Vatican II and Saint John’s

Photo by Michael Roske, 2006.
The Vatican Council, also known as the Ecumenical Council, was called by Pope John XXIII in 1960.

Four sessions were held between 1963 and 1966.

The Council was called to reinforce the unity of the universal Church and re-examine Church dogma and thinking in light of changes in modern society.

In the 2,000 years of Christianity only 20 such councils have been held.


“Godfrey Diekmann, OS8, Starts Collection Of Vatican II Documents At St. John's”
The last one had been held in Rome in 1869.

…and Boniface Wimmer was there!

In 1869 the Arch-Abbot again visited the Holy City and his native country. He was present at the Vatican Council, which convened in Rome at that time.

Wimmer *Biographical Sketch* is in SJU Archives, BX 4705.W58

Godfrey-p17001.jpg SJU Archives, from Abbey Archives. “In his clericate years, 1926-28,” p. 17
Profession of simple vows, July 1926
*A Monk’s Tale: a Biography of Godfrey Diekmann*, p. 17
Diekmannn and Paschal Botz leaving for Rome, 1928

A Monk’s Tale: a Biography of Godfrey Diekmann, p. 29
Diekmann with sister (Marie) and Swiss guards, 1952

_A Monk’s Tale: a Biography of Godfrey Diekmann_, p. 154
Godfrey kisses the ring of Cardinal Gaetano Cicognani at a meeting of the preparatory commission on the liturgy (1960). Far left: Annibale Bugnini; far right, Boniface Luykx.
Diekmann at Vatican II - *A Monk’s Tale: a Biography of Godfrey Diekmann*, p. 188
Dinner at Vatican II with Kapsner, Murphy, Cogley, Lichten, and Yzermans

*A Monk’s Tale: a Biography of Godfrey Diekmann*, p. 229
January 1961

Bishop Bartholome speaks at CSB on “The Atmosphere Prevalent in the World at this Time, into which the Vatican Council Is Being Set”
Bishop Speaks On Council

“Council is only called in a time of crisis.”

The combination of atheistic Communism and materialism have caused more and more apathy among Christians.

“One objective will be to reassert all the Truths of the Church.”

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/CDM/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33273/show/33269

1962-09-28-0-001

Bishop Speaks On Council
A Symbol of Unity

The Ecumenical Council which began in Rome two weeks ago is unlike any of the 20 preceding Councils of the Catholic Church. The fact that there is no crisis within the Church today sets it off immediately, since past Councils have always been called to deal with a specific problem or heresy.

Pope John XXIII has a more positive reason. He wishes to update the Council, to re-examine the customs and rituals which no longer apply to our times, in his own words, “to give the Church the possibility to contribute more efficaciously to the solution of the problems of the present age.”

Because the issues at stake are not so much doctrinal as pastoral, the very character of the Council will be altered. The second Vatican Council will put its finger on the pulse of the Church. By calling the pastorally active bishops to Rome and giving them more of an opportunity to air their suggestions for reform, Pope John hopes to expose the “grass roots” of the Church and get to the bottom of the problems confronting the Church in her pastoral activity.

In the words of Father Yves Congar, an eminent French Dominican and theologian, the Council will place a greater emphasis on the corporate or collegial nature of the Church. The Council then is in the truest sense a manifestation of a Catholic, worldwide Church united under the Pope.

The final decisions of the Council will rest with the Pope and all of the bishops representing their dioceses. We are at the Council with our bishops; their decisions will be ours to complete.

J. F. M.
November 1962
News Release

Dr. Sy Theisen to speak at CSB about Protestant-Catholic Relations in Germany

He was a “special representative of the American Catholic Bishops in Germany” in the 1950s.
January 1963

Bishop Bartholome holds a press conference

“The necessity to update the Church... was not very apparent when we first came to the Council, but as it progressed most of the bishops became acutely aware of the need to bring the Church up with the times.”

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33358/show/33357
1963-02-08-0-004
March 1963

Bishop Bartholome is back on campus, keeping the monastery and the students informed about the Council.

