



The Second Vatican Ecumenical Council Session 1

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The Second Vatican Ecumenical Council

- The Original Plan for this Class
 - Weeks 1 & 2 – Overview of the Council
 - Why it was called
 - How it was conducted
 - What it produced
 - Weeks 3 - 5 – Review Lumen Gentium – The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church
 - Future sessions
 - Gaudium et Spes – Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World
 - Apostolicam Actuositatem - Decree On the Apostolate of the Laity

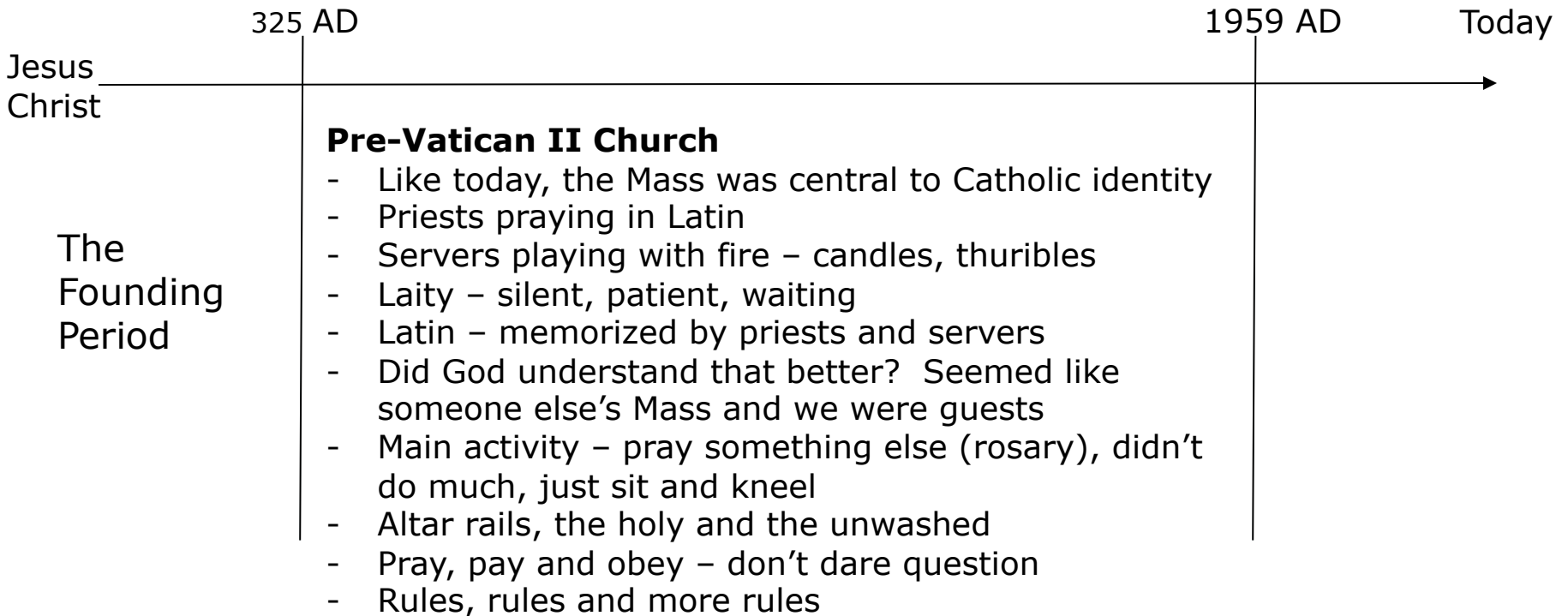
Scheduling Problems!

