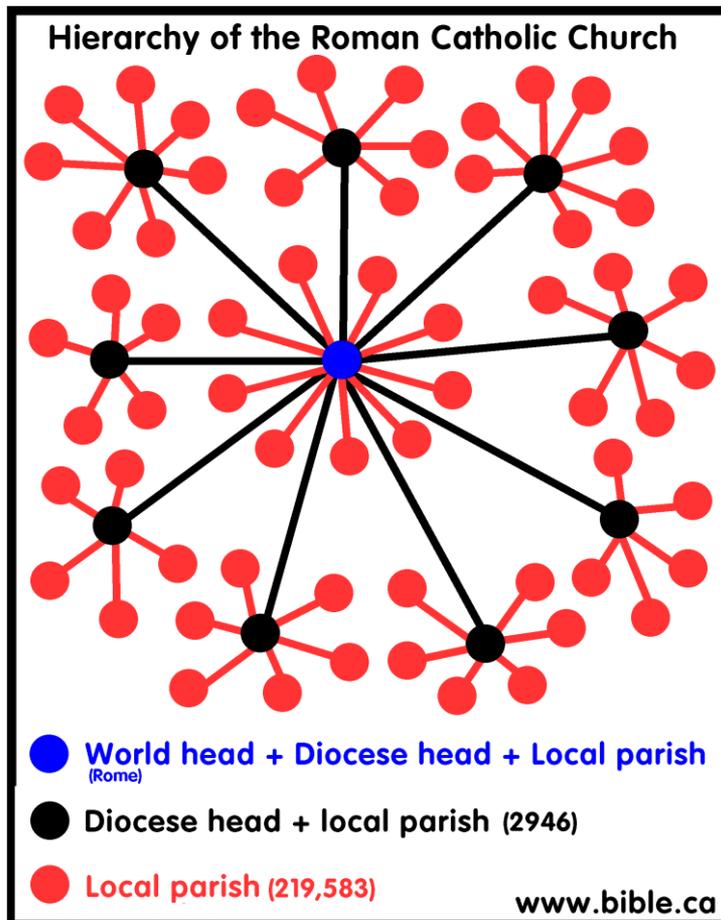




# Vatican II and the Church today

# How is the Catholic Church Organized?

## Equal not Same



A Rite represents an ecclesiastical, or church, tradition about how the sacraments are to be celebrated. Each of the sacraments has at its core an essential nature which must be satisfied for the sacrament to be conferred or realized. This essence – of matter, form and intention – derives from the divinely revealed nature of the particular sacrament. It cannot be changed by the Church. Scripture and Sacred Tradition, as interpreted by the Magisterium, tells us what is essential in each of the sacraments (2 Thes. 2:15). ...

1203 The liturgical traditions or rites presently in use in the Church are the Latin (principally the Roman rite, but also the rites of certain local churches, such as the Ambrosian rite, or those of certain religious orders) and the Byzantine, Alexandrian or Coptic, Syriac, Armenian, Maronite, and Chaldean rites. In “faithful obedience to tradition, the sacred Council declares that Holy Mother Church holds all lawfully recognized rites to be of equal right and dignity, and that she wishes to preserve them in the future and to foster them in every way.”

## Holy Catholic People 1850 - Present

St. [Frances Xavier Cabrini](#), M.S.C. (1946), Missionary and Founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

St. [Elizabeth Ann Seton](#), S.C., (1975), Founder of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph.

St. [John Neumann](#), (1977), Missionary and Bishop of Philadelphia.

Blessed [Francis Xavier Seelos](#), Missionary preacher.

Venerable [Michael McGivney](#), Founder of the Knights of Columbus

Venerable [Fulton J. Sheen](#), Archbishop and host of the television series *Life is Worth Living*

