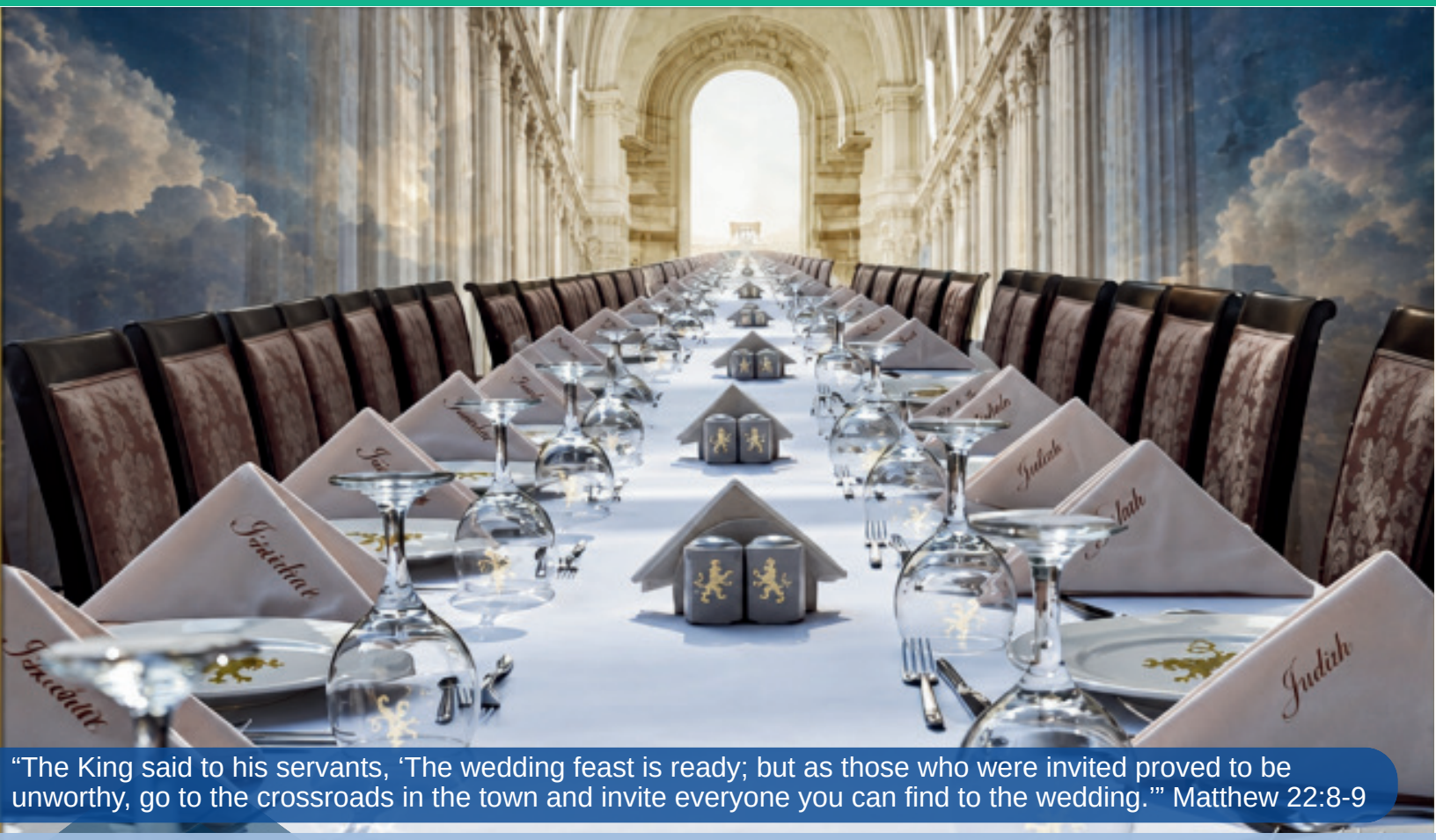
28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • OCT 11, 2026

ST. MARY PARISH

PHONE: (920) 739-5119 • EMAIL: STMARY@STMARYPARISH.ORG
312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



"The King said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding.'" Matthew 22:8-9

Regular Mass Times

Saturday 4:30pm
Sunday 7:45am, 9:45am
Monday 12:05pm
Tuesday No Mass
Wednesday No Mass
Thursday 12:05pm
Friday No Mass

Pastor - Fr. Bill Swichtenberg
wdswitz@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-422-4316

Deacon - Gerry Schraufnagel
dcngerry@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-540-9594

Cemetery Info - Chip Acker
cacker@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-882-4158

Eucharistic Adoration
Every 3rd Wednesday, 4:30-8pm
We must have one person with the Eucharist at all times.
Register online
https://bit.ly/49Wm3k5
or scan with your phone.

