



Neo-Modernism **by Joe Sixpack**

The heresy of Modernism was condemned by Pope St. Pius X in 1907, effectively ridding the Catholic Church of that most destructive ideology. But the Modernists never really went away. Instead, they scurried under wherever the nearest rock was they could find, awaiting the day when they could rise up and wreak havoc on the universal Church. Their opportunity came a mere fifty-eight years later when Pope St. John XXIII convoked the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council in 1962.

Vatican II has become a very controversial council over the last fifty-two years. Depending on who you talk to, Vatican II was the worst evil ever unleashed upon the Church by hell, the greatest thing since sliced bread, and everything in between. The truth is much different than most folks' opinions.

The first thing to note, no matter how you feel about Vatican II, is that it is the most recent of the Church's valid twenty-one ecumenical councils. Say or think whatever you want, but Vatican II is valid, legitimate, and an example of the world hearing what Jesus says to mankind (Luke 10:16). But that doesn't mean a lot of bad things haven't happened since Vatican II, with traitors of Jesus using the cover of the Council to attempt to destroy the Church from within.

It's been my experience that those who claim the council was rife with heresy, along with those who abuse or misapply Vatican II's teachings, have never actually read the documents it produced. In my humble opinion (or maybe not so humble), every practicing Catholic has a duty to read the sixteen documents produced by the Council Fathers. To not read them for yourself is tantamount to asking a fox to guard the hen house—you'll be left to the mercy of every false and lying teacher who comes along.

By reading the sixteen documents of Vatican II you'll discover that many of the things you've been told were taught by Vatican II actually weren't. In fact, a thorough reading of the sixteen documents produced by the Council Fathers is likely to leave you indignant—even angry—over the way Neo-Modernists have attempted (and sometimes succeeded) to destroy Christ's Church from within. Not only are these documents revealing about the true nature of the Church and what she really teaches, but they are absolutely beautiful in their content.

Admittedly, for most people, reading the Vatican II documents is a real yawner. The reason for that is because they're written in Church-speak. That's a pity, too, because I think many more

people would read them if they were written in a more common vernacular. However, there is a very good reason those documents are written in Church-speak. That form of communication enabled the Council Fathers to be very precise. So since reading the documents is the equivalent of taking a sleeping pill, I'd like to suggest you read them the way I did.

All of the paragraphs in all the documents are numbered. I set out to read the documents one numbered paragraph at a time. Some days I felt especially frisky and managed to read more than one paragraph a day, but I always made sure I read at least one. It took me between two and three years to complete them all, but I did get them read.

As an adult convert to Catholicism, I fell helplessly in love with the Church before I converted, but after reading the documents of Vatican II, I fell helplessly, hopelessly, passionately in love with Jesus' one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church. That's no hyperbole, by the way.

Here is a list of the most important documents I suggest all Catholics begin with:

- **Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy** (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*). It ordered an extensive revision of worship so that people would have a clearer sense of their own involvement in the Mass and other rites.
- **Decree on the Instruments of Social Communication** (*Inter Mirifica*). It called on members of the church, especially the laity, to instill "a human and Christian spirit" into newspapers, magazines, books, films, radio and television.
- **Dogmatic Constitution on the Church** (*Lumen Gentium*). It presented the Church as a mystery, as a communion of baptized believers, as the people of God, as the body of Christ and as a pilgrim moving toward fulfillment in heaven but marked on earth with "a sanctity that is real, although imperfect."
- **Decree on Ecumenism** (*Unitatis Redintegratio*). It said that ecumenism should be everyone's concern and that genuine ecumenism involves a continual personal and institutional renewal.
- **Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation** (*Dei Verbum*). It said the church depends on Scripture and tradition as the one deposit of God's word and commended the use of modern scientific scholarship in studying Scripture.
- **Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity** (*Apostolicam Actuositatem*). It said the laity should influence their surroundings with Christ's teachings.
- **Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World** (*Gaudium et Spes*). It said the church must talk to atheists, a continual campaign must be waged for peace, nuclear war is unthinkable and aid to underdeveloped nations is urgent. It said marriage was not just for procreation and urged science to find an acceptable means of birth regulation.

When you read these documents, you'll see how badly the Neo-Modernists have tried to betray and destroy from within Jesus and His holy Catholic Church. The only way we can divert from the inroads made by the Neo-Modernists is to learn our holy and ancient faith well. You might want to consider visiting JoeSixpackAnswers.com to sign up for a free email course I offer. When you enroll in the course, you'll regularly receive invitations to webinars I host where you can ask me personally whatever question you want. That's how you find out everything about *What We Believe... Why We Believe It*.