

**Theology of Vatican II – STMM 511**  
**Winter, 2009; Jan. 10-11; Jan. 31-Feb.1; Feb. 28-Mar.1**  
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**Scope of the Course:** The Second Vatican Council represented a new epoch in the development of the Church, ‘the beginning of a beginning’ (Karl Rahner S.J.), out of which Roman Catholicism and the whole of Christianity embarked upon a renewed pilgrimage of faith, in and through the world and its future. The course examines the theological and ecclesial environment from which the Council emerged, the foundational documents that express the vision it set forth, and the current struggle to appropriate this renewal in worship, theology and scripture, ecumenism and interfaith dialogue, and social engagement with diverse cultures and worldviews. The landscape of personal stories will give texture and resonance to the texts and pronouncements that document its history and theology, all of which shape ministry and life in the contemporary Church.

**Texts:** **Austin Flannery O.P., ed.** *Vatican Council II, Vol. 1: The Conciliar and Post-Conciliar Documents* (Northport, N.Y.: Costello Publishing Co., 1996, or any later edition). The study questions at the end of each document are helpful ways to clarify the main points.

**Giuseppe Albiergo,** *A Brief History of Vatican II.* Trans., Matthew Sherry (Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2008)

**William Madges and Michael J. Daley, eds.,** *Vatican II: Forty Personal Stories* (Mystic, CT.: Twenty-Third Publications, 2003)

**John J. Markey O.P.,** *Creating Communion: The Theology of the Constitutions of the Church* (N.Y.: New City Press, 2003)

**Maureen Sullivan O.P.,** *101 Questions and Answers on Vatican II* (N.Y.: Paulist Press, 2002)

Assorted articles, copyright cleared, and provided online

**Outline and Structure of the Course:** The twentieth century Jesuit theologian, Karl Rahner S.J., once wrote that “. . . it seems appropriate and justified to regard Vatican II as the first great official event in which the Church came to be realized *as world-Church.*” Both pastoral and specifically theological in its achievement, the Second Vatican Council began a systematic ecclesial reflection on the life and mission of a Church shaped by scripture, tradition, and structured communion, engaged in the modern world with all its complexities and shifts in horizon.

Our study this quarter will immerse us in the identity of the Church at the dawn of the Council, the documents and discussions of Vatican II, and the pastoral and theological implications for us today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Before each of our scheduled weekends, I ask that you do the assigned readings and be prepared for “full, active, and conscious participation” (*SC #14*) as a member of this academic/pastoral assembly. **You must read to participate; you do not need to be an expert to enter the dialogue.**

**A helpful way to prepare for each class:**

- **Read the material carefully** and highlight sections you feel are important or raise **significant questions** for clarification, agreement, or disagreement. Outline the main points, if that is helpful for you.
- As the course progresses, **see how the different areas intersect and inform one another** (e.g. how does the definition of “Church” in *Lumen Gentium* reflect or contradict the reform of the worshipping Church in the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*?). Be prepared for contradictions and tensions. These will surface as areas still to be received by the whole body or which certain sub-groups in the contemporary Church may wish to ignore.
- Always, always ask the question: how does what we are reading/discussing **take flesh in my experience and practice in the Church**, as a member of the People of God and as a minister and servant of the Gospel?

*I will try to clarify each session’s themes and issues with an opening lecture or set of questions. Then, I expect us to engage in an active exercise of shared learning. Learning to talk to one another, to figure out difficult issues together, even to agree to disagree together is important pastoral preparation for your work. I will add: I am not interested in your “out-doing” one another, which is antithetical to collaborative study. I will try to e-mail any questions beforehand. You are free to contact me between sessions as well.*

**Evaluation:** I expect that all participants will read the assigned materials each week and contribute significantly to our discussion. After we get to know one another better, we may decide to have groups take responsibility to lead sections of the discussion. Weekend classes are, by their nature, intense and tightly structured. A detailed syllabus is found below. I have tried to mix lecture time, group work, and discussion in what, I believe, is a workable mix. Not to worry! We will evaluate how we are doing at the end of the first weekend.

I am asking for two papers of five-six pages apiece.

**Paper #1: due by February 9**, asks the following overarching question: **How do the documents and commentaries we have read so far deal (successfully or not) with the tension between the desire to remain faithful to what we have inherited and what we need to be in the future? How does that tension still exist in the questions we are asking today?**

- We will have covered the inherited legacy up to the Council; the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*); and the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*), and the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (*Dei Verbum*). There is a lot to write on here and it will come from your own questions and experience.