Parish Office Hours:
920-739-5119
Mon, Tues, Thurs, 9am-4pm
Wed, 9am-6:30pm
Friday-Office Closed

Sacrament of Matrimony
Getting Married?
Congratulations! Call Fr. Bill at least six months before your planned wedding date.

Interested in joining the Parish?
Contact Lori Lavalle
llavalle@stmaryparish.org

Confession times:
Saturday 9-10am or by appointment

Honor the memory of your loved ones with a memorial candle.

Leave their names in the Marian Way or at the back of church.

The candles will be lit during Masses in November and may be picked up the weekend of the 21 & 22.





COFFEE & DONUTS

Stay after Mass to enjoy coffee, donuts, and great fellowship!

JOIN US!
SIGN UP FOR
FALL
COFFEE & DONUTS
SUNDAYS
SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER • NOVEMBER

SCAN OR CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP!

Faith, Friends, Fellowship!

HOLY TRIVIA question

What is the meaning of the letters INRI often seen on crucifixes?

TRUNK OR TREAT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

ST. JOSEPH PARISH
WEST PARKING LOT & GREAT HALL

Get ready for some spooky fun! Wear your costume and come trick-or-treat in the West Parking Lot (Corner of Lawrence and Walnut Sts), then come inside for caramel apples, cider, and hot cocoa!

Families from St. Joe's, St. Mary's, and Bridges are all invited!

Want to decorate your car and pass out candy?

REGISTER YOUR CAR AT THE QR CODE!



Saint Joseph Catholic Community

bridges Child Enrichment Center

St Mary Catholic Community

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, Oct. 18
8:30-11:30am
Community Room



All are welcome!
Free will offerings accepted

bacon, sausage, fresh fruit,
buttermilk pancakes , french toast sticks

Generations of Sisterhood

An Encounter with Eternity



It's a girl thing! A special event which includes a heavenly visit from our "sister sisters" in Scripture. Come and hear from Sarah, Esther, Ruth and Deborah as they tell their heartfelt stories from their perspective! A lovely meal will be included in this event.

WHO:
We invite you to come as grandmothers, daughters, goddaughters, granddaughters, aunts, nieces, neighbors and best girlfriends. You do not need to belong to St. Mary's or be Catholic. All girls, from age 12 through 100+ are welcome! Please register as a group so you will be seated together.

WHEN:
Saturday, October 24, 2026 at 5:30pm -7:30pm
(following the 4:30pm Mass)

WHERE:
We will step into eternity at St. Mary Parish Community Room

COST:
The cost is $5.00 per person

REGISTER:
Because of the necessary planning for the event, everyone must register. Please register by Monday, October 19th! We will have 60 spots available so register soon by stopping in or calling the parish office. 920-739-5119

Beacon
News and Notes

Growing in Faith Together

In the early 1900's, the London Times Newspaper ran an essay contest, asking respondents to answer the question, "What is wrong with the world?" Legend tells us that G.K. Chesterton won the contest with this famous reply:

> Dear Sirs,
> I am.
> Yours,
> G.K. Chesterton



The point is not that Chesterton was uniquely terrible. Rather, he was making a Christian point about personal responsibility. When we ask what is wrong with society, it is easy to dismiss our own fallen nature and to blame politicians, schools, families, the Church, or other people instead. Chesterton turns the question inward and says, essentially, 'I need to begin by examining my own heart."

Our second graders, who are preparing to receive their First Reconciliation next month, are learning how the sacraments help them to look inward at their own hearts, take personal responsibility when they hurt others, say they are sorry, and seek forgiveness. Spiritually and emotionally, this can help children understand that sins and mistakes do not define them. They can learn that forgiveness brings healing, peace, and the opportunity to begin again. This lays an important foundation for developing humility, compassion, responsibility, and healthy relationships with others.

