



St. Peter Chanel

Vatican II: The Cross as the road to God





Session 1

Introduction





Objectives

- Introduction to Ecclesiastical Councils
 - History of Councils
- Documents of Vatican II
- Errors in the interpretation of Vatican II





Whom we believe

- God
- The *Magisterium*: the *Pope* and *Bishops* in union with him
- The local *Bishop* in union with the *Pope*
- The *Priest*, in union with the *Bishops* and the *Pope*





Catechism

- The Roman Pontiff and the bishops are "authentic teachers, that is, teachers endowed with the authority of Christ, who preach the faith to the people entrusted to them, the faith to be believed and put into practice." (CCC, 2034)





Vatican II Opening Speech

Pope John XXIII

- “... In calling this vast assembly of bishops, the latest and humble successor to the Prince of the Apostles who is addressing you intended to assert once again the magisterium (teaching authority), which is unfailing and endures until the end of time, in order that this magisterium, taking into account the errors, the requirements, and the opportunities of our time, might be presented in exceptional form to all men throughout the world.”





Vatican II Opening Speech

Constant Tradition

- “... It is but natural that in opening this Universal Council we should like to look to the past and to listen to its voices whose echo we like to hear in the memories and the merits of the more recent and ancient Pontiffs, our predecessors. These are solemn and venerable voices, throughout the East and the West, from the fourth century to the Middle Ages, and from there to modern times, which have handed down their witness to those Councils. They are voices which proclaim in perennial fervour the triumph of that divine and human institution, the Church of Christ, which from Jesus takes its name, its grace, and its meaning.”





Vatican II Opening Speech

Constant Tradition

- “... The greatest concern of the Ecumenical Council is this: that the sacred deposit of Christian doctrine should be guarded and taught more efficaciously.”
- “The Council[...]wishes to transmit the doctrine, pure and integral, without any attenuation or distortion, which throughout twenty centuries, notwithstanding difficulties and contrasts, has become the common patrimony of men. It is a patrimony not well received by all, but always a rich treasure available to men of good will.”





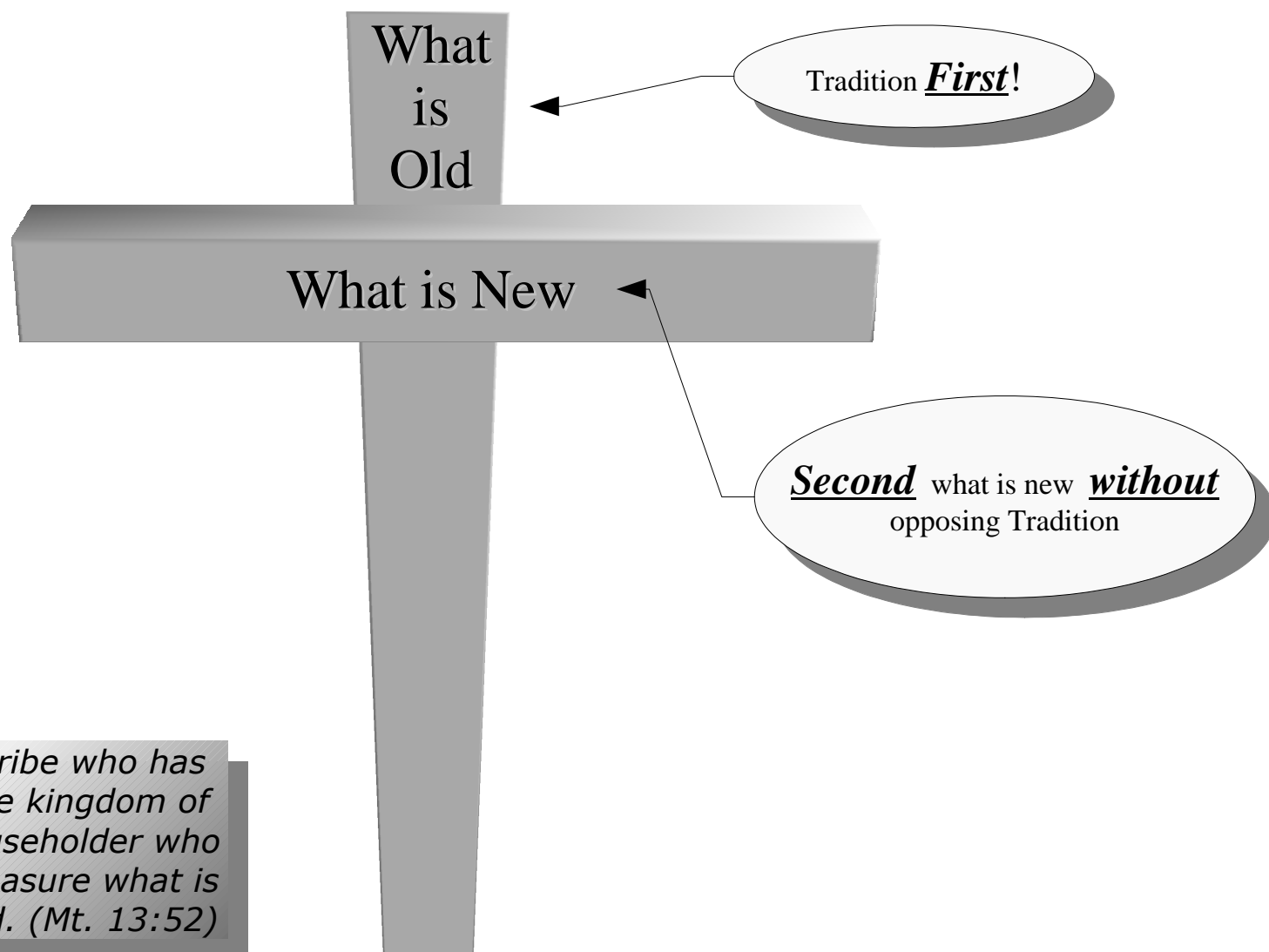
Vatican II Opening Speech Constant Tradition

