October 11, 2012 will be the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican II. One of the gems of the conciliar documents was the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, *Gaudium et Spes*. Its opening statement remains a mantra for many ministers: “The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts.” These two conferences will reintroduce some of the core insights/riches of *Gaudium et Spes*, and offer perspectives on how the chaplaincy/spiritual care ministry participates in the Church’s mission in the world.

**SESSION 1: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2012**

**Preliminary Reading before Session 1**

Read the entire *Gaudium et Spes* document, marking those phrases and terms that draw your attention. I recommend the Abbot edition.


**Why a Second Document on the Church? What does it Have to Do with Us?**

There are two documents on the Church. This session will probe the significance of this second document, and why it has such an impact on those of us who represent the Church in our ministerial roles. We will delve into the historical context, the present cultural upheavals, and the embarrassing humiliation of the present institutional Church. We will focus on Part I of the document which explores the meaning of the human person and the Church in the world today. We will review GEM (General Empirical Method) from our prior sessions, and ask how this document shapes our view of ourselves in our present ministries.

**Reading between Session 1 and 2:** (Will be sent as attachments)


**SESSION 2: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2012**

We will briefly review Session 1 and the readings, and then proceed to explore Part II of the document. The focus here is the reality of today's world, and how the person (and community) explored in Part I is to enter into relationship with the challenges that world brings. We will briefly visit each area, gleaning as much pastoral insight as we can. Areas will include: Marriage and Family, the Development of Culture, Socio-economic Life, Political Life, War and Peace, and the International Community.

**AFTER SERIES BIBLIOGRAPHY**


Faggioli, Massimo. *Vatican II: The Battle For Meaning*. New York/Mahwah, NJ: Paulist, 2012. Chapters 4 and 6. (This entire book is very worthwhile for a deep and broad view, but these two chapters are especially helpful.)