Please keep our second graders and their families in your prayers in the coming weeks!

Upcoming Special Events:

Beacon Family Night, Praying through anxiety,
Wednesday, October 14th, 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

First Reconciliation Retreat,
Sunday, November 8th, after 9:45 AM Mass

First Reconciliation,
Monday, November 9th, 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Prayers of Gratitude Family Craft and Activity,
Sunday, November 15th, after 9:45 AM Mass in the Community Room

Faith
Family
Community



Calling all men—

a presentation just for you!



Join us for an engaging presentation by Deacon Kevin DeCleene from Resurrection Parish in Allouez.

His topic is "Resurrection: A Personal Story of Prayer, Death, and Return to Life".

Saturday, November 7, 2026

St. Mary Parish Community Room

Light meal at 5:30pm
(after 4:30pm Mass)

Talk to follow

Deacon Kevin combines the perspectives of a career in business, service in ministry, and family life to his witness of faith. Kevin's tagline, "The best is yet to come" is inspired by I Corinthians 2:9.

The presentation is *free*, but we ask that you register ahead of time by scanning the QR code or calling the parish office at (920) 739-5119.

Congratulations
Mike Mailand

RECIPIENT OF THE

FRIEND OF THE CITY AWARD



Melanie and Mike Mailand, members of our spiritual family at St. Mary Parish.

Thank You, Mike.
for being a shining example of service, leadership, and generosity.

CITY OF APPLETON

Office of the Mayor
100 North Appleton Street
Appleton, WI 54911
p. 920.832.6400
f. 920.832.5962
Mayor@appleton.gov

September 28, 2026

Mike Mailand
Providence Promise/St. Joseph's Parish
404 W. Lawrence Street
Appleton, WI 54911

Dear Mike,

Throughout my tenure as the Mayor, I have witnessed citizens do so many amazing things in service to our community. I am so grateful to work and live in a community with so many dedicated citizens.

Here at the City of Appleton, the *City Star Awards* were created as a way for City employees to recognize each other and members of our community in six different categories:

- Excellence in Customer Service
- Excellence in Project Management, Coordination, Planning
- Excellence in Comminity Engagement and Outreach
- City Champion Award
- Exceptional Leadership
- Friend of the City Award

I am pleased to share that you are the recipient of the Friend of the City Award! The nomination form states:

> *"Mike and those working to get the new shelter in place have worked really hard with the City's Basic Needs Team and Pillars to house and feed the vulnerable the bad weather."*

I'd like to officially present you with this award at the Common Council meeting on Wednesday, October 21, 2026. I welcome you to invite your family and friends. The meeting begins at 7:00pm and the presentation will be the first item on the agenda.

Every day I am reminded of how fortunate we are to have such a dedicated citizenry here in the City of Appleton. I am very grateful for your talent and dedication to our community. We are grateful to have you as a part of our team. Thank you and congratulations!

Sincerely

Jake Woodford
Mayor

CONQUEST OR LEAVEN

A Christian Vocation in Palestine & Israel Today

Saturday, October 17 • 11:00 am CT

Family, land, and history bind Christians in the Holy Land to peoples divided by conflict. Are they called to participate in conquest—or to be leaven, witnessing to Christ through a commitment to equality, justice, and peace?

Register here to receive the link for the virtual meeting or to attend the meeting at the Appleton Public Library.



David M. Neuhaus, SJ, a Jesuit priest in the Holy Land, teaches Scripture in Jerusalem and Bethlehem and formerly served as Latin Patriarchal Vicar for Hebrew-Speaking Catholics.

Providence Promise Ministries at St. Joseph Church

October Current Needs List

Please drop off/or send in your items (from Amazon or Walmart) to St. Joseph Parish (404 W Lawrence St., Appleton, WI 54911) marked Grab & Go! They are in desperate need of men's shoes (size 9-12) and old backpacks. Thank you!

Click here to view list and sign up

October Morning Coffee

We need more volunteers on various days in October for morning coffee. We see, on average, 35-40 neighbors each morning. Our neighbors come in from the cold, eat a little something, charge their phones, use the bathrooms, drink coffee, and chat. Please consider taking a shift. It is a great way to start your day!

