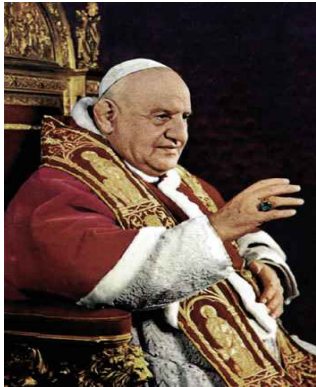


The Second Vatican Council

1962-1965

Pope John XXIII



In calling forth the council: “Let’s open the windows of the church and let in some fresh air”. “the council now beginning rises in the church like daybreak, a forerunner of most splendid light”

It fell to Pope Paul to implement the revolutionary vision that John had unleashed with Vatican II. Pope Paul immediately defined his papacy by continuing forward with the initiatives of his predecessor.

Pope Paul VI



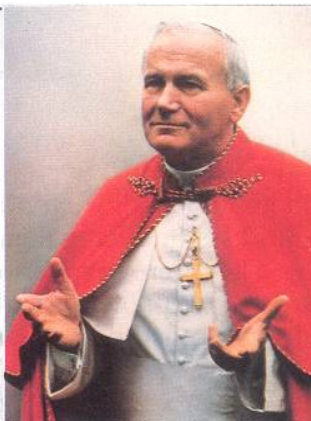
The Council began with the prayer: *‘We are here before you, O Holy Spirit...’*

The Second Vatican Council moved the Church: From To

- a self image as a triumphant island → a universal servant
- searching for truth from its interior → searching where ever truth may be found
- individual nature of sacramental life → its communal nature
- the Church as a single peak in the midst of a flat plain → a servant church within the plain helping to uplift it

The Council ended with a papal brief: *‘The Second Ecumenical Council, assembled in the Holy Spirit... must be numbered without doubt among the greatest events of the Church’*

Pope John Paul II



Pope John Paul II attended all four sessions of the Vatican II Council, and played a prominent role in the formulation of the Declaration on Religious Freedom”

“These documents deserve to be recalled because they maintain their value and their contemporary significance has if anything, increased.”

Pope Benedict XVI