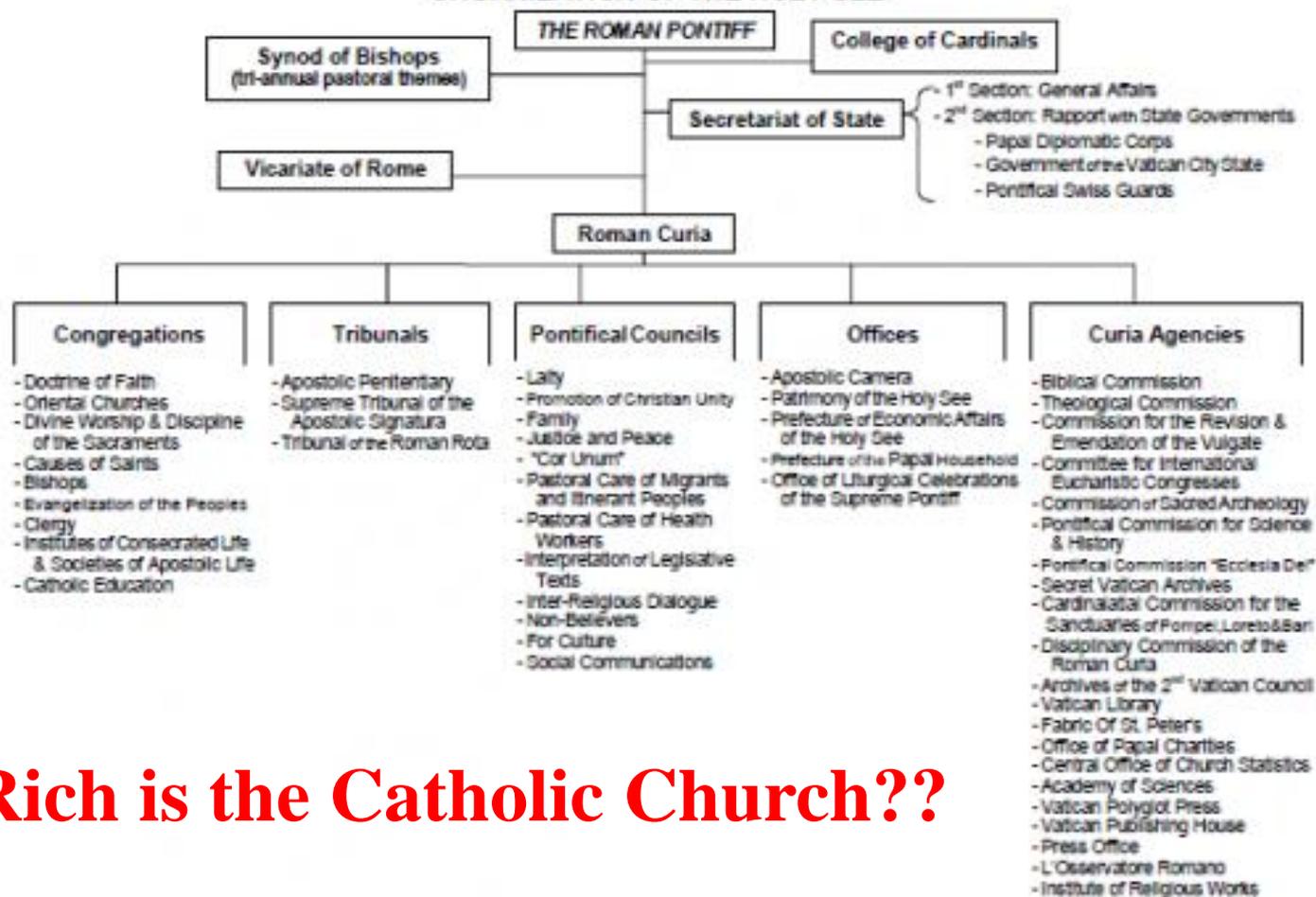
Servant of God [Edward J. Flanagan](#), Priest and founder of Boys Town

Blessed [John Henry Newman](#)

Blessed [Teresa of Calcutta](#)

Blessed John Paul II

## ORGANIZATION OF THE HOLY SEE



**How Rich is the Catholic Church??**

# How is the Catholic Church Organized? (cont)

## ORDERS

**Roman Catholic Orders are associations of men and women within the Roman Catholic Church who are dedicated to lives of prayer, service, and devotion. Many of these members commit themselves to specific communities in which they live a common life following a specific religious rule (a collection of guiding rules ordering community life and devotion) and under the direction of religious leaders. Religious Orders can include both clergy and laity. Most members of religious orders also make public vows of poverty, obedience, and chastity as acts of devotion and in imitation of Jesus. Many Roman Catholic Orders are monastic, but many others are not. The Roman Catholic Church recognizes three different types of religious Orders: Monastic, Mendicant (Friars), and Canons Regular (priests living in a community and active in a particular parish). The largest Monastic Order is the Benedictines and two of the most common Mendicant Orders include Dominicans and Franciscans. Female Orders usually have fewer numbers in their communities than their male counterparts, but more female communities exist. Many of the female Orders are dedicated to teaching and service. Even though many Roman Catholic Orders trace their origins to the Middle Ages, some go as far back as the 6th Century C.E. (the Benedictine Order). Religious Orders all follow a particular religious rule. The most common include the Rule of St. Benedict, St. Augustine, or St. Basil, each of which stresses different aspects of religious life.**



