

02. THE 2ND VATICAN COUNCIL

“ The 2nd Vatican Council is responding, like the Jerusalem Council, to the needs of its time. Let us study it. There are many persons who criticise Vatican II, and Medellin, but have not read them. Study them and you will see what a wealth of spirituality, what messages of peace”

Mgr. Romero, 15th May 1977

□ FOCUS OF THE SUBJECT

* We are now in the 2nd theme of the training itinerary that we have traced to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the 2nd Latin American Bishops' Conference that took place, in Medellin (Colombia) in 1968.

Following our reflections on the method “see, judge and act” today we are going to consider the importance of the 2nd Vatican Council since it was this important event that made it possible to organize the Medellin meeting and, in turn, Medellin was the implementation of the Council in Latin America.

We trust that this second topic will be useful in helping us achieve the proposed objectives.

Kindly send us your comments on your own catechetical method to help us enrich this material by emailing it to: infomedellin18@gmail.com

* We ought to start by evaluating the extent of our fulfillment of our engagement on the previous topic. What did we do to better understand and transfer to our lives the pastoral method of “see, judge and act”?

□ OBJECTIVE

We need to meditate on the historical, theological and pastoral importance of the 2nd Vatican Council as a preliminary step to the 2nd Latin American Bishops' Conference IN ORDER TO locate the current challenges and lessons for the Church, half a century later.

□ METHODOLOGICAL ITINERARY

Starting from our experience of dialogue and concertation and meditating on the passage in the Bible about the Council of Jerusalem and Mgr. Romero's interpretation of it, try and understand and transfer to our lives the importance and the need for dialogue in the church communities in which we live.

1. **SEE:** raise questions for discussion to share the experience of dialogue between us:

1. Do we have experience of teamwork?

- When and where and why are we working as a team?

- How do we call this place or method of working together?
 - What are the types of teamwork employed in our society?
 - What are the kinds of teamwork practised in our Church?
2. Do we understand what a Council is?
- What have we heard about the 2nd Vatican Council?
 - Have we read any of the documents of the 2nd Vatican Council?
 - What teaching has it left us?

2. JUDGE, ENLIGHTEN THE “SEE”:

□ BIBLICAL ENLIGHTENMENT

Let us meditate: Acts 15, 1-35. The Council of Jerusalem. Searching questions to study in depth the biblical text and enlighten the previous step, the “see”;

1. What are the circumstances that encompass this text? (See vs 1-4)
2. What is the problem that has been presented? (see vs 4-5)
3. What did the apostles do to solve the problem? (see v 6)
4. What are Peter’s proposals to end the conflict? (see vs 7-11)
5. What did the assembly do then? (see v 12)
6. What are the proposals of James to end the conflict? (see vs 13-21)
7. What was the reaction of the assembly? (see vs 22-23)
8. What are the main elements contained in the letter he sent to the assembly? (See vs 23-29)
9. What was the reaction of the Antioch community? (see vs 30-35)
10. Is there any note at the bottom of the page of our Bible to help us understand this text?
11. With respect to the topic we are regarding, what teaching does the text leave us?

□ DOCTRINAL ENLIGHTENMENT

Let us meditate the words of Mgr. Oscar Romero interpreting the biblical passage that we have just reflected on, bringing it up to date with the 2nd Vatican Council and the Medellin meeting:

I entreat you to reflect in detail on the first reading of today (Acts 15, 1-29); it is about a conflict in the Church and we who belong to the Church must examine it in the light of this word.

It consisted of a struggle between, what we could call in today’s terminology, the traditionalists and the progressive persons. The traditionalists were the Jews converted to Christianity who wanted to continue to respect the laws of Moses, and that if not, the Gentiles could not be saved.

And the progressive group, represented by Paul and Barnabus, said that “the Law of Moses is not necessary. It is sufficient to be baptised in Christ and to repent for ones sins.” And they took this conflict from Antioch to Jerusalem.

Note this detail: the magisterium of the Church was in Jerusalem: Peter was there. We must consult Peter and Peter has to consult his presbyters and his elders just like today we would surround ourselves with priests and lay people to consult the word of God.

That was the first council of the Church. It is precious to remember it when there are people who reject either the 2nd Vatican Council or the meeting of the bishops in Medellin authorised by the Pope; however, just as in the first council of Jerusalem, the Vatican today, Medellin today, are consultations of the magisterium of the Church. And they sent a letter. It was the first decree of a council, a letter, taken by Paul and Barnabus as witnesses of Jerusalem to tell those traditionalists

that the law of Moses was no longer necessary but that however to ensure peace and love, they should keep the main things; and they should establish some rules about the matters with which they were in agreement. Principally: peace and love.

Let us not fight amongst ourselves for trivialities in the Church when we have to present a united front in love and peace. Let us not doubt, dear Catholics, let us not become radicalized in exaggerated conservatism nor in exaggerated advances; we must be with the magisterium of the Church. Let us not doubt the documents of Vatican II nor those of Medellin; they are documents of the Church. Nor must we make interpretations following our whims...("The Church is Christ in our history". 6th Sunday after Easter, 15th May 1977)

Questions for discussion to study in depth the teaching of Mgr. Romero and enlighten the third methodological step of "see, judge and act":

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How does Mgr. Romero interpret and update the passage in Acts?
What conclusions does Mgr. Romero draw for his time and for us now?

3. ACT: LET US CONVERT THE TEACHING INTO LIFE

□ What engagement can we acquire so that, over the next few days, as Mgr Romero asks us, we can understand and improve our community life by reliving the ecclesial experience of the community of Jerusalem and of the 2nd Vatican Council?

□ Let us reread the objective of this topic. Have we achieved it? Why?

4. EVALUATE:

At the beginning of the next topic we will dedicate some minutes to evaluate.

5. CELEBRATE:

We invite the groups, communities and persons who following this process to organize a celebration to demonstrate the way they normally celebrate: with creativity, liberty and maturity; they can include chants, prayers, litanies, symbols, gestures...

APPENDIX:

A suggestion for prayer and chant: :

- Iglesia sencilla (a simple Church): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fNeoaRRVuQ>.

On the websites it is easy to find material on the 2nd Vatican Council, for example:

- https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concilio_Vaticano_II

- http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/index_sp.htm

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