

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”

June 3, 1963 - Death of John XXIII
June 21, 1963 - Election of Paul VI

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

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