

# Vatican II: On the Path of Aggiornamento

Second in a Two-Part Series  
(Vatican Council II was convened 20 years ago Oct. 11 and took the church on the path of aggiornamento — updating. What happened in the council halls is recounted in this anniversary series.)

By John Maher, NC News

On Sept. 29, 1963, Pope Paul VI carried on the work of his predecessor, Pope John XXIII, by opening the second session of the Second Vatican Council. By the time the fourth session closed two years later, the council had approved 16 documents which, among other things, clarified some points of theology, defined how the church functions, removed misunderstandings about religious freedom, revised the church's liturgy and proclaimed the church's involvement in the modern world.

In his 1963 address, Pope Paul stressed the pastoral nature of the council and said its purposes were: to define more fully the concept of the church, especially with regard to the position of the bishops; to renew the church; to restore unity among Christians; and to start a dialogue with contemporary man.

Resuming their discussion of the schema on the church, the council fathers discussed the concept of collegiality, which means that the bishops as a whole, in union with the pope, exercise supreme authority in the church.

Some council fathers said no link could be established between the college of bishops and the 12 apostles as juridical entities. Others said the bishops as a body shared the authority given by Christ to the apostles.

During the discussions of the schema on the church, perhaps the most dramatic conflict of the council occurred on Nov. 8, 1963, when Cardinal Joseph Frings of Cologne, West Germany, frankly criticized the Holy Office, known after the council as the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and Cardinal Alfredo Ottaviani, secretary of the Holy Office, defended it.

Cardinal Frings said the procedures of the Holy Office "are out of harmony with modern times, are a source of harm to the faithful and of scandal to those outside the church."

Cardinal Ottaviani said, "No one is ever accused, judged and condemned without a thorough previous investigation carried on with the help of competent consultants and experienced specialists."

The council fathers subsequently voted to approve these positions on collegiality:

— Every bishop who is in union with all the bishops and the pope belongs to the college of bishops.

— The college of bishops succeeds the college of apostles and, together with the pope, has full and supreme power over the whole church.

At the end of the session, the council fathers overwhelmingly approved the constitution on the liturgy and a decree on the media of social communication.

During the council's third session, which lasted from Sept. 14 to Nov. 21, 1964, Patrick Keegan of England, president of the World Movement of Christian Workers, became the first layman to address a council working session in modern times. Women were admitted to the council as auditors for the first time in history.

The council grappled with the issues of nuclear warfare, the population explosion, culture and economics, hunger and poverty.

The third session produced the constitution on the nature of the church, proclaiming that bishops share with the pope the guidance and government of the universal church.

The council also approved the final draft of the decree on ecumenism, which described in positive terms the authentic Christian features found in other Christian churches and recognized that both sides must share responsibility for the division among Christians.

The third session also approved the decree on Eastern Catholic Churches, which confirmed their relative autonomy and increased the authority of their patriarchs.

At the opening of the fourth session of the Second Vatican Council on Sept. 14, 1965, Pope Paul announced the institution of a permanent synod of bishops with deliberative as well as consultative powers.

In discussing the declaration on non-Christian religions, which had been revised to say the church "deplored" rather than "deplored and condemned" anti-Semitism, Cardinal Augustin Bea, head of the commission which formulated the document, said the final draft "excludes unjust affirmations and accusations made against all Jews, without distinction, then living, and against the Jews of today: namely, that all of them are guilty of the condemnation of the Lord and therefore are rejected by God and accursed."

During debate on the draft constitution on the church in the modern world, a massive 30,000-word document, some council fathers criticized its style and terminology and questioned its clarity. Some said it was too naturalistic and not sufficiently centered on Christ. Others found it too intellectualistic or too Western in orientation.

The issue of atheism and communism produced heated discussion and resulted in an abortive move to include new condemnation of communism. The motion was rejected as unnecessary in the light of previous pronouncements.

There was also sharp debate on the issue of nuclear warfare and the stockpiling of nuclear weapons. Some council fathers, for whom Archbishop Philip M. Hannan of New Orleans became the spokesman, contended that it would be politically unwise to rule out entirely nuclear stockpiling and the possible use of nuclear arms as a legitimate means of defense.

At the final working congregation of the council on Dec. 7, 1965, a joint statement by Pope Paul and Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras I of Constantinople was read. It cancelled the mutual excommunications pronounced in 1054 by representatives of the pope and by the patriarch of that time.

In a final address to the council, Pope Paul said the church through the council has "declared herself the servant of humanity at the very time when her teaching role and her pastoral government have, by reason of the council's solemnity, assumed greater splendor and vigor. The idea of service has been central."