- No class these weeks:
 - November 22 – Thanksgiving
 - December 6 – Election Day
- Options
 - Class on December 5th
 - Extend into January
- Also, can expand from five weeks to more weeks and go into January covering other documents

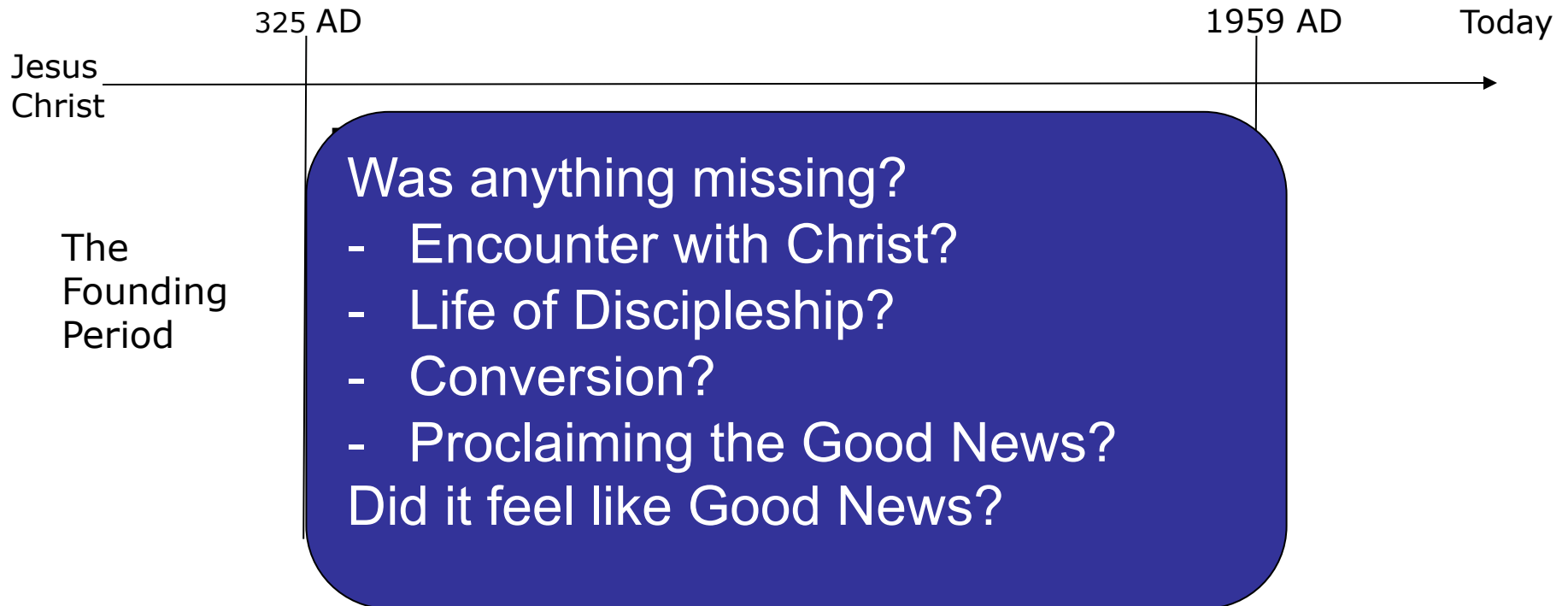
Pre-Vatican II

What do you remember
(or what have you been told)
about the Church
on the eve of Vatican II?

