

H-4.-e-610

# VATICAN II

## A Gift & A Task

International Colloquium  
to Mark the 40th Anniversary  
of Vatican Council II

**JACOB KAVUNKAL**  
**ERROL D'LIMA**  
**EVELYN MONTEIRO**



Copyright © 2006 The Bombay Saint Paul Society

ISBN 81-7109-780-4

Cover: Manoj Pal

ST PAULS is an activity  
of the members of the Society of St Paul  
who proclaim the Gospel  
through the media of Social Communication

Website: [www.stpaulsbyb.com](http://www.stpaulsbyb.com)  
E-mail: [marketing@stpaulsbyb.com](mailto:marketing@stpaulsbyb.com)

Printed by Dominic V. at St Paul Press Training School,  
Bandra and published by ST PAULS,  
23rd Road, TPS III, Bandra, Mumbai - 400 050  
2006

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	7
Inaugural Address — <i>Joseph Neuner</i> .....	9
1. A New Look at the History of the Council — <i>Francois Bousquet</i> .....	11
2. Achievements of the Council: A Balance Sheet — <i>Kurien Kunnumpuram</i> .....	23
3. The Council and Ecumenism — <i>Bishop Anil Couto</i> .....	54
4. Church as Community and Communion — <i>Evelyn Monteiro</i> .....	80
5. The Theologian and the Church — <i>Dominic Veliath</i> .....	100
6. Church's Service to the World — <i>Jacob Kavunkal</i> .....	116
7. Church's Service in the Context of Religious Pluralism — <i>Bernard Ugeux</i> .....	131
8. The Word of God and the Signs of Times — <i>Lucien Legrand</i> .....	153
9. Participatory Liturgy in the Vision of Vatican II — <i>Louis Malieckal</i> .....	160
10. The Women's Question in the Vatican Discourse — <i>Pushpa Joseph</i> .....	177
11. Vatican II and the Principle of Inculturation — <i>Julian Saldanha</i> .....	195
12. Laity and the Church in India — <i>Scaria Zacharia</i> .....	212
13. Priestly Formation for Service to the World — <i>Errol D'Lima</i> .....	226
14. The Impact of Vatican II on the Indian Oriental Churches — <i>Philip Vysanethu</i> .....	246
Report of the Colloquium — <i>Errol D'Lima,</i> <i>Rekha Chennattu and Peter Arockiadoss</i> .....	262

Group Report 1 — <i>Vincent Kundukulam</i> .....	267
Group Report 2 — <i>Jerome D'Souza</i> .....	270
Group Report 3 — <i>Peter Poonoly</i> .....	274
Group Report 4 — <i>L. Stanislaus</i> .....	279
Group Report 5 — <i>P.T. Mathew</i> .....	281
Footnotes.....	285
Colloquium Participants.....	318

## INTRODUCTION

The Second Vatican Council (1962-65) showcased a Church, hopeful and vibrant, in its continuing service to the world. The initiative of Pope John XXIII had borne fruit as reflected in the Council's proceedings and in its sixteen documents. In the Council's aftermath, one could ask if the Council was accorded Reception by the universal Church and whether it had better equipped the post-Conciliar Church in its mission to all men and women. Had the vision given to the Fathers in the Council by the Spirit continued to guide the Church? How far had the Council enabled the Church to grow and respond to the demands of a changing world? Forty years, though short in the total history of the Church, is long enough for us to review the effects of Vatican II both in the Church and in the world.

There can, and will, be differing views as to the real meaning and significance of the Council. But as an ecclesial event that articulated a paradigm shift in the Church's self-understanding, Vatican II symbolized a conciliar event of lasting importance. The Council provided a context for free and frank discussion without prejudice to the authority of the hierarchical Church. It also asked what more the Church needed to do to serve the world in a new age? In fact, the Council foresaw the dramatic social transformation that has been taking place in the present and past millennia.

It would be easy to speak about the progressive and conservative tendencies or thrusts in the Council. The media would be at ease with such categories since these make good newsprint! The reality is more complex. A council's decisions and statements are derived from several sources—the authentic Catholic tradition of the past and the cumulative experience of the present. It is in the fusion of both these horizons that a council finds answers to questions and issues. Because the decrees of Vatican II reflect the authentic tradition of the Church, they constitute points of arrival; since they embody the council's agenda for future completion, they represent points of departure. The more important aspect concerns the future.