

Theology of Vatican II – STMM 593 *Syllabus subject to change if needed.*
Winter, 2011; Thursdays, 5:45-8:35pm
Hunthausen 110 and Paul Janowiak S.J., Professor
Hunthausen Hall 215; x5314

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, 2nd 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 on Angel.

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 21st century. Each week, 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 week’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.

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. Let us see what works best. In addition, I am asking for two papers of five-six pages apiece.

Paper #1: due by February 10 (Class #6), 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*). There is a lot to write on here and it will come from your own questions and experience.

Paper #2: due by March 14, 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: how does a Universal Church discern?
- “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. etc.
- Why the reception of Vatican II is still taking place and why that is important in 2011

Course Outline

Class #1: Thursday, January 6 – Guest Professor: Dr. Peter Zografos, STM graduate working with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops

- 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?*
Preparation: if you get the chance, read John Markey’s introduction, and the first section of Sullivan’s small book (18 pp.). **You may wish to have read all of Sullivan’s short book as an excellent “primer.”**

Class #2: Thursday, January 13 - A System of Hierarchy and Truth Faces Modernity

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

- Giuseppe Alberigo, *A Brief History of Vatican II*, Intros. and Chs. 1-3 (pp. vii-61)
- John J. Markey O.P., *Creating Communion*, Ch. 1, “Roman Catholic Theology of the Church Prior to Vatican II,” (pp. 27-52)
- Madges/Daley, eds., *Forty Personal Stories*, Part One: The Council in Context (pp. 1-38)
- Sullivan O.P., ch. 3 (pp. 33-48)

Class #3: Thursday, January 20 (Week of Christian Unity) 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 (Angel)
- 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 (Angel)

Class #4: Thursday, January 27 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 (Angel)
- Madges/Daley, pp. 69-88; first part of Part Three: “What It Means to Be Church”
- Alberigo, 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 (Angel)

Class #5: Thursday, February 3 . . . 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 (Angel)
- Ramiro Pellitero, “Congar’s Developing Understanding of the Laity and Their Mission,” *The Thomist* 65 (2001), pp. 327-359 (Angel)

Class #6: Thursday, February 10 In Praise of God’s Word: Proclaiming Divine

Revelation (*Paper #1 due today!*)

- 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 (Angel)
- Jared Wicks S.J., “Vatican II on Revelation – From Behind the Scenes,” *TS* 71, #3 (Sept., 2010), pp. 637-650
- 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 (Angel)

Class #7: Thursday, February 17 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 (Angel)

Class #8: Thursday, February 24 An Echo in the Heart: Culture, Worldview, Solidarity

- *Gaudium et spes*, Part Two, pp. 948-1001
- On Dialogue with Non-believers (*Humanae Personam 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 (Angel)
- 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 (Angel)

- 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 (Angel)
- 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 (Angel)

Class #9: Thursday, March 3 That All May Be One: Ecumenism, Mission, and Liberty

- 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 (handout or find on web)
- Cardinal Walter Kasper, “Nature and Purpose of Ecumenical Dialogue,” (on web at http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25051995_ut-unum-sint_en.html), 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

Class #10: Thursday, March 10 Living the Truth in Tension: Vatican II, Present and Future

- Alberigo, 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 (Angel)
- Neil Omerud, “Vatican II: Continuity or Discontinuity? Toward an Ontology of Meaning,” *Theological Studies 71, #3* (Sept. 2010), pp. 609-636.
- Thomas J. Shelley, “Vatican II and American Politics: Did the council make any difference?” *America* (Oct. 13, 2003), pp. 16-19
- Joseph Komonchak, “Vatican II as Ecumenical Council: Yves Congar’s vision realized” (pp. 12-14) and George A. Lindbeck, “How a Lutheran Saw It: a different kind of Reformation” (pp. 15-17) both in *Commonweal, Vol. CXXIX, Number 20* (Nov. 22, 2002)
- (optional) John J. Markey O.P., “George Washington, Napoleon, John Paul II and the Future of the Vatican II Revolution,” in *Seattle Theology and Ministry Review, Vol. 3, 2003*, pp. 14-25 (from a talk given at STM)

Thanks for your hard work and creative exchange this quarter. Consider the 1150 pages we have read like immersing yourself in a classic Russian novel! **Remember, the papers are due no later than Monday, March 14. Earlier papers gratefully accepted!**

This course fulfills the following learning outcomes as set forth by the School of Theology and Ministry:

- The ability to reflect theologically on the central themes of the Christian tradition
- Ability to articulate one’s relationship with God, as it is informed by theological reflection in one’s social context
- Ability to engage the community with the larger social context and to articulate and communicate the mission that guides the community