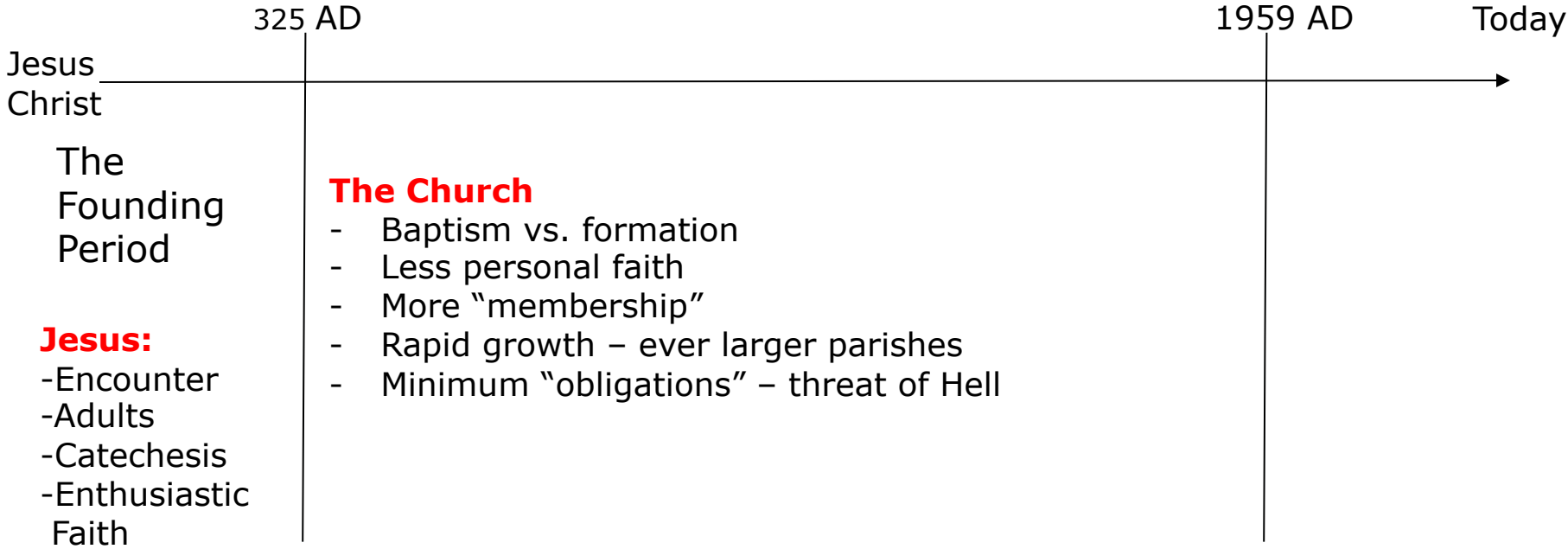
Church History



Church History



Church History



Angelo Roncalli

- Pious Catholic
- Historian
- Well-traveled churchman
- Big personality
- Fatherly instincts
- Saw the big picture in the Church as well as in society