Bishop Plans Council Talk

The Most Rev. Peter W. Bartholome, Bishop of the St. Cloud diocese, will address the student body concerning the Second Vatican Council on Tuesday, March 12, in the university auditorium.

Last month the Bishop had given the same talk to the monastic community. The community recommended the speech to the student council, who then requested that the Bishop address the St. John's students.

"This convocation address promises to be worthwhile and all students should plan to attend," stated council president Gar Mulrooney. "The Bishop's talk is to be an informative one: to make the student body more fully aware of the Church's efforts toward Christian unity and recent accomplishments."

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33343/show/33339
1963-03-08-0-001
Bishop Bartholomew Enlightens Students On Results of Second Vatican Council

By David Rossby
The Most Rev. Peter W. Bartholomew, bishop of the St. Cloud diocese, spoke to the students of St. John's university in the auditorium on the evening of March 12. His Excellency's talk was centered on his recent participation in the Second Vatican Council.

Bishop Bartholomew first pointed out the significance of councils throughout the past 2000 years and their lasting results upon peoples of the world. "In a 68-year period, since the First Vatican Council, many changes have affected the Church. The loss of the papal states, the loss of the pope's temporal power, the great expansion of the Church's mission work, the Church becoming a worldwide organization and the many scientific advances are all part of the many changes that have had a momentous influence on the Church since the First Vatican Council."

His Excellency mentioned this specifically so that students of St. John's, as well as all people, will try to become aware of the significance that the Second Council in the future will have. Regarding Bartholomew, "the world is the individual who lives only for the pleasures that science and the world can give him."

The main task of the Council is to combat mass secularism in the world today. The greatest evil in the world is the individual who lives only for the pleasures that science and the world can give him."

March 1963
Hans Kung comes to speak in the diocese at the invitation of Bishop Bartholome

“Father Kung has become well-known through his work in preparation for the Second Vatican Council.”

Hans Kung, German Theologian, Lectures at St. John’s Tuesday

Father Hans Kung, professor, theologian and author from the University of Tubingen, Germany, will address the student body Wednesday, March 27. A question period will follow the lecture scheduled for 10:15 a.m. in the university gymnasium.

Before joining the faculty at Tubingen, Professor Kung taught at the University of Munster. He studied at the German college in Rome, the Pontifical Gregorian university, the Sorbonne and the Institute Catholique in Paris.

Dr. Kung’s doctoral thesis, a monumental study of the theology of Karl Barth, has resulted in wide European acclaim. This work is scheduled for publication soon in the United States.

Father Kung, one of four leading theologians recently banned from the Catholic University of America, has become well-known through his work in preparation for the Second Vatican Council. International attention was focused on the distinguished young theologian when his first book, The Council, Reform and Renewal (Sheed & Ward, 1965), was published in several languages shortly before the opening of the Council.

A second book, That the World May when he presented the centennial lecture at Boston college early this month. He will come here from a speaking engagement at the University of Notre Dame.

Father Kung opened his current lecture tour of the United States.

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33323/show/33319
1963-03-22-0-001
March 1963
Fr. Godfrey explains Marcel Breuer's Abbey Church to Hans Kung

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33453/show/33449
Record 1963 04 05 p.1
Fr. Godfrey is cited as “one of four leading theologians who will not be allowed to lecture” at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Those banned from the university included three Americans and one German. The others on the list were Fathers John Courtney Murray, SJ, a leader in the field of Church-state relations, Gustave Weigel, SJ, who has been doing outstanding work in ecumenics, and Hans Kung. The last named, a German priest and theologian, has become well-known through his work in preparation for the Second Vatican Council.

Fathers Murray and Weigel have both spoken at St. John’s in the past. This spring Father Kung is scheduled for lectures on campus which will deal with the Council.

In spite of the protests of the students in the student newspaper, The Tower, and a censure voted by the graduate student council, Catholic university officials have maintained the ban.

