

The Church in the Modern World: Papal Leadership, Lay Response

How are we to live our Christianity in today's world? Vatican Council II named us, the laity, as the ones whose task it is to change the world. How do we do that? From the 1800s our Popes have been showing us how. Join in our Singing Praise study of what our Holy Fathers (and Vatican Council II) have said to guide us. After an initial review of Catholic teaching on Divine Revelation, the call of the laity, and the Vatican Council II document, "The Church in the Modern World," we will see what popes have said about how to change the world we live in.

This study may challenge our thinking, but the reading will be simple. Each week there will be a one page summary of Church teaching and three pages of quotations from popes and church documents. This is a discussion study of main ideas and their application, though there will be links to original documents for those who may want to read more.

September 10: How Do We Know Something Is of God? A Look at Catholic teaching on Divine Revelation and the Hierarchy of Truths—from Vatican Council II and the Catholic Catechism.

September 17: Patriotic Rosary, no class.

September 24: What is the Role of Church in our Modern World? A look at how the Church's Role is defined in the Vatican Council II document, *Gaudium et Spes*.

October 1: In the Big Picture, What am I, Ordinary Lay Catholic, to Do? A look at Vatican II documents and words of Popes St. John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis on the role of the laity (us) in building the Kingdom of God now. Include Sherry Weddell 15 min audio recording.

October 8: How Does the Church Influence Economic Life? A look at *Rerum Novarum* (Pope Leo XIII, 1891) and *Centesimus Annus* (John Paul II, 1991)

October 15: Patriotic Rosary, no class.

October 22: How Does the Church Respond to Threats to World Peace? A look at *Quadragesimo Anno*, (Pope Pius XI, 1931) *Pacem in Teris* (Pope John XXII, 1963).

October 29: How Does the Church Influence Politics? A look at Pope St. John Paul II's role in the fall of communism—special night with video, *Liberating a Continent: John Paul II and the Fall of Communism*.

November 5: How Does the Church Respond to Modern Culture? A look at papal responses to "A Culture of Death," including *Evangelium Vitae* (Pope St. John Paul II, 1995) and *Caritas in Veritate* (Pope Benedict XVI, 2009).

November 12: How Does the Church Respond to Issues of Marriage and Family? A look at *Familiaris Consortio* (Pope St. John Paul II, 1981), *Amoris Laetitia* (Pope Francis, 2016)

November 19: Patriotic Rosary, no class.

November 26: Thanksgiving weekend, no class.

December 3: How Does the Church Respond with Solidarity to Peoples in Need? A look at *Mater et Magistra* (Pope John XXIII, 1961), *Populorum Progressio* (Pope Paul VI, 1967) and *Laudato Si* (Pope Francis, 2015)

December 10: What Difference Does Knowing Make? Summary session to review and discuss what we have learned.