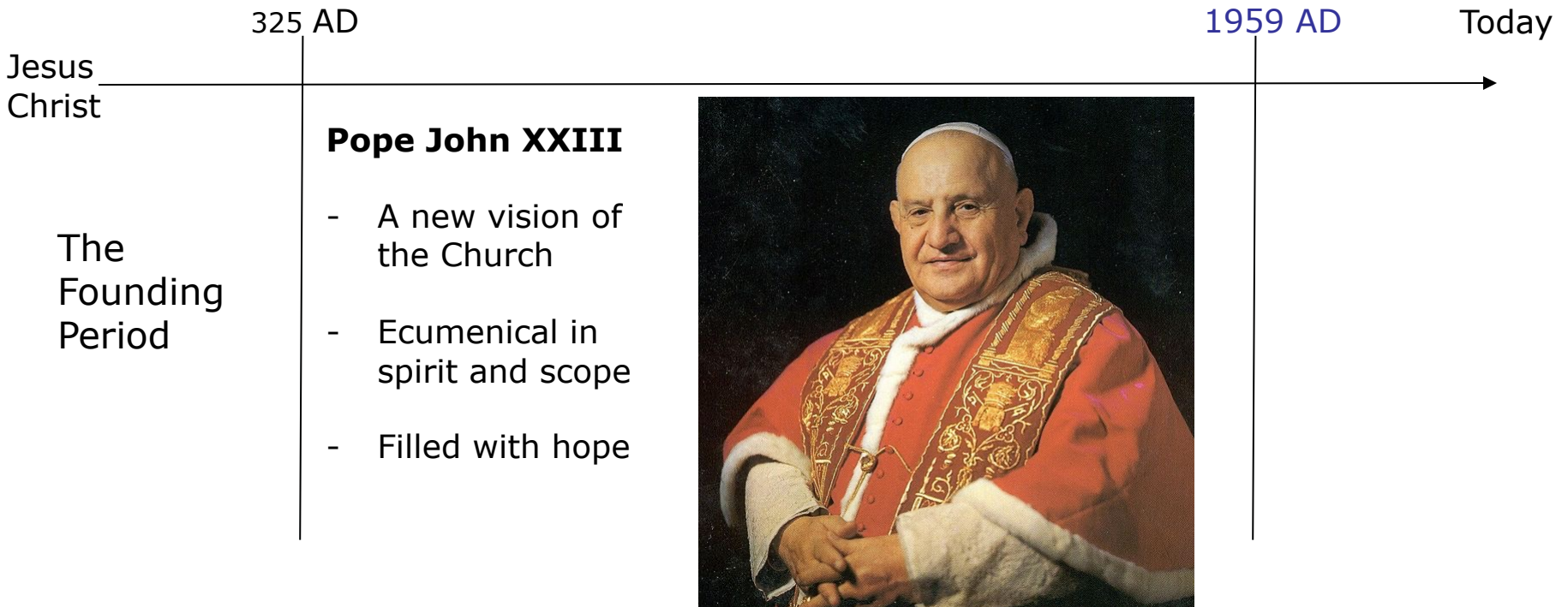
Pope John XXIII



“We must become a church of pastors, not a society of rulers.”

“We must shake off the imperial dust that has accumulated on the throne of St. Peter since the time of Constantine.”