**Paper #2: due by March 11**, asks you to take one particular issue that captured your interest and attention this quarter: **Write an essay that will be the seed for a parish/school presentation on the legacy of Vatican II in the Church today.** Here are some possibilities:

- Participation in the liturgy as expressive of the true nature of the Church
- Collegiality in Conferences of Bishops, Diocesan Commissions, Pastoral Councils: faithfulness to a new vision
- The *sensus fidelium* as a movement of the Spirit
- “Structured Communion in the Spirit” – holding the whole body together

- Why Catholics should/should not share Eucharist with other Christians
- The Petrine Office as a symbol of unity and communion
- Catholic devotional life and the role it plays in the universal Church, etc.
- Why the reception of Vatican II is still taking place and why that is important in 2009

### Course Outline

#### **Class Session 1: Saturday morning, January 10 (9:00am-12:00n): What is this great event?**

\*Introduction: syllabus, structure, and evaluation

\*Shared discussion: *what do you know about Vatican II? How has your own faith story been shaped by the events and decrees of the Council? If you lived in the “pre-Vatican II Church,” what was it like for you?*

\*An opening lecture to orient our study and next week’s reading, beginning with “Pope John’s Opening Speech to the Council” and some insights of Edward Schillebeeckx O.P. and others.

Question for Discussion: How do issues that loomed in the mid-twentieth century (radical secularism, culture wars, liberation movements, the disintegration of Euro-centered religious identity, and the “exhaustion of institutionalized religion,” as one theologian called it) still remain alive today? How have they deepened?

#### **Class Session 2: Saturday afternoon (1:30pm-4:00 pm)**

##### **A System of Hierarchy and Truth Faces Modernity: The Church Opens the Windows**

- John J. Markey O.P., *Creating Communion*, Introduction and Ch. 1, “Roman Catholic Theology of the Church Prior to Vatican II,” (pp. 1-52)
- Madges/Daley, eds., *Forty Personal Stories*, Part One: The Council in Context (pp. 1-38)
- Maureen Sullivan O.P., *101 Questions and Answers on Vatican II, Intro and Chs. 1-4* (pp. 1-48) [*You may wish to have read all of Sullivan’s short book as an excellent “primer”.*]
- Guiseppe Albiergo, *A Brief History of Vatican II*, Intros. and Chs. 1-3 (pp. vii-61)

#### **Class Session 3: Sunday, January 11 (10:00-1:00 pm)**

##### **Liturgy as Focal Manifestation of the Mystery of Christ and the True Nature of the Church**

- The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*), *Sacram Liturgiam*, and *Inter Oecumenici* (pp. 1-56 In Flannery)
- Markey, Ch. 3, Part III “Sacrament and Sacramentality . . . “(pp. 147-169)
- Madges/Daley, Part Two: “Vatican Two and the Liturgy” (pp. 41-66)
- Yves Congar O.P., “Liturgy: Principle Instrument of the Church’s Tradition,” in *Traditions and Traditions* (N.Y.: McMillan, 1966), pp. 81-99 (article attached on-line)
- Godfried Cardinal Daneels, “Liturgy Forty Years After the Second Vatican Council: High Point or Recession,” in *Liturgy in a Postmodern World*, ed. Keith Pecklers S.J. (N.Y.: Continuum, 2003), pp. 7-26 (article attached on-line)

### End of the First Weekend!

#### **Class Session 4: Saturday morning, January 31 (9am-12n)**

## **The Church: A Structured Communion . . .**

- Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*), Chs. 1-3 (pp. 350-387)
- Markey, Ch. 2, “The Ecclesiology of the Constitutions of the Church,” pp. 53-99
- Karim Schelkins, “*Lumen Gentium*’s “*Subsistit in*” Revisited: The Catholic Church and Christian Unity after Vatican II,” in *Theological Studies* 69, #4 (Dec., 2008), 875-893 (on-line in January)
- Madges/Daley, pp. 69-88; first part of Part Three: “What It Means to Be Church”
- Albierno, Ch. 4, pp. 63-91, “The Church is a Communion”
- OPTIONAL: “The Status of Truth,” Ch. 3 in *Imagining the Catholic Church: Structured Communion in the Spirit*, Ghislain Lafont, O.S.B., trans. John J. Burkhard O.S.B. (Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 2000), pp. 69-89 (on-line in January)

## **Class Session 5: Saturday afternoon (1:30pm-4pm)**

### **. . . In the Spirit: The Call to Holiness for All Pilgrims**

- Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*), chs. 4-8; explanatory note (pp. 388-426)
- Markey, Ch. 3, “Understanding the Triad that Creates Communion,” pp. 100-147
- Madges/Daley, pp. 89-104, second part of Part Three
- Carmel McEnroy R.S.M., “Women of Vatican II: Recovering a Dangerous Memory,” and Mary Ellen Sheehan I.H.M., “Roman Catholic Bishops on Women’s Equality: Some Post-Vatican II Developments, in *The Church in the Nineties: Its Legacy, Its Future*, Pierre Hegy, ed. (Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1993), 149-171 (on-line in January)
- Ramiro Pellitero, “Congar’s Developing Understanding of the Laity and Their Mission,” *The Thomist* 65 (2001), pp. 327-359 (on-line in January)

