The Vatican II Center for Parish Renewal

Parish Renewal Plans
Drawn from the great themes of Vatican II
celebrating the
50th Anniversary of the Opening
of the Second Vatican Council
October 11, 1962

PastoralPlanning.com
Why Celebrate Vatican II
Why renew your parish?

It’s been more than **fifty years** since Pope John XXIII announced that there would be a worldwide council of the Church. And it’s been about forty-five years since the last session of that council ended under the leadership of Pope Paul VI. In between the calling and the adjournment of the Council, **the Church gathered in a magnificent way** to renew itself and reach out to the world. That renewal is still under way!

Most members of your parish are active Catholics today precisely **because** of the Council and its restoration of the Church as **the People of God**. The story of Vatican II: the who, what, when, how and why of these bishops, theologians, observers, popes, and pilgrims -- all gathered in Rome in the 1960s -- is not merely a matter of history. **It’s also part of the living, breathing Church of today.**

**Both Sides Now.** In the years since the Council ended, we have seen both an enthusiastic embrace of the Spirit of Vatican II, as well as resistance to its teachings. We’ve seen a Church at home in the modern world, as well as a Church more frightened of the modern times. We’ve seen **hundreds of thousands of Catholics** step forward, united by their common baptisms, to redefine themselves as Church, “the People of God,” and take up key roles in ministry and leadership. We’ve seen a new generation of young Catholics emerge in these last years who know little or nothing of life in the Church before the Council -- and who may not fully understand what happened in Rome during those heady days of Vatican II.

In the Church, **we have a habit of returning over and over again to the core stories** that have fashioned us as the People of God. We return to the Scriptures every day. We return to the lives of the Saints, to the stories of our history, and to the great spiritual forces of the past. Likewise, as this 50th Anniversary period dawns on us, **it is time to return to the Story of Vatican II.** We hope this will renew your parish by offering people a renewed sense of the vision of what it means to be and become Church. We hope it will create enthusiasm as it deepens understanding about the Council. And we hope it will help you enter into a Year of Renewal as you observe and celebrate Vatican II.
Our Parish Renewed
Nuestra parroquia renovada

How do you organize a parish renewal to celebrate this Anniversary?

Work with us on how to organize in your parish or school. You can reach us toll free at 877-944-5844 or Resources@PastoralPlanning.com
Coaching is free and unlimited. Este recurso también está disponible en español.

The goal of this project is to enter into a series of activities aimed at renewing parish life by renewing the faith of individual parish members. This renewal will flow from

- A deeper understanding of Vatican II
  - accomplished through
    - The “Did You Know?” series
    - The “Twelve Articles on Vatican II” used in parish meetings or classes
    - Workshops presented by you or a member of your team, using our resources
    - Group reading and study of Vatican II in Plain English
    - Use of the Implementation Worksheets, distributed to various committees in the parish to stimulate their planning about how to implement various themes of the Council
  - And other means

- Prayer & faith sharing – renewal of the Encounter with Christ
  - Using the “Communal Prayers” in the words of the Council and Blessed John XXIII which we have prepared for you
  - Using the liturgical music provided by David Haas and Lori True
  - Parish based retreats
  - Faith sharing flowing from the Sunday Liturgy of the Word, which is the very Fountain of the Christian Life, the source & summit of our faith

- Holding a parish-wide mission or retreat on the great themes of the Council:
  - The Universal Call to Holiness
  - The Encounter with Christ through the Liturgy
  - The Call to Discipleship in the World
  - Or others
Create a calendar. (We have a sample calendar for you – *The Vatican II Parish.*) Schedule the various elements aimed at parish renewal, using the resources we provide or others to which you may also have access. You may wish to name an ad hoc planning group to build bridges among the various ministry groups, all of whom may take a role, including:

- Liturgy leaders
- Catechetical, school, or youth ministry leaders
- Adult faith formation & RCIA leaders
- Stewardship leaders
- Once you have the cooperation of all in your community, you can write up a calendar to cover the months in which you have chosen, using our sample as your guide.