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33328/show/33327
1963-02-22-0-004
Photo from A Monk’s Tale: a Biography of Godfrey Diekmann, p. 199
Fr. Godfrey is cited as “one of four leading theologians who will not be allowed to lecture” at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Result:
He was not invited to participate in the first session of Vatican II

A large uproar ensued; eventually he was invited back to participate in the other sessions of Vatican II

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33328/show/33327
1963-02-22-0-004
Photo from A Monk’s Tale: a Biography of Godfrey Diekmann, p. 199
Photo from *A Monk's Tale: a Biography of Godfrey Diekmann*, p. 199;
Limerick from p. 201: “Several years later a limerick concerning the whole affair circulated at Vatican II”
April 1963 – A postcard from Rome from Fr. Godfrey to Abbot Baldwin

The Holy Father "spoke of his great joy that ancient monastic, spiritual institutions such as the Benedictines thrive so well in a country like America…

…and that old and sound traditions can strike such deep roots in a rapidly changing civilization such as the New World."

Godfrey-postcard1963002.jpg SJU Archives, from Abbey Archives
Six weeks later, Pope John XXIII, 1963’s “Man of the Year,” is dead.
http://www.theatlantic.com/events/archive/2013/10/bobby-was-the-religious-kennedy-brother/281004/
In the June 21, 1963 issue of The Record
(the same day Pope Paul is elected)

Father Godfrey is named one of the Catholic observers to the forthcoming 4th World Conference on Faith and Order in Montreal.

—and—

"Father Godfrey has also recently been named an 'expert' of the Second Vatican Council. As an expert of the Council he will serve in an advisory capacity to the 2,500 bishops of the world who wish to make use of him...to assist in the drafting of the decrees and amending and adding to the decrees for the discussion and final approval of the Fathers of the Council."
Pax Christi Av

Bishop Peter W. Bartholome

As our Most Reverend Shepherd and Pastor of the Church in St. Cloud, you have brought the intensity of your work and devotion to this diocese. The twenty-two years since you were appointed by the Holy See as a successor of the apostles to this flock have so quietly sped by, it is difficult to realize that you are now the senior bishop of our province. Your episcopal years continue to be filled with distinguished achievements that are well-known and cherished among us. You have consistently fostered Catholic education as your most recent New Horizons program has emphasized. You have ever striven to be close to your clergy, to be available in all seasons, to supply a sound preparation for future priests. You have never ceased to encourage and advance the welfare of families laboring on the land. The holiness of the married state of life has been your constant concern. The people of God on all levels in this diocese: youths, engaged couples, men and women married in Christ, as well as older members of the Christian family have all been the recipients of your efforts to supply a Catholic climate for their social, educational and spiritual advancement.

June 1963
Bishop Bartholome receives St. John’s first Pax Christi Award

You have been an example of the wise and prudent spiritual father in this American diocese which has been recognized for its Catholic traditions and development. At the same time you have inspired the Catholic and Christian community both locally and nationally, by your interest in new and visible avenues of human cooperation. The spirit of charity which is our Holy Father, Pope John XXIII, has emphasized has found an energetic response in your actions. As you so clearly stated when you sponsored on this campus the first theological discussion in the United States between Protestant and Catholic leaders: “There is a new climate of good will manifested in the hearts and souls of Christians throughout the world. There is a yearning and striving for unity. Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox must not allow this to pass by without making a serious effort to advance or rather to make a solid beginning toward Christian unity. This is a grace of God; let us not be remiss in our cooperation with the Holy Spirit.”

Education, publications, discussions, organizations continue to bear the impact of your spirit. It is one of charity and peace. You would insist it is the spirit of God. Permit us to assure you that your witness has been an influence both in your diocese and beyond its confines for God’s glory in all things. We are honored to have you as our representative Father at the Second Vatican Council now in session. We pray Almighty God to give you many years in His service. We are humbly grateful for your encouragement and support. This monastic and educational family rejoices to associate with its ideals of worship and work for the Kingdom of God with your sponsorship.

