

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS

Audio Conferences
September 20 and 27, 2012

The Enduring Gift of Gaudium et Spes and Reimagining Our Ministry in the Name of the Church

Carla Mae Streeter, OP
Aquinas Institute of Theology

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.

"Vatican II Fact sheet," *Scarboro Missions*, Vol. 93:1 (January-February 2012): 12-15. (Adapted from the *National Catholic Reporter*, October 4, 2002, edition, "Vatican II 40 years later".
www.natcath.org/NCR_Online/archives/100402/vaticanII.htm)

McDonald, Mike, "Vatican II... A litany," (Adapted from "Trent and Vatican II: Two Styles of Church," by John W. O'Malley, S.J., in Raymond F. Bulman & Frederick J. Parrella (editors), *From Trent to Vatican II: Historical and Theological Investigations*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006)

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)

Streeter, Carla Mae. "Gaudium et Spes, Joy and Hope: The Church in the Modern World 43 Years Later," *Faith, Science, Culture: Converging or Diverging Realities, a 40 Year Retrospective*. St. Louis, ITEST Faith and Science Press (Institute for the Theological Encounter with Science and Technology): 2009: 39-53.

Streeter, Carla Mae. "The Ecclesial Person of the Third Millennium," *Spirituality Today* 44:2 (Summer 1992): 132-142.

Abbott, Walter M. "Closing Messages of the Council," *The Documents of Vatican II*. Piscataway, NJ: America Press, 1966: 728-739.

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

Christiansen, Drew, "Engaging the Spirituals," *America*, March 26, 2012: 17-19.

De Roo, Remi J. "Vatican II...Reflections of a Council Father," Baum, Gregory, "Vatican II...The church in dialogue," Lynch, Jack, "Vatican II...An inspired vision," Leonard, Ellen, "Vatican II...The role of women religious," MacPherson, Damian, "Vatican II...Interreligious dialogue," Clifford, Catherine E., "Vatican II...Revisiting the Council," Henriot, Peter, "Vatican II... The Church's vocation," *Scarboro Missions*, Vol. 93:1 (January-February 2012): 4-11, 16-18, and 20-23.

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.)

Portier, et al, "A Modus Vivendi? Sex, Marriage, and the Church," *Commonweal*, January 13, 2012: 12-19.

Sanks, T. Howland, "The Changing Face of Theology," *America*, October 24, 2011: 13-17.