On Dec. 8, at a Mass in St. Peter's Square, Pope Paul adjourned the council, a little more than three years after it began.

Pope John's path of aggiornamento — updating — had been engaged.

## Seton Branches Prepare Ball

The various Seton branches are busy on final plans for the 27th annual Seton Ball which will benefit St. Mary's Hospital. This year's theme, "125th Jubilee," celebrates St. Mary's 125th anniversary.

On Saturday evening, Nov. 6, the candlelit ballroom of the Genesee

Plaza Holiday Inn will greet Rochesterians as Tom Monte's orchestra sets the mood for the celebration of a hospital that opened its door to this community 125 years ago.

The 1982 Jubilee Ball is under the chairmanship of Elaine Formicola, assisted by Louise DeStephano.

Secretary is Suellen Graney.

Reflecting the theme through their creative artistic talents are decorations chairman, Carol Ciluffo and her assistants Mary Stid, Pat Mackey, and Georgette Cadregari. Arrangements are under the direction of Bianca Infantino and Judy Swift.

The program has been created by Nancy Palvino and Martha JoCoyne, and complements the invitations designed by Janet Gaffney and Barbara Brasser. Hand scrolling by Ida Strobino adds a special touch to each invitation.

The Benefactor Committee includes Carol Mont, Marion Clement, Concetta Gioia, Ginny McDonnell and Peggy Patanella, with the Reception Committee made up of Julie Fitzsimmons and Kathy Eagle.

A tradition over the years has been the presentation of crystal bells to benefactors, carrying out the "Bells of St. Mary's" theme. In appreciation of the benefactors, Maryjean Herberger, Maggie Michie, and Anne Mulbury have arranged presentation of the bells at a reception prior to the ball with the evening's honored guest, Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

Mary Rogers and Joan Okey are in charge of financial arrangements. Helen Maurer and Tinzie Porter will be handling reservations.

## Jubilee

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was later increased to 21, the number still observed today.

"Soon requests came from bishops for more Carmels on the model of St. Joseph's, and until her death 20 years later, St. Teresa traveled up and down the roads and hills of Spain until she had founded in all 14 monasteries of women, and, with the help of St. John

of the Cross, her spiritual son, three for the Discalced Carmelite Friars.

"The Carmel in Pittsford can trace its direct descent from St. Teresa, through Sister (now Blessed) Anne of St. Bartholomew, who brought Carmel into the Netherlands, whence sprang the first American Carmel in 1792."

## Church Law

Continued from Page 1

and bad, from those experiments could serve as a basis for further development of the general church law.

He oversaw cautious developments in many areas of church law showing greater sensitivity to the concerns of other Christian churches and to the cultural differences of Catholics in various parts of the world.

With similar caution he advanced the participation of lay persons in church life, always within the limits imposed by the hierarchical structure of church authority. Within those same limits, and given the fact that ordination (and thus membership in the hierarchy) is limited to men, he significantly advanced the participation and equality of women in the church.

While warning frequently against dangers of deviation from church teaching or separation from the mainstream of church life, Pope Paul also encouraged new spiritual and social movements in the church, such as the charismatic renewal and basic Christian communities, thus affirming St. Paul's doctrine of a diversity of gifts at the service of the one church.

Thus, while Pope Paul did not live to see the completion of the revised Code of Canon Law, he was unquestionably the chief architect of both its spirit and its substance.

The major accomplishment of the new code will not be the creation of totally new law, but rather the integration into a single, unified body of law of the Vatican II-Pauline reforms in the church which are already pretty much in practice.

NEXT WEEK: New law will be more flexible.

## Parish Models Topic

"The Parish: a People, a Mission, a Structure," will be the topic of the Northeast Regional Assembly, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 21, at St. John of Rochester parish center, 625 Avrauld Road.

A filmstrip, a talk and a workshop on the topic will be presented by Sister Ann Habershaw and Jerry Driscoll of the diocesan Committee on Parish.

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## VOCATIONS

### After Forty

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S.M. Rule of Life #1

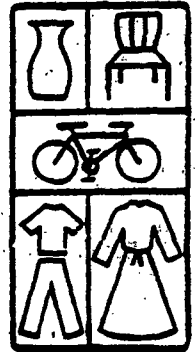
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## THE HARLEY SALE

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Oct. 23 10-5 (Super Sale)

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## Arts & Crafts Festival

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### Coming Attractions

- Oct. 21-Oct. 23 Greece Historical Exhibit & Sale
- Oct. 26-Oct. 30 Hart Taylor presents 1983 Cars
- Oct. 28-Oct. 30 "THE GAME SHOW" - Just like TV. Showtimes - 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM. Contestants can compete.

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