

VATICAN II BACKGROUND FOR ROLE OF LAITY AND WOMEN IN CHURCH MINISTRY

TWO CORE DOGMATIC CONSTITUTIONS

- Paved the way for other documents
- Took many drafts before acceptance by John XXIII
- Concept of ON-GOING REVELATION was in evidence – Holy Spirit continues to reveal truth.
Human experience and learning in dialogue with Scripture and Tradition = NEW UNDERSTANDING

1. DOGMATIC CONSTITUTE ON THE CHURCH - LUMEN GENTIUM – LIGHT OF ALL NATIONS

- Style – pastoral not doctrinal – no “anathema sit”
- No new doctrine but a development of understand church as PEOPLE OF GOD (not hierarchy)
- Based on Baptism – ALL ARE CALLED TO HOLINESS (not just clerics and religious)
ALL ARE CALLED TO MINISTRY (apostolate)

Background and influence on:

- Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy
- Pastoral Constitution on the church in the Modern World –GAUDIUM ET SPES – JOY AND HOPE
- PRIESTLY FORMATION
- RELIGIOUS LIFE
- LAITY

This document had many drafts, being accepted only in second session of Vat. II by John XXIII

2. DOGMATIC CONSTITUTE ON DIVINE REVELATION – DEI VERBUM – WORD OF GOD

- Many drafts, earlier ones rejecting the “Two Source Theory”, .e. Scripture and Tradition
- Finally accepting “One Source” of Revelation – God is Personal and speaks “The Word”, Jesus Christ, opening way for study and dialogue with non-catholics and non-Christian peoples

Background and influence on:

- Ecumenism
- Missions
- Non-Christians
- Religious Freedom