

THE CHURCH IS A FIELD HOSPITAL

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS
PRESENTATION FOUR

THE CHURCH IS A FIELD HOSPITAL

“DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”

THE CHURCH IN THE 21st CENTURY

A NEW VISION FOR A NEW CENTURY

The Catholic Church turned a page in its two thousand year history at the Second Vatican Council and opened a new chapter with the election of Pope Francis in 2013.

We have a new and exciting vision for who we are as Church, our mission in the world, the role of the laity, and how we relate with other religions. This presentation will invite you to become partners in making this new vision come alive in your community.

PRIESTHOOD IN THE AGE OF FRANCIS
MINISTERS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

REBUILD MY CHURCH







FRANCIS, REBUILD MY CHURCH







A FRANCISCAN COUNCIL

We are not here to guard
a museum, but to
cultivate a flourishing
garden of life.

—John XXIII







POPE FRANCIS AND VATICAN II

The Council is a fruit of the Spirit but many want to “turn back time.” This what is called being stubborn, this is called wanting to tame the Holy Spirit, this is called poor judgment and slow hearted.

Don't resist the Holy Spirit. To say it clearly, the Holy Spirit annoys us because He moves us. He makes us journey, he pushes the Church to go forward.

THE CHURCH IS A FIELD HOSPITAL

“I see clearly that the thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the Church as a field hospital after battle. It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal the wounds. Then we can talk about everything else..You have to start from the ground up. “

(Pope Francis, [A Big Heart Open to God](#), pp.30-31)

BEAUTY: SEEING WITH A MOTHER'S EYES



“The wolf shall live with the lamb...and a little child shall lead them “ (Is 11:6)



MERCIFUL GOD, MERCIFUL CHURCH

The fathers of the Church had a wonderful image: If there is a shipwreck, you don't get a new ship to save you, but you get a plank so that you can survive. That's the mercy of God...I respect those who have a different position, but on the other hand, they must see the concrete situation is today. How can we help the people who struggle in these situations? I know such people---often women. They are very engaged in parish life; they do all they can for their children. I know a woman who prepared her daughter for First Communion. The parish priest said the girl can go to Holy Communion, but not mama. I told the pope about this, and he said, "No, that's impossible."
(Cardinal Kasper, Commonweal Interview)

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

On the basis of the teaching of the Dogmatic Constitution “Lumen Gentium”, I have decided to discuss at length the following questions

- The reform of the Church in her missionary outreach;
- The temptation faced by pastoral workers;
- The Church, understood as the entire People of God which evangelizes;
- The homily and its preparation;
- The inclusion of the poor in society;
- Peace and dialogue within society;
- The spiritual motivation for mission

(Page 13)

DISCOVERING THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL IN THE SUFFERINGS OF LIFE

Suffering and pain are a part of every human life. This presentation will delve into the wisdom traditions of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures to reflect on the role of suffering as a call to growth on the spiritual journey. The joy that comes from a deep relationship with God is one that does not depend on external circumstances but rather an inner strength that comes from God alone. The way we embrace sufferings in our personal lives is the greatest witness we could give to the Joy of the Gospel

PAUL PAUL VI AND THE SYNOD

When the council ended in 1965, Pope Paul VI introduced the structure of the synod as a means of continuing the dialogue of the Council. Pope Francis has restored the synod to Paul VI's intent: a listening gathering to discern the movements of the Holy Spirit

SYNOD OF BISHOPS

The synod is an advisory body for the pope. It is a group of bishops who have been chosen from different regions of the world and meet together at fixed times to foster closer unity between the Roman Pontiff and bishops, to assist the pope with their counsel in the preservation and growth of the faith.

COLLEGIALITY

Just as Peter belonged to the company of the twelve, so the pope belongs to the college of bishops, regardless of the special role he fills, not outside but within the college.

As such, the gathering of this very council expresses a model of operating for the Church. In this model, the opinion of the many is prudently considered when making decisions about important matters. We have a long history of holding councils such as this one where we consider major questions together. (LG, #27)

MESSY AND STIRRED UP

“ I want things messy and stirred up”
(Pope Francis)

FINAL RELATIO: SYNOD ON THE FAMILY

2014

PART I

- Listening to : the context and challenges on the family
- The socio-cultural context
- The relevance of emotional life
- The challenge of the pastoral

PART II

- The Gaze of Christ: The Gospel of the family
- The look on Jesus and the divine pedagogy in the history of salvation
- The family in God's saving plan
- The Family in the Documents of the Church
- The Indissolubility of marriage and the joy of living together
- Truth and beauty of family and compassion toward family wounds

PART III

- Comparison: pastoral perspectives
- Proclaiming the Gospel of the family today, in various contexts
- Driving the engaged in the process of preparation for marriage
- Accompany the first few years of married life
- Pastoral care of those who live in civil marriage or cohabitation
- Caring for family wounds (separated, divorced and not remarried, divorced and remarried, single-parent families)
- The care of people with homosexual orientation
- The transmission of life and the challenge of falling birth rates
- The challenge of education and the family's role in evangelization

THREE CONTENTIOUS PARAGRAPHS

In the final document all 62 paragraphs were approved (2/3rd majority). Three paragraphs received an absolute majority: Communion for divorce and remarried and receiving homosexuals with respect and gentleness

CARDINAL GODFRIED DANNEELS

“There is a real battle between two groups. On the one hand there are those who are for openness and on the other those who are for tradition.”

“ I have never known a synod where the atmosphere of openness and the absence of fear was so great. There is a feeling of synodality, of the Church making decisions in a collegial manner.”

Does the exclusion of the divorced and remarried from Communion properly reflect the intention of Jesus?

People who are divorced and remarried also need the Eucharist to grow in union with Christ and the church community, and to assume their responsibility as Christians in the new situation. The Church cannot simply ignore their spiritual needs and their desire to receive the Eucharist “as a means of grace.”

(Bishop Bonny, Bishop of Antwerp)

Papa Francesco

Esortazione apostolica



**AMORIS
LAETITIA**

- “To avoid judgments which do not take into account the complexity of various situations.”
- “I would make it clear that all discussions of doctrinal, moral or pastoral issues need to be settled by interventions of the magisterium.”
- “The church has been called to form consciences not to replace them.”
- “Pastors need to help people not merely to follow rules but to practice discernment.”
- “Don’t speak of people living in sin. Moral laws are not stones to throw at a person’s life.”
- “The Law of Gradualism”
- “The Church’s pastors in proposing the ideal of the Gospel and Church teaching must also help them to treat the weak with compassion.”
- “Avoid cold bureaucratic morality”
- “No one condemns forever “
- “The Logic of the Gospel”; “The Logic of Integration”; “The Logic of Pastoral Mercy.”

AMORIS LAETITIA

- “Some reduce their own being to what they know or feel (gnosticism); the others reduce their own being to their strength (neopleagianism)
- “For the culture of dialogue, the inclusion of everyone is essential.”

GRADUALISM

Gradualism is the tool of evangelization, seen as a process toward holiness rather than a goal. But it is difficult to recommend gradualism while keeping the language of sin, as some have insisted.

(Tablet, October 18, 2014)

THE BEAUTY OF THE INCARNATION

- DUNS SCOTUS: “Haecceitas” (Thisness)
- “I have the immense joy of being a human being, a member of the human race in which God became incarnate. As if the sorrows and stupidities of the human condition could overwhelm me, now I realize what we all are. And if only everybody could realize this! But it cannot be explained. There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.” (Thomas Merton, Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander)