Church History



Church History



Jesus Christ

325 AD

1959 AD

Today

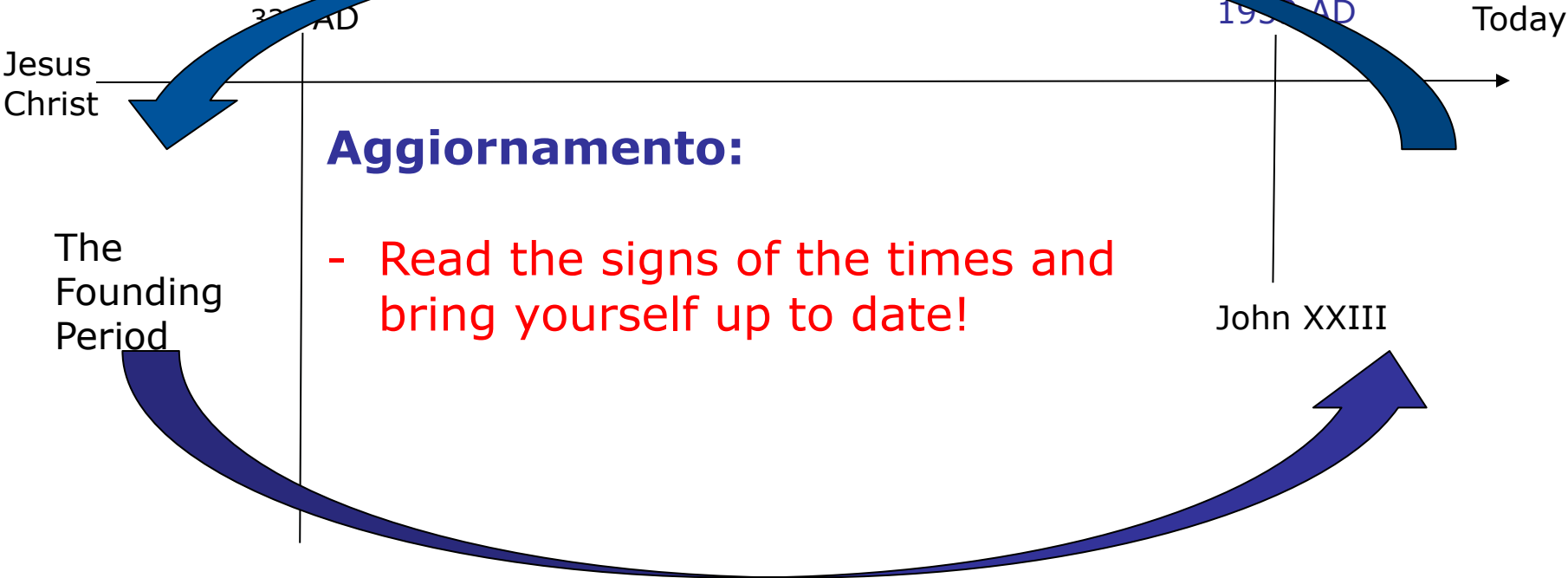
The Founding Period

Resourcement:

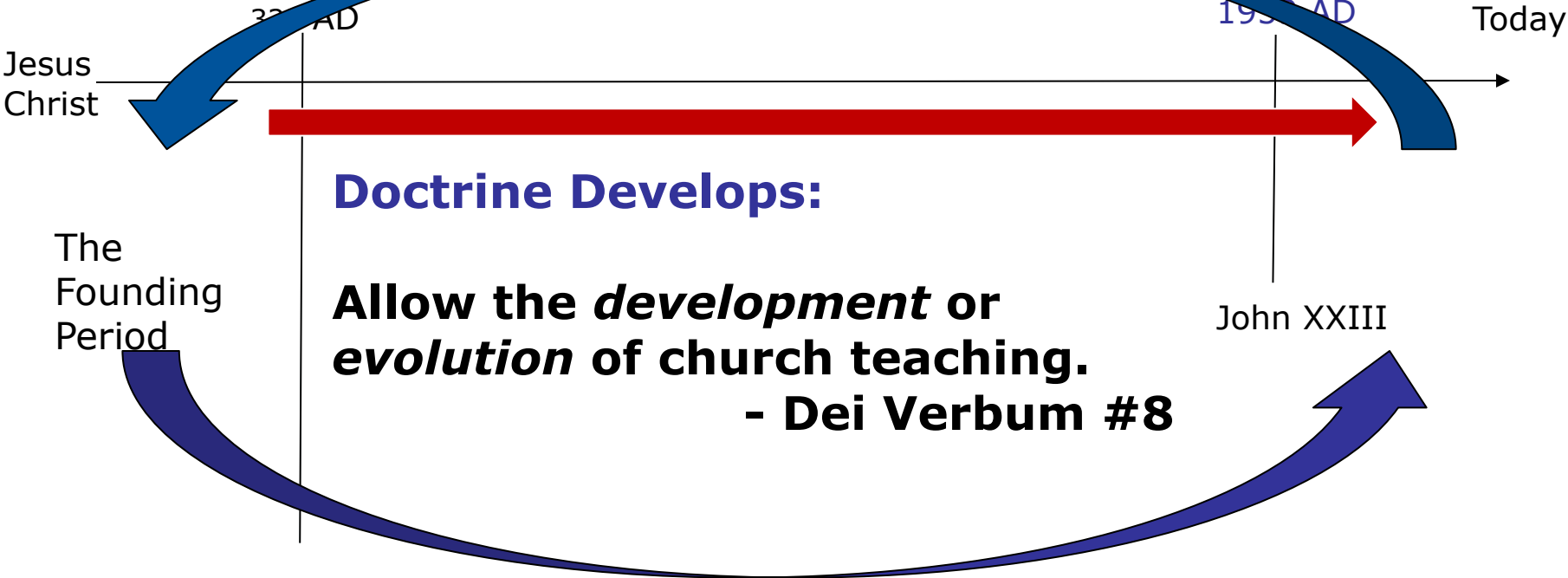
- Return to the *sources* and let them teach you
- Recovering elements of the Church that had been lost to history

