

"clear, brief and easily assimilated by all"

Trinity Sunday, 30th May, 2021

Handouts n. 208

Real Catholic Renewal -- with Vatican II

Open Letter to the Successors of the Apostles in Australia for the Fifth Plenary Council

Dear Archbishops and Bishops,

The purpose of Vatican II, as St John XXIII declared at its opening (11-10-1962), was that:

"The greatest concern of the Second Vatican Council is that the Sacred Deposit of Christian Doctrine should be guarded and taught more efficaciously."

(Abbott, *Documents* p. 713; and quoted by St John Paul II as he launched the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 11-10-1992 p. 2)

This **doctrinal** purpose was given **pastoral** detail in VCII's first fruits (in the Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium* n. 1):

HOLINESS: "The sacred Council has set out to impart an ever-increasing vigour to the Christian life of the faithful";

ADAPTATION: "to make more responsive to the needs of our age those institutions which are subject to change";

ECUMENISM: "to foster whatever can promote union among all who believe in Christ";

MISSION: "to strengthen whatever can help to call all mankind into the Church's fold. Accordingly it sees particularly cogent reasons for undertaking the renewal (*instaurandam* -- not "reform") and promotion of liturgy."

The purpose of Australia's 5th Plenary Council could not be better expressed. It is the clarion call of the Lord Jesus: **THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS HERE -- REPENT & BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS.**

"Adapt to the needs of our age" means **renewal** or restoration (*instauratio*, not a 16th century de-formation !) of institutions/structures, **reviewing** (*recognoscatur* is not "revising") them to align with **Christ's teaching** of His Good News, as its understanding developed in Tradition and Magisterium, for new situations.

"Development" enhances, enriches, but does not change doctrines nor pervert disciplines, nor replace Divine structures like family and hierarchy with human inventions.

Alas, 90% of our former faithful no longer keep holy the Lord's Day with the adoration of God. Many children in our own schools do not know Who Jesus is, what He came to do and what He expects of us. Even among the 10% practising there is much worldliness. However, Christ's Good News can inspire them through exemplary leadership of clergy, Religious and apostolic laity.

Ours is a mission country where so many are without God in their lives, don't honour fatherhood or motherhood, deprecate matrimony, butcher the pre-born, and contracept body and soul.

PLEASE TURN OVER for some positive suggestions for your consideration.

Please give me an episcopal blessing and be assured of my prayers for you, as I remain always,
Yours sincerely, obediently and gratefully in Our Lord,

Father James Tierney

Born 1935; Convert 1955; Priest 1964; originally A/diocese Sydney, now Broken Bay; retirement apostolate as per letterhead.

The Priest and Lay Faithful

God made us (man's dignity) **to know, love and serve Him here on earth** (man' duty) **and to see and enjoy Him forever in Heaven** (man's destiny) cf. Deuteronomy 10:12

THE SALVATION of SOULS, the supreme law
What is most necessary at the present time
is to have in each parish a group of laity
at the same time **virtuous, enlightened,
determined** and **really apostolic.** St Pius X

This surely is a VCII major aim for the Plenary Council and thereby a major object of our pastoral ministry in which we bring God to our world and our world to God through our Saviour, to be ready for Death & Judgement. (cf. Hebrews 9:27; 11:6)

BISHOPS fulfil their sacred service of "teaching, sanctifying & ruling" (canon 1008) through their **PRIESTS** so that the **LAITY** can share in the priestly, prophetic, and royal office of Christ (canon 204 §1) and therefore have their own share in the mission of the people of God in the Church and the world. cf. VCII on the Laity 2c

BISHOPS alone have a deliberative vote and rightly so. They, with their priests, are a servant hierarchy with teaching and governing authority, and, like Christ the Bridegroom, of the male sex, and spiritually "married" to the Church as bread-winners, as husbands, *hus-bond*, "house bound" to a wife and children -- and not as dictators (cf. 1 Peter 3:5; 3 John 1:9).

Thus a bishop's Prophetic, Priestly and Kingly ministry is mostly by supporting his priests in theirs for the laity. Without priests a bishop is impotent.

Yet the pastoral ministry suffers because Canon 522 is routinely violated:

"It is necessary that a parish priest have the benefit of stability, and therefore he is to be **appointed for an indeterminate period of time.**

The diocesan Bishop *may* appoint him for a specified period of time only if the Episcopal Conference allows it."

Surely the exception should not be the rule ?

Unfortunately most priests & laity will never read a long *Instrumentum Laboris*. Perhaps those laity grasping "for a deliberative vote" are power hungry to push other people around, violating the Divine structure (contrary to Matthew 20:28). Again, priests "with whom bishops are associated in all trust and generosity" (LG 28b) have, in the consultations, been treated as laity, and not as a bishop's co-operators.

THE WAY FORWARD renews the God-given structures of the FAMILY, SACRED MINISTRY, EVERYDAY HOLINESS in which are the Church's spiritual strength. These far outdo Gramsci's Marxism to eliminate God, equate sodomy with marriage, and deprive parents of authority, by Satanic infiltration of media, politicians, education, hence politicians.

"WITHOUT A VISION the people perish" (cf. Prov. 29:18 KJV), a vision for our testing time on earth.

What Needs To Be Done ? INFORM & INSPIRE, thus conquer Ignorance, Indifference and Indolence.

LIVE a PASCHAL MYSTERY SPIRUALTY daily: live life to the full, by dying & rising with Christ, thus:-

THE FOUR LAST THINGS are not morbid but actually empowering, encouraging and cheering:

DEATH: final entry into Christ's Paschal Mystery;

JUDGEMENT: on our final success or failure;

HELL: failure to qualify and loss of God forever;

HEAVEN: share in glory of the Resurrection, often via **Purgatory** for perfecting, penitential purifying.

VCII's LITURGICAL SPIRITUALITY is vital for the faithful: our Redemption & Salvation by Christ's Paschal Mystery and its application to us by its "sacramentalization" in liturgy. They need instruction.

Why are so many young families, with lots of children, increasingly opting for the **Latin Mass ?**

They say they find parish Masses lack God-centredness, respectful silence, Sense of the Sacred, lack of altar rails to kneel for Communion on the tongue, girls or women on the sanctuary, priest not *ad orientem* "leading them to the altar" (note GIRM n. 299 is outranked by other GIRMs and rubrics in *Ordo Missæ* (see *Handouts* n. 168/2 on www.cardinalnewman.com.au).

Yet most do not realize that VCII was not responsible for the things they object to, and its vision was not accurately implemented. And we can work for Pope Benedict XVI's "liturgical reconciliation".

(See *Handouts* nn. 190-193, 201)

Nor does a 10% remnant of those at *Novus Ordo* Masses heed the 1985 Synod of Bishops:

It is evident that the liturgy must favour the sense of the sacred and make it shine forth. It must be permeated by the spirit of reverence, adoration and the glorification of God. *Final Report* 2B(b)4(b)1

NEW STRUCTURES are NOT NEEDED to build up SPIRITUALITY & LAY APOSTOLATE. Already we can teach Prayer, regular Confession and the apostolic opportunities in family life, work place and community of creativity, political and social action.

EARLIER SUBMISSION

My complete submission was sent to about twenty bishops three years ago, 25th July, 2018, and then, alas, my printing machinery broke down. But it is still available in *Handouts* nn. 166-176.

Father James Tierney