# What was Vatican II?

- The 21<sup>st</sup> ecumenical council
- Opened under Pope John XXIII on 10/11/62
- Closed under Pope Paul VI on 12/8/65
- At least 4 future pontiffs took part in the council's opening session
  - Bishop Karol Wojtyla (Pope John Paul II)
  - Fr. Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI)

# ...So what was Vatican I?

## **Canons**

- Chapter 1 On God the creator of all things
- Chapter 2 On revelation
- Chapter 3 On faith
- Chapter 4. **On faith and reason**

## **Dogma**

- Chapter 1. On the institution of the apostolic primacy in blessed Peter
- Chapter 2. On the permanence of the primacy of blessed Peter in the Roman pontiffs
- Chapter 3. On the power and character of the primacy of the Roman Pontiff
- Chapter 4. On the infallible teaching authority of the Roman Pontiff
- The definition of Papal Infallibility**

# Preparation of the Council

- Took 2 years to prepare for the council
- 987 proposed constitutions and decrees were intended for consideration
- General Sessions held in Autumns of 4 successive years 1962-1965



# Universal Council



- 489 Bishops from S. America
- 404 Bishops from N. America
- 374 Bishops from Asia
- 84 Bishops from Central America
- 75 Bishops from Oceania
- Many non-Catholics (Eastern Orthodox, Protestants and Muslims) were invited
- Nearly 3,000 people attended from 1963-1965



# Purpose of the Council

- First 20 councils were to settle problems or for disciplinary purposes
- Vatican II called to examine the Church itself and its relation to the world it serves
- Christian unity was Pope John's goal
- He wanted to “let some fresh air into the Church” and bring it up to date.

# First Period (Autumn 1962)

- 10/13/62 plan to set up 10 commissions
- 10/16/62 commission members approved
- Issues considered: liturgy, mass communications, Eastern Catholic Church, nature of revelation
- Adjourned 12/8/62



# Second Period (Autumn 1963)

- Lay Catholics & non catholic observers were invited
- Decreased number of decrees or constitutions to be discussed to 17
- Opened 9/29/63
- Purposes:
  - To more fully define the nature of the church and the role of the bishops
  - The renew of the church
  - To restore unity among all Christians
  - Start a dialogue with the contemporary world





## Third Period (Autumn 1964)

- 8 religious and 7 lay women observers were invited
- The topic of contraception arose due to advent of effective oral contraceptives
- Pope Paul deferred this topic to a commission of clerical and lay experts
- Adjourned 11/21/64
- Pope Paul announced change in Eucharistic fast and formally reaffirmed Mary as the “Mother of the Church”

# Fourth Period (Autumn 1965)

- Opened 9/14/65
- Had to complete the final 11 schemata
- Pope Paul established the Synod of Bishops
- Decrees considered:
  - Religious freedom
  - Pastoral constitution
  - Missionary activity
  - Ministry and life of priests
  - Pastoral office of bishops
  - Life of persons in religious orders
  - Education of priesthood
  - Christian education
  - role of the laity





# Sixteen Documents from Vatican II

- **Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy** – sought to adapt more closely to the needs of our age those institutions which are subject to change, to foster Christian reunion, and to strengthen the Church’s evangelization
- **Decree on the Media** – defined the modern means of communication as those which can reach not only single individuals but even the whole of human society. It declared that the content of the media must be true, and – within the limits of justice and charity – complete.



# Sixteen Documents from Vatican II cont.

- **Dogmatic Constitution on the Church-** explained the Church's nature as a sign and instrument of communion with God and of unity among men. It also clarified the Church's mission as the universal sacrament of salvation. (see next slide)
- **Decree on the Catholic Eastern Churches-** encouraged Eastern Catholics to remain faithful to their ancient traditions, reassured them that their distinctive privileges would be repeated, and urged closer ties with the separated Eastern churches, with view to fostering Christian unity.

