

UNPACKING VATICAN II AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR US TODAY

Let us rediscover the Council's passion and renew our own passion for the Council...

Pope Francis: homily at Mass marking 60th Anniversary of start of Vatican II
(11 Oct 2022)

Presented by Gerard Hore

Dates: 15 July, 29 July, 12 August, 26 August, 9 September 2024

Time: 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Delivery: Zoom

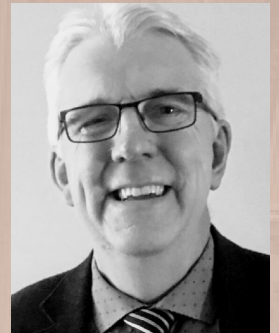
Registration: via iLearn in all sessions by 1 July 2024

[CNS04523; CNS04524; CNS04525; CNS04526; CNS04527]

Cost: Sponsored by Identity and Outreach Directorate (CEDC)

APST: 2, 6, 7

Accreditation: 7.5 hrs to Teach Religion in a Catholic School
(5 x 1.5 hrs sessions)



Gerard Hore, a native of Rockhampton, in the lands of the Darumbal people, worked in Catholic education across Queensland for forty-three years. He has been teacher, APRE, principal for twenty years, Education Consultant and Director: Mission and Identity for Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Schools. Three additional years, 2020-22, were spent as Education Officer Catholic Life with Catholic Schools Office, Armidale NSW.

Gerard knows that very many people associated with Catholic education see involvement with Church life or in learning more about Catholicism, as things to which they apply a "One can take it or leave it" approach. That's not his position but he appreciates that no-one can be forced into faith or into religious practice. He wrote "What Catholics Believe" (St Pauls, 2010) which sought to help members of Catholic school communities learn how the Church understands itself and the mission it has. Currently he is the marker for students' assignments in the Religious Education Accreditation Program (REAP) subject offered by Brisbane and Toowoomba Catholic Schools Offices.

Gerard holds Masters qualifications in Education (School Management) from CQU and Arts (Theology) from ACU. Gerard believes the papacy of Pope Francis is a marvellous gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church.

Want to know more about Vatican II and our call to be an Open Church for our World? Why not commit to 7.5 hours of learning and dialogue with Gerard Hore on the impact and gift of Vatican II for our Church and our World. Each session will involve 45 minutes' input about some major elements of Vatican II before participants are invited into dialogue about how these documents and discussions impact us as teachers and members of a global community.

This suite of learning and reflection experiences will further develop your understanding of what it means to be an employee of a Catholic organisation and provide some insight into how Gospel Values and Catholic Social Teachings form and inform the work of Catholic Education (one of our 13 Enablers of the Strategic Plan).

(At) Vatican Council II ... the Catholic episcopate came together to listen and to discern the path for the Church indicated by the Holy Spirit. To doubt the Council is to ... in the final analysis, to doubt the Holy Spirit himself who guides the Church.

Pope Francis, letter to the Bishops of the World
(16 July 2021)

Proposed Learnings/Content

Session 1 asks *Why bother with this?* and examines the place of Councils in the history and life of the Church, with particular emphasis on Vatican II.

Sessions 2-5 explore aspects of the four Constitutions of Vatican II (The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church; The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation; The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy; the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World) through:

- a quick look at how the document made its way through the Council's processes (some of them had a difficult birth)
- the main 'teachings' of the Constitutions
- some comments on the way the Church (and the wider world sometimes) has been affected by the Constitution

Learning Intentions for the five sessions are as follows.

For Session 1: Participants will know about

1. Pope Francis's enthusiasm for us to know more about the Council and these documents.
2. The place of Vatican II in Church history.
3. The place of Councils more generally in Church history.
4. The Pope's leadership role.
5. Tensions between Councils and Popes
6. Four famous Councils (Nicaea, Trent, Vatican I, Vatican II) and the Council/Pope relationship at each.

For Session 2 (The Church): Participants will know about

1. Church as Christ present in the world.
2. Church as 'the people of God'
3. Church has a hierarchical structure.
4. Christ's Church 'subsists' in the Catholic Church.
5. The ecumenical turn of this document and the Council as a whole.

For Session 3 (Revelation): Participants will know about

1. God being knowable to some extent because God makes Godself knowable.
2. God makes Godself known through creation, through acts of goodness and through loving relationships.
3. Jesus Christ is the ultimate revelation of God.
4. Inextricable linkage among Tradition, Scripture and the Church-as-teacher in our accessing what God has been/is/will be revealing.
5. Difference between Tradition, traditions and traditionalism

For Session 4 (The Liturgy): Participants will know about

1. A definition of liturgy and its difference from other prayer celebrations.
2. Important differences between the Tridentine liturgy and the Vatican II liturgy.
3. The sacraments of initiation revitalised.
4. A new prominence for Scripture in the liturgy.

For Session 5 (The Church in the Modern World): Participants will know about

1. The Church identifying with all of the human race and its life experiences and teaching that Christ does the same.
2. The Church acknowledging that it can learn from the world, while still confident it has Good News to give the world.
3. The importance of and dignity of conscience.
4. The Church's strong anti-war stance.
5. The importance of justice, including social justice.



Italy 20th century. Photograph. Britannica ImageQuest, Encyclopædia Britannica, 25 May 2016. quest.eb.com/images/126_479644. Accessed 18 Jul 2023.