

# Dear Padre,

## What were the main changes brought about by the Second Vatican Council?

Saint Paul VI was Pope when the last of the Second Vatican documents was promulgated.



It has been sixty years since the Second Vatican Council and we are still learning from what Pope John Paul II called the “fundamental event in the contemporary Church” and “the constant reference point of every pastoral action.” Vatican II’s sixteen documents focus on a wide variety of topics, touching almost every conceivable aspect of Church and Christian life. Four of the documents bear the title of “Constitution” and contain the core formulations of the council’s teachings.

The most visible change might be in how we worship. But even more fundamental is the emphasis on the Church as the “people of God.” Baptism admits all to the same journey of faith, initiating each person with differing talents and abilities into the mission of the Church. Thus, the faithful must be “led to that fully conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy. Such participation by the Christian people as ‘a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people’ (1 Peter 2:9; see 2:4–5), is their right and duty by reason of their baptism” (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy [*Sacrosanctum Concilium*], 14). The hierarchy continues, but it is to hear and serve God’s people; “servant leadership” is the way to exercise authority in the Church of Vatican II. ●

*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18	May 19
Easter Weekday	St. Matthias, Apostle	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Pentecost
Acts 19:1–8		Acts 20:28–38	Acts 22:30;	Acts 25:13b–21	Acts 28:16–20,	Acts 2:1–11
Jn 16:29–33	Acts 1:15–17, 20–26	Jn 17:11b–19	23:6–11	Jn 21:15–19	30–31	1 Cor 12:3b–7, 12–13 or
	Jn 15:9–17		Jn 17:20–26		Jn 21:20–25	Gal 5:16–25
						Jn 20:19–23 or
						Jn 15:26–27;
						16:12–15

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## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Jesus’ ascension into heaven...constitutes the end of the mission that the Son received from the Father and the beginning of the continuation of this mission on the part of the Church. From this moment...Christ’s presence in the world is mediated...by those who believe in him and proclaim him. This mission will last until the end of history.*

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 28, 2017