- Schedule the **Parish-wide Mission or Retreat.**
- Plan to use the **Twelve Articles and Did You Know...about Vatican II?** materials throughout the year.
- Use the practical and adaptable **Implementation Worksheets** to study ways to increase how you implement ecumenism, a participatory liturgy, the universal call to holiness, the ministry of the baptized, and other themes.
- Organize times and sign-up opportunities for various small **Reading & Study Groups** to study *Vatican II in Plain English*, using our comprehensive prayer and study guide, which is free with the books.
- Schedule a series of three **Vatican II Workshops** using the resources for that purpose provided by us, or create workshops of your own. Use these in Youth Ministry, Adult faith formation, RCIA, or for the general interest of the parish. These are workshops which you or a member of your team will lead.
- Begin using the **Question of the Week** to provide opportunities for a deeper encounter with Christ in the Word and in Faith Sharing. (Get the free guide, *How to Lead Faith Sharing*, from the web site to see the details.)
- Schedule a workable number of **Parish-based Living Christ Retreats**, to provide profound opportunities for your leaders and key volunteers (or anyone else) to a rich experience of the Paschal Mystery. (Get the materials for this from the web site at very low cost – it’s all reproducible.)
- Begin **Welcoming People** to life in your parish, regardless their situations in life, especially those who have been away for a while. Open wide the doors! (Get the free resource, *How to Welcome Everyone*, from the web site to see details.)
3 possible themes are ready
Other themes can be requested

- Responding (more fully) to the Universal Call to Holiness
  - Based on the Constitution on the Church
  - What is “holiness” in today’s world?
  - Who is called to holiness?
    - How can we plan our daily lives to include elements that lead to ever-greater holiness?
      - How can we make love a more prominent part of everyday life?
      - How can we incorporate the dying and rising of the Paschal Mystery into the stuff of everyday life?
      - How can we live more simply, sustainably, and in greater solidarity with the poor and rejected?
  - How can the parish become a “community of faith” to support its members?

- Making (more) Room for Christ in our Lives
  - Based on the Constitution on the Liturgy
  - Encountering Christ in our daily journey
    - Prayer, contemplation, our loving friends & family
    - What is conversion? How does it happen?
  - Receiving Christ in the Eucharist
    - The 4-fold presence: in the Word, in the Bread & Wine, in the Community, and in the person of the Priest
  - Caring for the Body of Christ
    - Faith leading to work for justice and charity

- Becoming (more engaged) Disciples
  - Based on the Constitution on Divine Revelation the Church in Today’s World
  - How do we know what God wants of us?
    - God reveals the inner life of the Trinity to us
    - In Scripture
    - Through the Church
  - How do we respond to this?
    - In faith
    - By how we live
    - In community
  - How do we address the world around us?
    - Not with suspicion but with loving care
    - We call the world and society to a larger reality: love, life, & the common good

Call us at 877-944-5844 to get started!
Parish Workshops
led by you or someone on your team

These are workshops that you or someone on your team leads. Each comes with an excellent PowerPoint presentation, complete with talking points, plus handouts and a brief communal prayer. This is a complete package – everything you need to provide these workshops yourself. With a small amount of preparation, you’ll be ready to teach.

- We offer free and unlimited coaching for the person making these presentations via a toll free phone line: 877-944-5844.
- Each includes time for sharing among participants and follow-up resources.
- Each workshop is designed to take about 90 minutes from opening prayer to closing remarks.
- The topics include (in English or Spanish)

What Happened at Vatican II?
The Story of the Second Vatican Council 1962-1965 VAT401
- The Church on the Eve of Vatican II (opening conversation) Pope John XXIII
- The planning and preparation
- The attendees
- The sessions, voting, key speeches, and politics
- A summary of all the documents (handout)
- What strikes you most strongly about this story? (sharing)

What did Vatican II Do?
A Review of all 16 Council Documents VAT402
- Our collective memory of the Council (opening conversation)
- A Mystery of depth
- Body of Christ
- People of God, among whom the baptized are called as ministers
- The call to holiness is universal (outline of this chapter – handout)
- How do you intentionally grow toward greater holiness? (sharing)

