



VATICAN II

Celebrating 50 Years

**Pastoral Constitution on the
Church in the Modern World
*Gaudium et Spes***

Opening Prayer



You are the One

from whom on different paths

all of us have come,

and to whom on different paths

all of us will return.

Make strong in our hearts what unites us;

build bridges across that which divides us.

Enable us to hear your voice, follow your will

and pursue your purpose,

and unite us in all we do to serve you. Amen.

The joys and the hopes, the grief and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially of those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the grief and anxieties of the followers of Christ.

Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts . . . United in Christ, they are led by the Holy Spirit in their journey to the kingdom of their Father and they have welcomed the news of salvation which is meant for every man. That is why this community realizes that it is truly linked with mankind and its history by the deepest bonds.

(1)

Joy and Hope!

hope-filled vision of the human condition

*Gaudium et Spes

- * based on doctrinal principles
- * shows the relation of the church to the world--to the people of today
- * lists our responsibilities to humanity

* Pastoral Constitution

Social Role of the Church

- * listen to voices from Rome, from Washington, from the poor in our cities, in barrios or in refugee camps
- * Catholics, other Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, no religion
- * church needs to initiate this exchange
- * church should “contribute to the development of humankind on every level . . .” (44)

*“At all times the Church carries the responsibility of reading the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel” (4)

*Signs of the Times

1. The Dignity of Marriage and Family (Ch. 1)
2. Proper Development of Culture: (Ch. 2)
3. Economic and Social Life: (Ch. 3)
Principles of Catholic Social Teaching
4. The Political Community (Ch. 4)
5. Fostering Peace (Ch. 5)

*Five Priorities

- * Life and dignity of the human person: all human life is sacred
- * Call to Family, Community and Participation: societal organization affects human dignity
- * Rights and Responsibilities: corresponding to rights are duties and responsibilities
- * Option for the Poor and Vulnerable: their needs are to be put first (Mt. 25:31-46)
- * The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers: right to productive work, decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property and to economic initiative
- * Solidarity: loving our neighbor has global dimensions
- * Care of the environment: a responsibility of our faith

* Catholic Social Teaching



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Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation *Dei Verbum*