John XXIII

Church History



Church History



The Universal Call to Holiness

The Call to an Encounter with Christ

36

From the early centuries

The Mass

Baptism

Scripture

Ecumenism

The Catechumenate (RCIA)

The Option for the Poor

And, the BIGGEE

1965

**An adult church
Christ-centered:
*conversion is the aim***

**Lifelong learning:
*formation is the aim***

**Leading to the
*transformation of the
world***

October to Christmas, 1958

- John XXIII spoke at length with Domenico Tardini
 - Secretary of State
- The signs of the times aren't good
 - Half the world ruled by Marxism
 - Latin American beset by poverty, disease and illiteracy - but nominally Catholic & short of clergy



Troubled waters...

- Africa a victim of nationalism
 - Equated Christianity with colonialism
- Western Europe
 - Only 30% still communicants
 - Far fewer at Mass
- North America
 - Secularism becoming widespread

The whole world

- The world was on the brink of war
 - Cuban missile crisis in the early 1960s
 - Khrushchev at the UN: “We will bury you”
 - Cold war raging
 - Nuclear threat
 - Another world war seemed likely
- John wondered: where is the Church?

Christianity itself

- Signs of the times...
 - Divided Christianity a real scandal for Pope John
 - East-West and Protestant-Catholic
 - Freud
 - God is an illusion
 - Marx
 - God is a tool of the ruling class to keep you in line: The Opiate of the Masses
 - Nietzsche
 - God is dead


Within the church

- Undone work of Vatican I
 - Collegiality
 - Creeping Infallibility & Curial control
 - Legalism – more important to be right than to be loving
 - Intimidation of bishops and theologians
 - Rigidity
 - The Jerusalem Bible – 1957 in Paris



Blessed Pope John's question:

How could a church so completely entrenched in the work of Trent and Vatican I and coming out of that long 19th Century renew itself for these times?



In the words of John XXIII

“Our soul was illumined
by a great idea
which we felt in that instant
and received with indescribable trust
in the Divine Master.

A word solemn and binding rose to our lips:
‘A Council!’”

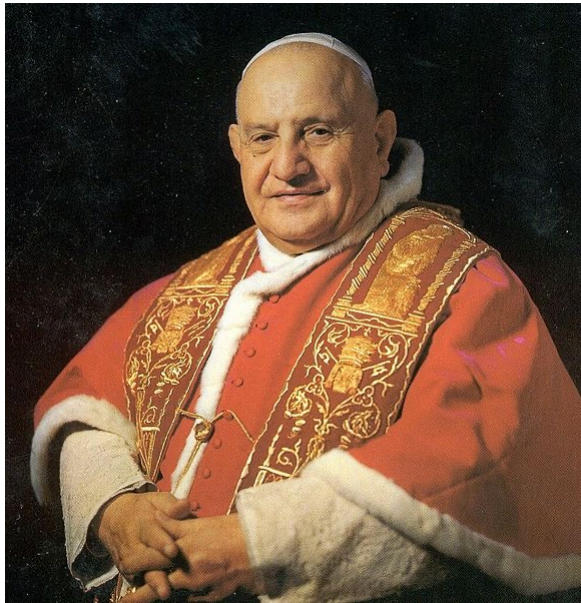
Jan 25, 1959

- At St Paul Outside the Walls
- 17 Cardinals
- After Mass...
 - A Synod for the Diocese of Rome
 - A Commission to revise Canon Law
 - An Ecumenical Council of the Universal Church, with all Christians invited as observers



Basilica San Paolo
Fuori le Mura

Jan 25, 1959



“Humanly we could have expected that the cardinals after hearing our allocution might have crowded around to express approval and good wishes... Instead there was **a devout and impressive silence...**”