Click here to sign up

Transitus of St. Francis

Tuesday, October 27 at 6:00 PM

St. Mary is honored to host the Capuchin Friars for a special candlelit Transitus service to commemorate the holy passing of St. Francis of Assisi from this life into eternal glory.

Please join us for an evening of Franciscan prayer, Scripture, and sacred song. All are welcome.



The Best Mirror

...is a true friend.

Join us for a mini-retreat with

Brother Jerome Schroeder,

Franciscan

a way to see

St. Joseph Parish

Saturday, October 10

9:00 AM – Noon

Holly Hall

404 W Lawrence St., Appleton, WI

(Use entrance from east parking lot)

All are welcome!

Please RSVP to 920-205-3808 to help with arrangements.

Free will offering will be taken.

FALL FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, OCT 25TH
11:30AM-2:30PM

MUSIC
RAFFLE
FOOD
DANCING
GOOD
VIBES!

JOIN US FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE

MUSIC
EXPERIENCE



NO ENTRY FEE
PURCHASE
FOOD/DRINKS

ST. BERNARD CATHOLIC PARISH, 1617 W PINE ST, APPLETON
PARISH HALL - ALL ARE WELCOME!

CIA-Faith Mission Operatives *presents*

MONDAY | OCT 19 | 6:30 PM

AI

WHY IT MATTERS TO POPE LEO… AND SHOULD MATTER TO YOU, TOO!



Xavier Fine Arts Theatre
1600 Prospect Ave, Appleton, WI

No tickets needed / Free will offering encouraged
> Seats available on a first come basis <

For details, google CIAFMO, email ciafmo@gmail.com, or call 920-450-3025

Does technology—including artificial intelligence (AI)—put our children, families and even our social order at risk? Pope Leo XIV seems to think so! He is calling on people of faith to be wary of today's digital culture. **How should we respond?**

CIA-Faith Mission Operatives
encourages YOU to *Investigate Your faith!*



With **Terry Mattingly** veteran religion-beat journalist & professor. Check him out at #Rational Sheep blog and podcast(s).

EVENTS CALENDAR

Week of Oct 11 - Oct 18

Sunday, Oct 11
St. Joe's Collection
E2F Pan Return
Coffee & Donuts
7:45 am Mass
9:45 am Mass/LS/Children's Liturgy
11:00 am OCIA Catechumens/LCR
12:30 pm OCIA Candidates/LCR

Monday, Oct 12
12:05 pm Mass
5:00 pm Reach More/LL7
6:00 pm SMP Grief Support Group Cemetery Chapel
6:30 pm Handbell Choir Practice
7:00 pm AA Meeting/LL1

Tuesday, Oct 13
9:00 am Connect/LL7
4:30 pm Safety Committee/CR
6:00 pm Discipleship Committee/LL1
6:00 pm Facilities Committee/LCR
6:30 pm Men's Ministry/LL7

Wednesday, Oct 14
9:30 am Connect Group/LL7
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Beacon Family Night/CR, GYM

Thursday, Oct 15
9:00am Isabelle Kopiske Visitation
10:30am Isabelle Kopiske Funeral
10:00 am Little Lambs Playgroup - Babysitting Rm
12:05 pm Mass
1:00 pm Fleece Blanket Tying/CR
1:00 pm Hooks & Needles/CR
6:00 pm Adult Choir/MR
6:00 pm Vatican II with Father Bill/LL7
6:00 pm Women's Small Group/LL3

Friday, Oct 16
Parish Office Cosed

Saturday, Oct 17
Kitchen & Community Room Booked All Day
9:00 am Confessions
4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, Oct 18
Pancake Breakfast 8:30am - 11:30am
7:45 am Mass
9:45 am Mass/LS
11:00 am OCIA Catechumens/LCR
12:30 pm OCIA Candidates/LCR

Mass Intentions

Sun., Oct 11	7:45 am	Ruth Carew
	9:45 am	Teresa DeVault
Mon.,Oct 12	12:05 pm	Living and Deceased Members of SMP
Thus., Oct 15	12:05 pm	Paula Hebeler
Sat., Oct 17	4:30 pm	Available
Sun., Oct. 18	7:45 am	Men & Women in the Military
	9:45 am	Mike O'Connell



Prayer Requests Contact **Laurie Richter** (lauriejrichter@gmail.com), **Mary Jo Zilisch** (920-734-1182) or **Ann Walkowski** (920-428-0969) if you have a prayer need. Please remember these requests in our prayer baskets.

