Vatican Council II
Twenty-First Ecumenical Council
1962-1965

I. Pre-Vatican II period
   a. Council of Trent (1545-1565) Post-Reformation
   b. Religious, Philosophical, Scientific, and Political Revolutions
   c. Vatican Council I 1869-70 Council of the Pope
   d. Leo XIII: Social Encyclicals
   e. Pope Benedict XV: Notes to the Head of States at War (Wilson's Fourteen Points)
   f. St. Pius X, Eucharist is emphasized
   g. Pius XI, Pius XII Italy's unity- Pacts with Mussolini

   World War II

   h. John XXIII - October 28, 1958 76 years old

      John had not been chosen since the anti-pope John XXIII had been deposed at the Council of Constance 1414

      January 25, 1959 He called for a universal council

II. Vatican II - 1962-1965 Council on the Church in the Modern World
   a. Pre-sessions- Roman Curia try to keep control
   b. Session I- October -December 1962

      John urged the three thousand bishops to undertake a great renewal, updating of the Church. They argued over direction. John finally would not accept a document because it did not have widespread support. He said go back to rewrite it. Cardinal Suenas suggested that the focus be on the Church. He suggested we dialogue with Catholics, with other Christians, and with the outside world.

   c. John dies in June of 1963/ New Pope selected is Paul VI- the implimentor of the vision of Vatican II.
   d. Session II- September-December 1963

      Topics:

      liturgy
      ecumenism
      religious liberty
      Modern communications
      Anti-semitism

      Documents:

      Lumen Gentium: Constitution of the Church
            Role of Bishops-collegiality
      Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy

e. Session III - September -November 1964

Opened with a concelebrated Mass - collegiality

Topics:

Revelation and Scriptures
Church in the Modern World
Marriage/birth control
religious liberty

Documents:

On Divine Revelation
Gaudium et Spes (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World)
On Ecumenism

Pope Paul VI traveled to Bombay India in between the third and final session to attend the Eucharistic Congress

f. Session IV - September -December 1965

Paul announced that he would be going in October to the United Nations in New York to make an appeal for peace.

Topics:

religious liberty
pastoral office of the bishop, priestly life, ministry
condemnation of anti-semitism,
the renewal of religious orders
seminary training
Christian education
the missions
lay apostolate
non-Christian religions

Documents:

On Revelation
Church in the Modern world
Decrees on Bishops, Priests, Seminary Training, Eastern Churches, Apostolate of the Lay person, Missionary Activity, Religious Life, Ecumenism
Declaration on relationships to Non-Christian religions, on religious liberty, and on Christian Education.

Five major areas of renewal for Church:

1. Liturgy
2. Church's Self understanding:
   People of God, Institution, Sacrament, Pilgrim, Herald, Bride of Christ
3. Change of attitude and practice with other Christians

4. Greater regard for the historical dimension of Church's faith and life.
5. Call for dialogue with the modern world