

Sacrosanctum Concilium

Parish Discussion Guide

Introduction

Sacrosanctum Concilium, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy from the Second Vatican Council (1963), set the direction for modern liturgical renewal in the Catholic Church. Its goal was to deepen the faithful's participation in the liturgy, enrich the use of Scripture, and ensure that worship was both faithful to tradition and accessible to today's communities.

This guide provides parish-friendly questions to help adults reflect on the meaning of the liturgy and the vision of Vatican II.

1. The Heart of the Liturgy

- What does it mean to you that the liturgy is the “source and summit” of Christian life?
- Why do you think the Church felt it important to renew the liturgy at Vatican II?
- How has the Mass helped you feel part of the Church's life?
- When have you felt especially close to God through the liturgy?

2. Active Participation

- What does “full, conscious, and active participation” look like in our parish?
- Is active participation more about external actions or inner engagement?
- What helps you participate more fully at Mass, and what sometimes hinders you?
- How can our parish foster deeper involvement in worship?

3. Worship in Our Own Language

- How has using the local language at Mass affected your prayer?
- Have you attended Mass in Latin or another language? What was the experience like?
- How can we honour both local culture and universal Catholic identity in worship?

4. Scripture and the Word of God

- How has hearing more Scripture at Mass influenced your faith?
- What helps you listen more deeply to God's Word during Mass?
- How might our parish grow in love for Scripture through the liturgy?

5. Living What We Celebrate

- How does the Mass influence how you live during the week?
- What connection do you see between the Eucharist and acts of charity?
- How can our parish strengthen the link between worship and discipleship?

6. Looking Ahead

- Where do you still see the influence of Vatican II in today's liturgy?
- Are there aspects of parish worship that could reflect Sacrosanctum Concilium more deeply?
- What part of the Mass do you think needs greater understanding or renewal today?
- What gives you hope for the future of the Church's liturgy?