## **Class Session 6: Sunday, February 1 (10am-1pm)**

### **In Praise of God’s Word: Proclaiming Divine Revelation**

- Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (*Dei verbum*), pp. 750-765
- Madges/Daley, Part Four: “Revelation, Scripture and Tradition,” 107-136
- James Gaffney S.J., “Scripture and Tradition in Recent Catholic Thought,” in *Vatican II: The Theological Dimension* (orig. Volume xxvii of *The Thomist*) (USA: The Thomist Press, 1963), pp. 141-169 (on-line in January)
- Timothy Radcliffe O.P., “The Sacramentality of the Word,” in *Liturgy in a Postmodern World*, ed. Keith Pecklers S.J. (N.Y.: Continuum, 2003), pp. 133-147 (on-line in January)

## **End of Second Weekend II**

*Paper I due via e-mail by February 9*

## **Class Session 7: Saturday morning, February 28 (9am-12n)**

### **Solidarity of the Church with the Whole Human Family**

- Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (*Gaudium et spes*), Preface and Part One, pp. 903-948
- Markey, Ch. 4, “The Church as Sacrament of Communion for the World,” pp. 170-184
- Madges, Daley, Part Six, “World Issues and Social Justice,” pp. 187-220

- Karl Rahner S.J., “Basic Theological Interpretation of the Second Vatican Council,” in *Concern for the Church <Theological Investigations XX>* (N.Y.: Crossroad Publishing Co.), pp. 77-89 (on-line in January)

### **Class Session 8: Saturday morning (1:30pm-4pm)**

#### **An Echo in the Heart: Culture, Worldview, Solidarity**

- *Gaudian et spes*, Part Two, pp. 948-1001
- On Dialogue with Non-believers (*Humanae personae dignitatem*), pp. 1002-1014
- Karl Rahner S.J., “The Abiding Significance of the Second Vatican Council,” in *Concern for the Church <Theological Investigations XX>* (N.Y.: Crossroad Publishing Co.), pp. 90-102 (on-line)
- Marie-Dominique Chenu O.P., “A Council for All Peoples,” in *Vatican II: by those who were there*, ed. Alberic Stacpoole (Minneapolis, MN: Winston Press, 1986), pp. 19-23 (on-line)
- Jean Smith Liddell, *Gaudian et spes: Source of Challenge and Hope*,” in *The Church in the Nineties: Its Legacy, Its Future*, Pierre M. Hegy, ed. (Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1993), pp. 269-275 (on-line)
- Thomas P. Rausch S.J., “A Truly Catholic Church,” Ch. 9 in *Toward a Truly Catholic Church: An Ecclesiology for the Third Millennium* (Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 2005), pp. 167-181 (on-line)

### **Class #9: Sunday, March 1 (10am-1pm)**

#### **That All May Be One: Ecumenism, Mission, and Liberty; Living the Truth in Tension**

- Decree on Ecumenism (*Unitatis redintegratio*), pp. 452-470
- Declaration on Religious Liberty (*Dignitatis humanae*), pp. 799-811
- Decree on the Church’s Missionary Activity (*Ad gentes divinitus*), pp. 813-856
- Declaration on the Relations of the Church to Non-Christian Religions (*Nostra aetate*), pp. 738-749
- *Ut Unum Sint*, John Paul II’s 1995 encyclical on ecumenism (on web at [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_25051995\\_ut-unum-sint\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25051995_ut-unum-sint_en.html))
- Cardinal Walter Kasper, “Nature and Purpose of Ecumenical Dialogue,” (online or website of the Vatican), 13pp.
- George Tavard A.A., “Praying Together: *Communicatio in Sacris* in the Decree on Ecumenism,” in *Vatican II: by those who were there*, ed. Alberic Stacpoole (Minneapolis, MN: Winston Press, 1986), pp. 202-219 (online)
- Albierno, Chs. 5-6, “The Faith Lives within History” and “For the Renewal of Christianity,” pp. 93-130
- Joseph Komonchak, “Is Christ Divided? Dealing with Diversity and Disagreement,” in *Origins Vol. 33, #9* (July 19, 2003), pp. 140-147 (online)

### **End of Weekend III**

#### ***Papers due via e-mail no later than March 11***

Thanks ahead of time for your hard work and creative exchange this quarter. There is a lot of reading, but it is perhaps the one time you can give important attention to this

great “epoch” in theological/ecclesial history. I am honored to be able to spend this time with you. **Remember, the papers are due *no later* than Wednesday, March 11. Earlier papers gratefully accepted!**