The Two Factions

■ Conservatives & Curia

- All is well
- Preserve status quo
- Tried to control the agenda (schemata)
- Wanted to dominate committees
- Set certain rules – some backfired

■ Pope(s) & Majority of Bishops

- Maintain the truth but reform the church
- Define roles of bishops, priests and laity
- Greater ecumenism
- Strive for depth of understanding, theology and meaning

What John wanted

- No new doctrines defined
- No condemnations
- 3 Major Questions were on his mind
 - The power of bishops
 - Christian unity
 - Help the Church penetrate the consciousness of modern humankind



Blessed John XXIII

- His thoughts on the council

“I expect a little fresh air from it”

“We must become a church of pastors, not a society of rulers.”

“We must shake off the imperial dust that has accumulated on the throne of Peter since Constantine.”

October 11, 1963

- Opening Mass of the Council
- Tridentine Latin Mass
- Only the presider and the pope received communion
- People were chatting, coming and going, a bit of boredom & fatigue



Sessions of Vatican II

- Vatican II Opened on October 11, 1962
 - First session – Oct. 11, 1962 – Dec. 8, 1962
 - Pope John XXIII dies on June 3, 1963
 - Pope Paul VI elected on June 21, 1963
 - Second session – Sep. 29, 1963 – Dec. 4, 1963
 - Third session – Sep. 14, 1964 – Nov. 21, 1964
 - Fourth session – Sep. 14, 1965 – Dec. 8, 1965
- Vatican II Closed on December 8, 1965



What did Vatican II Actually Produce?

Hierarchy of Church Documents

- **Decretal Letters** – declare infallible doctrine or the canonization of a saint
- **Constitutions** – declare substantial teachings that are central to the entire Church
- **Papal Bulls** – solemn pronouncements and certain doctrines
- **Motu Proprio** – personal papal decree or statement of the Pope's wishes
- **Encyclicals** – declare moral and social teaching

Hierarchy of Church Documents

- **Papal Speeches and Addresses** – declare the opinion of the Pope
- **Decrees** (same level as Papal Speeches) - declare significant teachings but ones that require further discussion
- **Declarations** (same level as Papal Speeches) - declare teachings that may be controversial and require doctrinal development
- **Instructions** – amplify other documents

What Did Vatican II Produce?

- Four Constitutions
 1. Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy
 2. Dogmatic Constitution On the Church
 3. Dogmatic Constitution On Divine Revelation
 4. Pastoral Constitution On the Church In the Modern World

What Did Vatican II Produce?

- Nine Decrees
 1. Decree On the Means of Social Communication
 2. Decree On the Catholic Churches of the Eastern Rite
 3. Decree On Ecumenism
 4. Decree Concerning the Pastoral Office of Bishops In the Church
 5. Decree On Renewal of Religious Life
 6. Decree On Priestly Training
 7. Decree On the Apostolate of the Laity
 8. Decree On the Mission Activity of the Church
 9. Decree On the Ministry and Life of Priests

What Did Vatican II Produce?

- Three Declarations
 - Declaration On Christian Education
 - Declaration On the Relation Of the Church to Non-Christian Religions
 - Declaration On Religious Freedom



Who Attended Vatican II

Other Christians at Vatican II

- Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow)
- Coptic Church (Egypt)
- Syrian Orthodox Church
- Orthodox Syrian Church of the East (India)
- Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar (India)
- Ethiopian Church
- Armenian Church
- Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia
- Old Catholic Church

Other Christians at Vatican II

- Anglican Communion
- Lutheran World Federation
- Evangelical (Lutheran) Church of Germany
- World Presbyterian Alliance
- Disciples of Christ
- Friends World Committee (Quaker)
- International Congregational Council
- World Methodist Council
- World Convention of Churches

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- World Convention of Churches
- International Association for Liberal Christianity
- Church of South India
- World Council of Churches

Present but not official

- National Baptist Convention of USA
- Orthodox Theological Institute of St. Serge in Paris
- St. Bladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in New York
- Free Protestant University in Amsterdam
- National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA
- Protestant religious community of Taizé in France

Now the Catholics...

