Vatican Council II
Context to the Reform & Renewal

Catholic Liturgical Ministry Institute: Documents
NPM National Convention 2014
Elliot Kapitan

1 Oct 1958 – John XXIII elected pope
25 Jan 1959 – pope announces the 21st Ecumenical Council
“to open the windows of the Church”
1962-1965 – four sessions, each fall

Vatican Council II

Prior Personal Experience:
– “knew” the Liturgy in Latin
– “conscious” during this council
– “lived through” the shift to English

No Personal Experience:
– Only “know” the novus ordo in English

What else was going on in the world during the time of the Council?

Other documents:
– Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy Sacrosanctum Concilium
– Dogmatic Constitution on the Church Lumen Gentium
– Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World Gaudium et Spes

Issued 16 documents: constitutions, decrees, declarations

Hallmarks
– of the Council,
– of Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy [CSL]

What people say they are:
• Take out Handout # 6: “Looking at the Roman Missal … through the Lens of the CSL”
• To affirm what the real hallmarks are

CSL Keys
• no. 7 – Christ is always present…
• no. 10 – Church’s summit and fount
• no. 14 – full, conscious, and active participation … by the Christian people … right and duty
• no. 48 – to offer ourselves
  • • • That as bread and wine are changed, we too are changed

Vat II: rest of the story
CSL, no 1. Aims of the whole Council:
• to enliven the Christian life of the faithful,
• to adapt areas of Church life to the needs of our times,
• to foster union among all who believe in Christ, and
• to strengthen whatever can help to call all people to the Church.

Further Reading
Rita Ferrone
Liturgy: Sacrosanctum Concilium
Part of a larger series on the major documents of Vat II

Ferrone
Liturgy: Sacrosanctum Concilium
Uses seven essential concepts to address the constitution, the implementation, and the state of the questions:
(1) the paschal mystery,
(2) liturgy as “summit and source” of Church’s life,
(3) full, active, and conscious participation,
(4) ecclesiology,
(5) inculturation,
(6) renewal of the liturgical books, music, art, and artifacts of the liturgy, and
(7) education and formation
Bibliography and index.
The Council began:

- First document, *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 1963:
  10. Still, the liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the fount from which all the Church’s power flows.

The Council ended:

- Last document, *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, 1965:
  93. ...Christians can yearn for nothing more ardently than to serve the people of this age successfully with increasing generosity. Holding loyally to the Gospel, enriched by its resources, and joining forces with all who love and practice justice, they have shouldered a weighty task here on earth and they must render an account of it...