Rethinking Sacraments & Liturgy
The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy VAT403
- What do we love most about the Mass? (opening conversation)
- The Liturgy is the source and summit of the Christian life
- Everyone must actively participate and understand what they are doing
- The Eucharist is not a devotional object, but an action of the faithful
- Each of the Sacraments was restored with an eye to its communal dimensions rather than private piety – all 7 will be reviewed in turn (handout)
- What is your response to this reform? (sharing)
52 “Did You Know?” items

- Each is in the format of a JPG file to make them easy to insert into documents of various kinds.
- Permission is granted to reproduce at will for use in the bulletin, or to post on the parish web site, to include in parent newsletters, or to use in any other way.
- These are an excellent way to provide little bits of information about the Council throughout the year in order to generate interest and questions about Vatican II.
- Also available in Spanish

Parish Communal Prayer
for meetings or classes

- Each about 20 minutes in length.
- Each includes a brief faith-sharing starter question.
- Can be bought one at a time or all at once.
- All are reproducible and complete, ready to use when you get them.
- Your people will gradually be introduced to the very words of both John XXIII and the Council itself, linked with Scripture, and set to prayer.
Study Articles on Vatican II with discussion questions

- Each about 900 words long
- To be used in various group settings within the parish
- These can be used as part of on-going education for parish leaders, as part of a youth ministry program, in the RCIA or Confirmation program, in Adult Faith Formation settings, or in any other way you wish. You’re free to reproduce them or post them to the parish web site.
- Length varies from 4 (VAT107) pages to nearly 40 pages (VAT110). Shorter articles are meant to be photocopied as handouts. Longer ones to be shared as e-Files.
- 6 of these are also available in Spanish

VAT101  Pope John’s opening speech at the Council  
VAT102  Catholic Memories on the Eve of the Council  
VAT103  Factors which Gave Rise to Vatican II  
VAT104  How Vatican II did its Work – the Methodology  
VAT105  Archbishop Hallinan’s Council Speech on Women  
VAT106  How to Teach About Vatican II in Your Parish  
VAT107  The Prayers of Vatican II  
VAT108  The Gift of Peace – Pacem in Terris  
VAT109  On the Primacy of Conscience and How to Explain It  
VAT110  The History of the Church Culminating in Vatican II  
VAT111  Vatican II Ends Centuries of Grudge Holding  
VAT112  A Complete Summary of Documents of the Council  
VAT114  Fifty Years Since Vatican II: We’ve only just begun!
This dynamic presentation of the Council should be in the hands of everyone who studies Vatican II and its documents.

It’s written in plain, inclusive English with a poetic touch. Each document is faithfully summarized and paraphrased, retaining the original article numbers, allowing users to return to the official translations for more detail. **Book One** is the story of the Council itself, including an invaluable chronology of Council events. **Books Two & Three** present each council document in turn. **FREE Study Guide is provided for group use.**

**Here’s a sample**
**(from the Constitution on the Church, chapter 5, on the Universal Call to Holiness):**

39 The Church is holy.
    The Church was holy.
    The Church will always be holy.
We know this to be true because
    Christ loved the Church into holiness
    and gave her the presence of the Holy Spirit.
This holiness is made evident
    by the many women and men
    who draw from the Church
    the Spirit and strength
    to live lives of holy goodness.
40 We are called to holiness by Christ himself
    who taught, in the words of Matthew,
    that we must be "perfect as God is perfect."
By transforming the activities and events
    of everyday life into holy moments,
    all the faithful grow in this perfection
    and the world more and more resembles God’s Reign.
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If you would like to talk with one of our presenters about a Parish Renewal or Retreat, please circle one name. This person will contact you.

Jeannie Bross-Judge Kathy Coffey Nick Wagner Art Zannoni

Workshops on Vatican II that you or your team presents

<p>| e-Resources: ready to reproduce and use – PowerPoint, talking points, handouts, prayers |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title | Code | Price each | English | Spanish |
| Rethinking Sacraments  How the Council restored the Liturgy | VAT403 | $11.99  9.74 |</p>
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<td>Did You Know? – Bulletin or Web site short notes on the Council</td>
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<td>e-Resource: ready to reproduce and use, sent as JPG files</td>
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<td>The full set of 52 Did You Know...about Vatican II?</td>
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**Buy the entire bundle of resources** (not including Vatican II in Plain English or the Syllabus)

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