Generosity CORNER

Your generous support of the parish, its ministries, activities, and operations, keep us going as a vibrant community. For the first three months of the fiscal year (July, August, September) we were able to stay right on our budgetary target. Thank you!

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
October	$11,089.25	$76,800.00	-$65,710.75

Your giving at work in the parish:

- Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 20th at 6:00 pm. All are welcome. It is an opportunity to go over our past fiscal year (July 2025-June 2026). The Annual Report will be available the weekend of October 17/18. Fr. Bill, as our Pastor, will lead the meeting with our Council Chair people and Trustees there to help answer questions.

- Keep on the lookout over the next few weeks as we prepare to launch some changes in our offertory options.

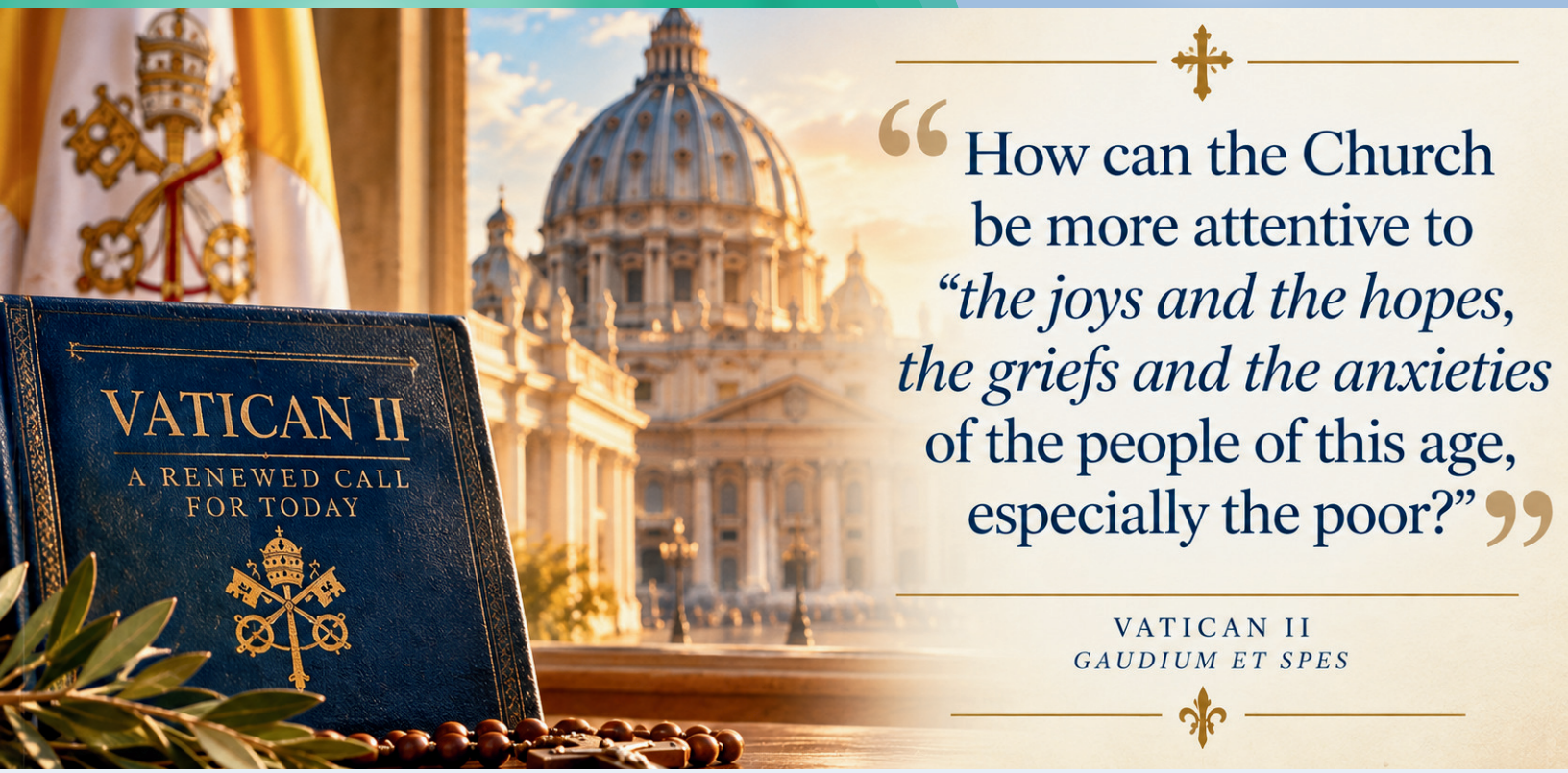


Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

in Joy & SORROW

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 10.11.2026
WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG

ST MARY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



Impressed that Pope Leo's commitment to the work of Vatican Council II (1962-65) has inspired him to dedicate his Wednesday audiences in 2026 to a review of the Council's documents, and motivated by my own hope that our new pastor has embraced these documents as the North Star of his ministry, I was inspired to offer a five-session review of Vatican II this fall to be continued with another five sessions during Lent in the spring.

As the Council's conclusion in 1965 marked its 60th anniversary in 2025, I am well aware that this transforming experience in the Catholic Church has been relegated to the history section of our church libraries. Our young people under the age of sixty have no first-hand experience of the Council and too many of them, it seems, have not been taught the documents in faith formation (CCD).

Presenting as a team on Thursday evenings with Andrew, our Minister of Adult Discipleship Formation, our "class" does not include anyone under the age of forty, which is the group of people that should be attending. Know, though, that we are pleased with the wonderful group of people who are participating. It was interesting to share our memories of the council, most of us not yet teenagers back in the early 1960's.

We videotaped last Thursday's session and will get that up on our parish website for those who may be interested. The instruction segment, which includes prayer and spans 40 minutes or so, will be there, but we decided not to tape the group discussion portion.

