing in your parish, telling others about your faith, and the Sacraments. In addition, there are many Catholic resources available for you to continue to grow in your knowledge of the faith. What one step could you take to grow in one of these areas? Ask God who He wants to bring into your life and how he wants you to be a witness to that person.

GOING DEEPER

- Pope St. Paul VI, Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (*Evangelization in Our Time*)
- Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*)