

What Vatican II Really Said about the Mass

Week 1: Introduction

The Second Vatican Council

1. Twenty-first ecumenical council of the Church (1962-1965)
 - Called by Pope John XXIII in 1959
 - First truly ecumenical council due to travel advancements
 - First council to have wide media coverage
2. Promulgated 16 documents including constitutions, decrees, and declarations

Why was it called, what led to it?

3. The compassionate spirit of Pope John XXII
4. Desire to address a post-war world and modern advances (Modernism, big thinkers with big platforms)
5. Finish the work of Vatican I
6. Re-animate the world with a Christian spirit, guided by the principles of *Ressourcement* and *Aggiornamento*
7. Address culture shifts since Council of Trent, building off of work already in progress by the Liturgical Movement and Vatican I

- Abundance of low Masses, prolific devotions, and lack of lay participation at Mass

8. Present the faith in a catechetical rather than scholastic way

- Texts of the Council designed to be accessible and readable by all

How is it received and interpreted?

9. Prominent theologians interpret and present the texts

10. The media (catholic and secular) create false dichotomies

11. The ethos of the era embraces change

12. Several years pass before Instructions are released

13. Read the text with hermeneutical continuity in mind