The main point of our first session, after reviewing sketchily the 21 ecumenical councils in the history of the Catholic Church, was to highlight that Vatican II was not a synod to define or reiterate dogma or doctrine. It was not a course correction as was the Council of Trent (1545-63), which happened in the aftermath of the Protestant Reformation.

Vatican Council II's main intent was to encourage the Church to read better the signs of the time and to bring the Gospel to bear in what was happening in people's lives and in the life of the world. How can the Church be more attentive to "the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age, especially the poor?" (Vatican II's *Gaudium et Spes*) How can the Church apply more liberally "the medicine of mercy rather than that of severity?" (Saint Pope John XXIII, Opening Address, Oct 11, 1962)

Vatican Council II was pastoral rather than dogmatic! Its language piqued the ears and hearts of many Catholics and Christians and people of goodwill throughout the world.

Father John O'Malley, SJ, in his excellent book What Happened at Vatican II?, suggests that the Council was "a language event. Among the words are brothers/sisters, friendship, cooperation, collaboration, partnership, freedom, dialogue, pilgrim, servant, development, evolution, charisma, dignity, holiness, conscience, collegiality, People of God, and priesthood of all believers…It suggests, indeed, that at stake were almost two different visions of Catholicism: from commands to invitations, from laws to ideals, from definition to mystery, from threats to persuasion, from coercion to conscience, from monologue to dialogue, from ruling to serving, from withdrawn to integrating, from vertical to horizontal, from exclusion to inclusion, from hostility to friendship, from rivalry to partnership, from suspicion to trust, from static to ongoing, from passive acceptance to active engagement, from fault-finding to appreciation, from prescriptive to principled, and from behavior modification to inner appropriation."

This language communicated a style that, while new for ecumenical councils, was very much a part of the *modus operandi* in the early church as described in the Acts of the Apostles. They are words worthy of "contemplation, admiration, and actualization."

On Thursday (10/8), our group of twenty or so people will begin breaking open the Vatican document *Sacrosanctum concilium* on the reform of the liturgy. After 60 years, some of our Catholic sisters and brothers are still struggling mightily to accept these reforms!

Stay tuned!!

Fr. Bill +