

Overview of Preparation of VII Podcast

1. Comparison with Vatican I
 - a. Initial Announcement & purpose
 - i. PIX made known intentions in Dec 1864. Asked Cardinals of Rome their opinions. 21 for, 1 against
 1. Intention was to commence on 1800th anniversary of martyrdom of Sts Peter & Paul
 - ii. Purpose, as laid out in *Aeterni Patris*
 1. The objects of the council were to be the correction of modern **errors** and a seasonable revision of the legislation of the **Church**.
 - b. Remote preparation
 - i. Commissions
 1. Initial commission formed in March 1865. Included 5 cardinals to oversee preparation of materials
 - ii. Inquiries of select cardinals and bishops. Sworn to secrecy.
 1. 36 bishops in March 1865. In 1866, select bishops of Oriental rites
 - iii. Invitation to theologians to come to Rome to prepare documents to be discussed at council. Papal nuncios in each country gathered names, etc.
 - iv. Preparation interrupted due to war between Italy & Austria in 1866, and withdrawal of French troops from Rome in December 1866
 - c. Proximate preparation
 - i. Announcement of Council (at anniversary of St Peter & Paul).
 1. In consistory of 26 June 1867, with over 500 bishops present
 - ii. Actual convocation of council in bull *Aeterni Patris* issued 29 June 1868.
 - d. With respect to non-Catholics
 - i. A special **Brief**, "*Arcano divinæ providentiæ*", of 8 Sept., 1868 invited **non-Uniate Orientals** to appear.
 - ii. A third **Brief**, "*Jam vos omnes*", of 13 Sept., 1868, notified **Protestants** also of the convoking of the council, and exhorted them to use the occasion to reflect on the return to the one household of **faith**.
2. Turn to Vatican II
 - a. Initial project had been considered under Pius XII. He had rejected the idea, partly due to his conviction of lack of unity among episcopate.
 - i. Apparently he formed a commission to study the idea, but the commission recommended against it.

- b. No clear vision of the purpose of the Council for many prelates, according to Michael Davies
- 3. Theological
 - a. Modernism
 - b. New theology & liturgical renewal
 - i. De Lubac
 - ii. Montini
 - iii. Bugnini
- 4. Institutional
 - a. Announcement by John XXIII
 - i. Made on 25 January 1959, feast of the conversion of St Paul. Many cardinals present were taken by surprise. Most had not been consulted as to the opportuneness of a council.
 - ii. He presented it as inspiration of HG. However, he had discussed it with select cardinals (Tardini); apparently, Cardinals Ottaviani and Ruffini – two conservatives – had proposed the idea to him soon after his election (27 October 1958).
 - b. Ante-Preparatory Commission
 - i. Began work on 17 May 1959 (Pentecost)
 - ii. Purpose: to determine precise subject matter of the council
 - iii. Headed by Cardinal Tardini
 - 1. Had 10 members from different Roman congregations
 - 2. Mgr Pericles Felici was the secretary (he would follow up with bishops and help coordinate work.
 - iv. Sought information from 3 groups
 - 1. Inquiry of Bishops throughout world.
 - a. Left it open to them to suggest topics. Did not want to seem to guide or direct bishops.
 - 2. Members of Sacred Congregations on matters that they would judge pertinent
 - 3. Rectors of Catholic universities and deans of theological faculties in Rome (62 overall)
 - v. Concluded its work in June 1960
 - 1. Cardinal Tardini and Mgr Felici collected and collated the responses by subject matter.
 - 2. 8 volumes of responses by bishops (around 2000 responded)
 - 3. 3 volumes from Roman congregations
 - 4. 1 volume from
 - c. 2nd Phase.
 - i. Begun on Pentecost (5 June 1960)
 - ii. Central Preparatory Committee &
 - 1. Composed of 108 members (one of which was +Lefebvre)
 - iii. 12 commissions

1. All told, some 800 cardinals, bishops, secular & religious priests took part on these commissions
 2. Mgr Felici mailed documents to members of each commission in July 1960.
 3. Work began in earnest in November 1960.
 - iv. 3 secretariats
 1. for the press
 2. for technical matters
 3. for Christian Unity – headed by Cardinal Bea
 - d. Fruits
 5. Roman Synod
 - a. Held in January 1960.
 - b. Was designed to be a model of Vatican II.
 - i. Quote John XXIII's speech (page 13) on 24 November 1960, after the promulgation of the decrees of the Synod
 - c. Was in fact rather traditional in its decrees and recommendations
 - i. Romano Amerio
 - ii. Quote John XXIII on spirit of priest and love of law.
 6. Convocation
 - a. Humanae Salutis 25 December 1961
 - i.