THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL
Principal Dates, Events, Documents

Oct 9, 1958 - Death of Pius XII
Oct 28, 1958 - Election of John XXIII

Jan 25, 1959 - Announcement of the Council
  Purposes
    Renewal
    Adaptation ("Aggiornamento")
    Christian Unity

May 1959 - Nov 1960 - Antepreparatory Period
  Worldwide Consultation
  Structure of the Preparation

Nov 1960 - July 1962 - Preparatory Period
  Preparation of Documents for Council’s Discussion
  Conciliar Regulations Drafted
  *Veterum sapientia*
  Hopes and Fears on the Eve of the Council

Oct 11, 1962 - Dec 8, 1962 - First Session
  Opening Speech of John XXIII
    Against the “prophets of doom”
    Preserving the heritage and presenting it today
    Substance of faith and mode of presentation
    Mercy rather than severity
    A *pastoral* exercise of the teaching office
  Election of Conciliar Commissions
  Debate on the Liturgy (97.6% vote Yes; 46 No-votes out of 2,215)
  Debate on the Sources of Revelation (61% vote against draft)
  Debate on the Church
  Appointment of Coordinating Commission
  “Second Preparation”

Sep 29, 1963 - Dec 4, 1963 - Second Session
  Debate on the Church
    Votes on Blessed Virgin (Oct. 29, 1963: 1114-1074)
    on collegiality (Oct. 30, 1963: 80+% in favor)
  Debate on Ecumenism
    Dogmatic Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy
    Decree on Communications-Media

June 3, 1963 - Death of John XXIII
June 21, 1963 - Election of Paul VI
Sep 14, 1964 - Nov 21, 1964 - Third Session
Debates on Church and on Bishops
Debate on Religious Freedom
Debate on Church in the Modern World
“Black Week” (“Nota praevia;” ecumenism; postponed vote
on religious freedom; title “Mother of the Church”)
Dogmatic Constitution on the Church
Decree on Ecumenism
Decree on Oriental Churches

Sep 14, 1965 - Dec 8, 1965 - Fourth Session
Establishment of Synod of Bishops
Debate on Religious Freedom
Debate on Church in the Modern World
Debate on Divine Revelation
Debates on Other Texts
Decree on Pastoral Office of Bishops
Decree on Renewal of Religious Life
Decree on Formation of Priests
Declaration on Christian Education
Declaration on Church's Relation to Non-Christian Religions
Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation
Decree on the Lay Apostolate
Declaration on Religious Freedom
Decree on the Church’s Missionary Activity
Decree on Ministry and Life of Priests
Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World

Aug 6, 1978 - Death of Paul VI
Aug 26, 1978 - Election of John Paul I
Sep 28, 1978 - Death of John Paul I
Oct 16, 1978 - Election of John Paul II
April 2, 2005 - Death of John Paul II
April 19, 2005 - Election of Benedict XVI