# Relationship to Other Christian Communities

## *What is “Truth”?*

**843** The Catholic Church recognizes in other religions that search, among shadows and images, for the God who is unknown yet near since he gives life and breath and all things and wants all men to be saved. Thus, the Church considers all goodness and truth found in these religions as “a preparation for the Gospel and given by him who enlightens all men that they may at length have life.”

### ***“Outside the Church there is no salvation”***

**846** How are we to understand this affirmation, often repeated by the Church Fathers?<sup>335</sup> Re-formulated positively, it means that all salvation comes from Christ the Head through the Church which is his Body: *Basing itself on Scripture and Tradition, the Council teaches that the Church, a pilgrim now on earth, is necessary for salvation: the one Christ is the mediator and the way of salvation; he is present to us in his body which is the Church. He himself explicitly asserted the necessity of faith and Baptism, and thereby affirmed at the same time the necessity of the Church which men enter through Baptism as through a door. Hence they could not be saved who, knowing that the Catholic Church was founded as necessary by God through Christ, would refuse either to enter it or to remain in it.*<sup>336</sup>

**847** This affirmation is not aimed at those who, through no fault of their own, do not know Christ and his Church:

*Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his Church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart, and, moved by grace, try in their actions to do his will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience—those too may achieve eternal salvation.*<sup>337</sup>

**848** “Although in ways known to himself God can lead those who, through no fault of their own, are ignorant of the Gospel, to that faith without which it is impossible to please him, the Church still has the obligation and also the sacred right to evangelize all men.”<sup>338</sup>

***1271: We are United in Baptism***



# Sixteen Documents from Vatican II cont.

- **Decree on Ecumenism** – made a careful distinction between spiritual ecumenism, mainly prayer and the practice of virtue, and practical ecumenism, which actively fosters Christian reunion.
- **Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops** – urged bishops to cooperate with one another and with the Bishop of Rome and to decide on effective means for using the modern means of communication.



# Sixteen Documents from Vatican II cont.

- **Decree on the Renewal of Religious Life-** set down norms for spiritual renewal and prudent adaptation, legislating community life under superiors, corporate prayer, poverty of sharing, distinctive religious habit, and continued spiritual and doctrinal education.
- **Decree on the Training of Priests-** centered on fostering vocations, giving more attention to spiritual formation, preparing for pastoral work and developing priests with a filial attachment to the Vicar of Christ, and loyal cooperation with their bishops and fellow priests.



# Sixteen Documents from Vatican II cont.

- **Declaration on Christian Education** – told all Christians that they have a right to a Christian education reminded parents they have the primary right and duty to teach their children, and warned believers of the dangers of state monopoly in education.
- **Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions** – urged Catholics to enter, with prudence and charity, into discussion and collaboration with members of other religions.



## Sixteen Documents from Vatican II cont.

- **Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation** – distinguished Sacred Scripture from Sacred Tradition, declared that the Bible must be interpreted under the Church's guidance, and explained how development of doctrine is the Church's ever-deeper understanding of what God has once and for all revealed to the human race.
- **Declaration on Religious Liberty** – affirms each person's liberty to believe in God and worship Him according to one's conscience and reaffirms the Catholic Church's revealed freedom for herself and before every public authority.



# Sixteen Documents from Vatican II cont.

- **Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity** – is a practical expression of the Church’s mission, to which the laity are specially called in virtue of their Baptism and incorporation into Christ. It recognizes that the laity have the right to establish and direct their own associations, on the condition that they preserve the necessary link with ecclesiastical authority.
- **Decree on the Church’s Missionary Activity** – defines evangelization as the implanting of the Church among peoples in which she has not yet taken root. It urges even the young churches to engage in evangelization as soon as possible and stresses the importance of adequate training of missionaries and their sanctity of life.



# Sixteen Documents from Vatican II cont.

- **Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests** – defines priests as men who are ordained to offer the Eucharistic Sacrifice, forgive sins in Christ’s name, and exercise the priestly office on behalf of others in the name of Christ. Priestly celibacy is reaffirmed, and priestly sanctity declared to be essential.
- **Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World** – identifies atheism as one of the most serious problems of our times, gives the most extensive treatment of marriage and the family in conciliar history, and declares the Church’s strong position on war and peace in the nuclear age.