- There were 2,908 total bishops or abbots in the world who were eligible as the Council opened in 1962
- Average attendance was more like 2400
- Many were too old or ill to travel
- Almost 250 died during the Council

The 12 Largest National Groups

▪ Italy	430	▪ India	84
▪ USA	241	▪ Germany	68
▪ Brazil	204	▪ Argentina	66
▪ France	159	▪ Mexico	65
▪ Canada	97	▪ Poland	64
▪ Spain	95	▪ Columbia	52

The Continents of the World

- Europe 1089
- South America 489
- North America 404
- Asia 374
- Africa 296
- Central America 84
- Oceania 75

Eastern Rites in Union with Rome

- Alexandrian:
 - Coptic 170,000
 - Ethiopian 130,000
- Antiochene:
 - Syrian 185,000
 - Maronite 2,175,000
 - Syro-Malankara 300,000
- Armenian:
 - Armenian 140,000

Eastern Rites in Union with Rome

- Chaldean:
 - Chaldean 630,000
 - Malabar 3,000,000
- Byzantine (Constantinopolitan):
 - Belorussian 30,000
 - Bulgarian 15,000
 - Greek 2,300
 - Hungarian 250,000
 - Italo-Albanian 62,000
 - Melkite 1,150,000

Eastern Rites in Union with Rome

- Byzantine Continued
 - Romanian 1,560,000
 - Ruthenian 460,000
 - Slovak 400,000
 - Ukrainian 4,200,000
 - Krizevci 49,000
 - Albanian (unknown)
 - Russian (unknown)

Eastern Orthodox Churches not in union with Rome

- Greek Patriarchates
 - Constantinople
 - Alexandria
 - Antioch
 - Jerusalem
- Russian Patriarchates
 - Moscow

Preparation

- Meetings with Anglican and Protestant leaders
- Also with Jews
- Communists
- Augustin Bea SJ
 - Secretariat for Promoting Christian unity
 - "Separated Brethren"

Two phases

- Ante-Preparatory Commission
 - May 17, 1959
 - Task: gather opinions from bishops and others about current needs of the Church
 - Letter sent to 2598 persons
 - 1998 responses (77%)
 - 8 large volumes, over 5000 pages
 - 68 propositions for the agenda
 - Added to later consultation, 12 volumes

Ante-preparatory...

- What was on their minds?
 - Tighten status quo
 - Condemn communism and other things
 - More on Mary
 - More responsibility for the laity
 - Use of the vernacular

- Closed on June 5, 1960

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- Apostolate of the Laity
- Bishops and governance
- Discipline of the clergy & the Christian people
- Sacred liturgy
- Missions
- Oriental churches
- Religious
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- Sacraments
- Studies and seminaries
- Theological commission (TC)
- Secretariat for Communications media
- Secretariat for Christian Unity
- Central Prep Commission (CPC)

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Theological Commission

- Headed by Alfredo Ottaviani
(Sebastian Tromp SJ, secretary)
- Eight texts prepared before 1962
 - New profession of faith
 - 7 Schemas:
 1. Sources of Revelation
 2. Moral Order
 3. Defense of the deposit of faith
 4. Chastity
 5. Blessed Virgin Mary
 6. Community of Nations
 7. The Social Order

In the end...

- None of Tromp's schemata were actually discussed in the Council.
- All were sent back for revision.
- Karl Rahner:
 - "[Tromp] thought his schemata would simply need the blessing of the Council fathers and that would be the council. But all his schemata disappeared—not a single one was discussed."

Preparation

- Pope John set the final agenda
 - With only 10 propositions
- Certain ideas came to the top:
 - Liturgy
 - Scripture
 - Collegiality
 - Restored diaconate & lay ministry
 - Religious liberty
 - Church unity