- “...In order, however, that this doctrine may influence the numerous fields of human activity, with reference to individuals, to families, and to social life, it is necessary first of all that the Church should never depart from the sacred patrimony of truth received from the Fathers. But at the same time she must ever look to the present, to the new conditions and new forms of life introduced into the modern world, which have opened new avenues to the Catholic apostolate..”





The Cross is the answer



Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old. (Mt. 13:52)





How we believe

Faith based on	Truth believed	Act of Magisterium	Consequence
Authority of God	Divinely Revealed – Definitive	Defining or non-defining	Heresy
Assistance of Holy Spirit to Magisterium	Connected to Revealed Truth – Definitive	Defining or non-defining	Not in full communion
Authority of Magisterium	Other Teachings on Faith and Morals	Non-Defining	Erroneous / Rash or Dangerous

Source: Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Doctrinal commentary on the concluding formula of the *Professio Fidei*. June 29, 1998. *Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger*.





What is a council?

- A legally convened meeting
- Of members of the hierarchy,
- For the purpose of carrying out their judicial and doctrinal functions,
- By means of deliberation in common
- Resulting in regulations and decrees invested with the authority of the whole assembly.

Source: The Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume IV. 1908. Robert Appleton Company. <http://www.newadvent.org>





Types of Councils

- *Ecumenical* Councils – Vatican II
- *General synods* of the East or of the West
- *Patriarchal, national, and primatial* councils
- *Provincial* councils (bring together the suffragan bishops)
- *Diocesan synods* consist of the clergy of the diocese





History of Councils

- 1st Nicaea I (325) – Creed
- 2nd Constantinople I (381) – With the Father and the Son...
- 3rd Ephesus (431) – Theotokos, Mother of God
- 4th Chalcedon (451) – Christ is Human and Divine
- 5th Constantinople II (553) – Errors of Origen, confirmed previous council(s) against heretics
- 6th Constantinople III (680-681) – Two wills in Christ
- 7th Nicaea II (787) – Holy Images
- 8th Constantinople IV (869) – Condemned false council and patriarch
- 9th Lateran I (1123) – No Ring and Crossier for lay princes
- 10th Lateran II (1139) – Condemned errors of Arnold of Brescia





History of Councils

- 11th Lateran III (1179) – Against Albigenses
- 12th Lateran IV (1215) – Creed against Albigenses
- 13th Lyons I (1245) – Against Saracens and Mongols
- 14th Lyons II (1274) - filioque added to the creed of Constantinople
- 15th Vienne (1311-1313) – Knights Templars, Holy Land
- 16th Constance (1414-1418) – Western Schism
- 17th Basle/Ferrara/Florence (1431-1439) – Filioque issue (Greeks)
- 18th Lateran V (1512-1517) – Condemns clerical abuses, reform.
- 19th Trent (1545-1563) – Against Luther, general reform.
- 20th Vatican I (1869-1870) – Infallibility, against Rationalism, etc.





Documents of Vatican II

- Constitutions
 - *Lumen Gentium* – Dogmatic Constitution on the Church
 - *Dei Verbum* – Dogmatic Constitution on Revelation
 - *Sacrosanctum Concilium* – Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy
 - *Gaudium et Spes* – The Church in the modern world
- Decrees
- Declarations





Documents of Vatican II

- Constitutions
- Decrees
 - *Ad Gentes* – On the Missionary activity of the Church
 - *Presbyterorum Ordinis* – On the ministry and life of Priests
 - *Apostolicam Actuositatem* – On the Apostolate of the Laity
 - *Optatam Totius* – On Priestly Training
 - *Perfectae Caritatis* – The adaptation and renewal of religious life
 - *Unitatis Redintegratio* – On Ecumenism
 - *Orientalium Ecclesiarum* – On the Catholic Churches of the Eastern Rite
 - *Inter Mirifica* – On the Media of Social Communications
- Declarations





Documents of Vatican II

- Constitutions
- Decrees
- Declarations
 - *Gravissimum Educationis* – On Christian Education
 - *Nostra Aetate* – The relation of the Church to non-Christian religions
 - *Dignitatis Humanae* – On Religious Liberty





Reminders

- Read Lumen Gentium §1-11, at least §9,§10,§11
- Documents can be found at
http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/
- Or buy the book:
Volume I: The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents
Vatican Council II. Austin Flannery, O.P. 2004. Costello Publishing
Company.
- Next class – No Baby Sitting