For these reasons the faculty, administration, trustees and student community of St. John’s University, in academic session during this one hundred and sixth commencement, cites you with its first Pax Christi Award.
Pope Paul VI became Pope after the 1963 death of John XXIII and the council was reconvened on Sept. 29, 1963.
"Some of us are hoping that he himself, on Dec. 4, the last day of Council, will concelebrate together with perhaps 15 or 20 bishops. We took up signatures to this effect from bps. during this morning's Council session. I collected 36..."
"St. John's Abbey was selected by the Post Conciliar Liturgical Commission as one of seven places in the world to participate in a study of concelebration."

[Image]

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33388/show/33384
1964-08-28-0-001
“Since being excused from class work in order to accept speaking engagements following his recent return from the Vatican Council, Father Godfrey has found himself flooded with invitations…

In the Twin Cities speaking to St. John's alumni, he received the 1964 Alumni Service Award … in recognition of his work in forthcoming liturgical revision...

In each of his talks he has pointed out that although approved, the liturgy of the Vatican Council still faces its severest task: that of implementation.”
Superiors Hear Monk’s Speech On Vatican II

Fr. Aelred Tegels (and others) also speak about Vatican II

Since Vatican II’s decree on the Sacred Liturgy, “subscriptions have risen from 11,000 to 21,000.”

‘Worship’ Editors Divide Up Tasks

The reorganization of the editorial staff of Worship magazine was announced last week.

Father Godfrey Dickson, OSB, editor since 1956, has been given the new position of editor-in-chief. In this post he will assist the editorial board in their deliberations and help in contracting writers, securing articles and establishing policies.

At the same time he will be freed from much of the editing detail and have more time for speaking engagements and for his tasks as prior of the Institute II and consultant of the Pro-Curial Commission on the Liturgical Questions of the Sacred Liturgy.

THE NEW EDITOR is Father Aelred Tegels, OSB, a member of the Institute II and a professor of Biblical studies at St. John’s Seminary, and a member of the editorial board of Worship. Father Tegels will assist the editor in his work. The actual month-by-month production of the magazine will be the responsibility of Father Michael Marx, OSB, another member of the Institute II and a professor of Sacred Scripture at St. John’s Seminary.

Since the reorganization of the editorial staff, the subscriptions to Worship have risen from 11,000 to 21,000. A large number of recent subscribers have been non-Catholic clergymen.

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33388/show/33385
1964-08-28-0-002
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33288/show/33286
1964-09-18-0-003
Godfrey-1964onboat001.jpg SJU Archives, from Abbey Archives; the third period ended on Nov. 21, 1964.
Black & white version in A Monk’s Tale: a Biography of Godfrey Diekmann, p.228
For the first time the priest recited parts of the Mass in English rather than Latin.

"Most of the changes cannot be made immediately because the people are not ready for them."

"There are also administrative difficulties that the young don't realize. We cannot allow architectural changes because of the financial implications. The cost would prohibit turning all our altars around and tearing out the communion rails."

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33468/show/33464
1964-12-10-0-001
August 1963

 Luckily, St. John’s had already turned its altar around, thanks to Breuer.

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33388/show/33384
1964-08-28-0-001
Meetings to Discuss, Renew Monastic Life

The Benedictine community of St. John’s Abbey has embarked on a long-range program of monastic re-evaluation and renewal in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council and patterned on the procedures used there.

On March 9 as many of the 390 monks of St. John’s as possible will gather in the Chapter House for the first discussion of Schema IV entitled “The Formation of the Monk.”

In naming a Committee on the Monastic Life under the chairmanship of Father Prior Berthold Rickert, OSB, last fall, Abbot Baldwin Dworschak, OSB, wrote to his monks:

“There is no doubt in my mind that the Second Vatican Council is a God-inspired means of bringing about a new era in monasticism. It can become a great stimulus for growth of every kind, for deepening our faith in religious life as a vocation, and for making our regular observance vital and joyful. Without losing or setting aside what is truly Benedictine, we would like to capture the new spirit in the liturgy, in holy scripture and in religious formation.”

The Committee on Monastic Life received ideas and suggestions from the entire community and then prepared the texts of four schemas:

I. The Nature of the Life and Spirit of the Monks of St. John’s.
II. Adaptation of Our Life and Our Vocation to the Needs of the Time.
III. The Government of the Monastery and Intragroup Relationships.
IV. The Formation of the Monk.

These schemas will serve as the basis for the general discussions. Members who cannot be present have been urged to send their comments, which may even be some months before they come up for discussion.

“Anselm Hall as a separate place and program for pre-ordination students in the college is to be abolished. Students who express a desire for the monastic life and have an interest and academic fitness for college work are to live in the college dormitories and are to be integrated fully into the life and activities of the college student body under the jurisdiction and the discipline of the college prelcts. A candidate or a student who becomes a candidate, however, will be identified as such to his prelcts.

“There will be one principal advisor or counselor, a priest, for all candidates, whose function it will be to provide for their academic and spiritual growth.

“The academic program of a candidate will lead to the bachelor of arts degree in any field commensurate with his interests and abilities, providing that it includes a core of philosophy and theology courses to be determined later.

“Application to the novitate by those who look forward to the priesthood will normally be made after completion of the four-year college program, though anyone can apply earlier if he is judged ready to do so.

FATHER Godfrey Dierkmann, OSB, discussed inside news from the Vatican Council Jan. 10 in St. Thomas Hall lounge.
One outcome: a halt to the two-year segregation of Anselmites from the other students.

“The forces that are closing the gap between Catholic and Protestant also seem to be trying to close the gap between priest and layman.

The St. John’s student can only hope that the upcoming monastic discussions will lead to the spread of the Anselmites from their separate dormitories into the mainstream of regular college life.”

*The Record* Feb. 25, 1965, p. 2
Editor Tom Super
On Vatican II's draft concerning the renovation of religious attire, Larry Haeg quotes a news release from journalist Lowell Thomas concerning "contemporary fashion for clerics."

"There have been few adaptations on the part of the orders of men that wear monastic garb...not much different from the dress of medieval founders of the orders."

Vatican II might just be depriving the priest of his most effective piece of material by altering the robe and making him one of us, which he is not.

Lois Lane doesn't know it but Clark Kent is helpless without his red cloak."

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchNews/id/33621/show/33614
1965-10-18-0-002
October 1965

Abbot Baldwin Dworshak represents the Abbey at Vatican II

Meanwhile, back in Rome...

A DIFFERENT KIND OF PROGRESSIVE STEP

Rt. Rev. Baldwin W. Dworshak, OSB (left center), of St. John’s Abbey, is shown in a recent photo taken outside St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. Accompanying him are two Benedictine Abbots, Rt. Rev. Jerome Weber, OSB (left), of St. Peter’s Abbey in Marmater, Saskatchewnan, Canada, and Rt. Rev. David Mulawson, OSB, of St. Joseph’s Abbey in St. Benedict, La. At the newly-elected president of the American Cusineo Congregation of Benedictines, Abbot Baldwin represents the congregation at the Vatican Council. (For a sidelight to the Council see “Think Pink,” page 2)
November 1965

Nearing the end

In Rome Nov. 9-13, 1965
Father Godfrey Gets Theo Award

Father Godfrey Diekmann, OSB, member of the seminary theology faculty, recently received the 1965 Cardinal Spellman Award of the Catholic Theological Society of America. The award, won by such others as Father John Courtney Murray, was presented by the cardinal at the society’s headquarters in New York.

The editor of Worship, an internationally known journal that often sponsors new approaches to the liturgy, Father Godfrey has been particularly active as a peritus of Vatican Council II and as a lecturer on ecumenical topics in this country and abroad.
Diekmann, Godfrey teaching in Emmaus Hall, SJU Archives 10/37-38: 76/4
Diekmann, Godfrey teaching close-up, SJU Archives 10/37-38: 76/4
Color photo from a promotional booklet, undated
Diekmann, Godfrey with McDonnell and Wagner SJU Archives 103/2: 1-115
Diekmann, Godfrey reading newspaper SJU Archives 103/2: 1-062
Diekmann, Godfrey with Eugene McCarthy and J.F. Powers
SJU Archives People File