

Drawing New Strength from Vatican II: A Resource for Facing the Challenges of a Post-Communist Church and Society?

*Summer school for students from Central and Eastern Europe
Faculty of Social Sciences, Pontifical University of St Thomas (Angelicum)
Sept 20 – Sept 29 2012
in collaboration with The Irish College in Rome and Adjuvantes ONLUS, Rome*

Programme Presentation

The title of the Summer school paraphrases a statement made by Pope John XXIII in his sermon during the Opening Mass of the Council on Oct 11, 1962, almost exactly 50 years before our summer school begins. In it he spoke about his hope that the Church would be able to draw new strength from the Council, so as to look forward to the future with confidence. This hope may have had a chance to blossom in some parts of the world, but, although some bishops from the former Communist bloc were able to participate in the Council, its implementation in these countries was hardly possible at that time and, indeed, for decades afterwards. Therefore, we will ask ourselves: can the Council, fifty years on, offer strength to young scholars like yourselves, key figures of, and from, the Christian tradition in Central and Eastern Europe? Can it enable you to fulfil your potential to bring confidence in the future to the Church and civil society in your home countries, more than twenty years after the collapse of the Soviet system?

If we are to treat the Council as a “resource” on which you may draw in the living out of your vocations in the future, the first aim of the summer school will be to ensure that you know key elements of the Council’s history and context, and have a familiarity at least with its primary documents.

The legacy of Vatican II, like that of previous councils, is not uncontroversial. Undoubtedly, it sent shock waves through the Church, and their reverberations have not yet died down. Did Vatican II bring about change and development in a way that is different from previous councils (as is sometimes suggested, in what has been disparagingly called a “hermeneutic of rupture”), or did it create the same kind of upheaval that most, if not all, other ecumenical councils before it? If you are going to be able to build on the foundations laid by the Council, you are going to have to make some kind of judgement about these arguments. The second aim of the summer school is to provide you with some input for doing so.

One of the significant contributions of the Council was an official re-evaluation of the lay vocation (drawing on earlier theological developments) as a genuine way of sanctification. Of course, the Council also spoke about the priestly vocation and that of religious, so we could also say that it treated the question of a vocation (as a “state of life”) in its three main aspects. Since most of you are lay Christians, the third aim of the summer school is to give you a deeper insight into the lay vocation, in relation to those of the priest and the religious.

In the groups, you will be asked to work on the implications of the council for the CEE region. We hope that doing so can help you think through the implications of the Council for yourselves.

Programme Organisers

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PROGRAMME as at 05.09.12

IF NO OTHER PLACE IS INDICATED, SESSIONS ARE AT THE ANGELICUM IN
AULA 9

Arrival Day: Thursday September 20

Arrivals in the morning

Lunch is available at the Irish College

N.B. All the orientation session takes place at the Irish College

14.00 **Orientation to the Irish College** with *Fr George Hayes, Vice Rector of the Irish College*

14.45 **Orientation to the programme, Sr Helen**

- Aims of the scholarship programme
- Introduction to the programme, and to the master/doctoral presentations
- Practical details
- Introduction to the Angelicum and the history of the building and the university
- Introduction to the group work and the final day's sessions

Session concludes by 16.30

17.00 Opening Mass, chapel of the Irish College, with Cardinal Mejjia

18.00 Pre-dinner drinks.

19.00 Supper at "Pasqualino al Colosseo". We will have our own room in the restaurant, and so at the end of the meal, Cardinal Mejjia will offer some personal reflections on Vatican II and its importance for the Church today. Cardinal Jorge Mejjia, a native of Argentina, is Archivist Emeritus of the Holy Roman Church, a biblical scholar and was a *peritus* at the Council. He has been very involved in dialogue with the Jews and also studied for a doctorate in theology 1946 – 1948 at the Angelicum with a certain Karol Wojtyla . . .

Each evening of the summer school, drinks are available from the fridge downstairs in the common room. Please feel free to share them and to socialise together, either in the common room, or on the roof garden (but please don't be too noisy up there!).

You will need to use some of this time during the week to work in your groups

Day 1: Friday Sept 21

Student Presentations Day (all sessions at the Angelicum)

07.30 Mass at the Irish College

(9.00 For those interested, there will be a half hour tour around the Angelicum building)

09.30 Presentations by Students: stream 1 in aula 9, stream A in aula 8

11.05 Coffee break

11.20 Presentations by Students: stream 1 in aula 9, stream A in aula 8

12.30 Catered lunch in aula 4

13.45 Presentations by Students: stream 1 in aula 9, stream A in aula 8

- 15.15 Coffee break,
- 15.30 Presentations by Students: stream 1 in aula 9, stream A in aula 8
- 17.15 Return to Irish College for a talk by Natasa Govekar, one of the mosaic specialists at the *Centro Aletti*, about the Irish College mosaics and the artistic approach of Fr Marko Rupnik SJ
- 19.30 Informal pizza supper, followed by Night Prayer at the Irish College
Drinks available in the fridge for those interested.

Day 2: Saturday Sept 22

Free morning and Student Presentations (all sessions at the Irish College)

- 07.30 Mass at the Irish College
am Free morning: chance to use the libraries, visit bookshops, work on presentations, visit a monument . . .
The Vatican Scavi tour is at 9.30.
Gábor will accompany those who expressed an interest in the visit
- 13.00 Lunch at the Angelicum in aula 4 for those who signed in
- 14.00 Presentations by Students: stream 1 in aula 9, stream A in aula 8
- 15.30 Coffee Break
- 15.45 Presentations by Students: stream 1 in aula 9, stream A in aula 8
When sessions are completed, possibility to return to the Irish College for swimming until 18.30
- 19.00 Informal pizza supper
- 19.45 Informal group work session with drinks, to get the group work going.
- 20.45 Night prayer
After Night prayer, group leaders to meet briefly with Sr Helen, Fr Piotr and Gábor
Drinks available in the fridge for those interested.

Day 3: Sunday Sept 23

Introduction to the Documents of Vatican II and Free Time

- 08.30 Mass in the Irish College, followed by breakfast
Stay in Irish College for the following session:
- 10.00 **Overview of the Documents of Vatican II, with special emphasis on the Lay Vocation** István Csonta, doctoral student in the University of Leuven, working on Vatican II
- 10.45 Break
- 11.00 Group work continues
- 13.00 Lunch in Irish College
After lunch, free time; possibility to go swimming 14.30 – 18.30.
- 19.30 Informal pizza supper, followed by Night Prayer
Drinks available in the fridge for those interested.

Day 4: Monday Sept 24***Church-State Relations in European History and Vatican II, and commemorating the heroic defence of the Jews in Hungary by Raoul Wallenberg and others like him***

- 07.30 Mass, followed by breakfast
All sessions until 15.50 at the Angelicum; then we transfer to Trastevere
- 09.30 **Models of Church State relations in European History and in Vatican II**, Prof Tomáš Halík, Director, Christian Academy, Prague
- 10.15 Two 10 minute responses: *Hanna Suchocka, Polish Ambassador to the Holy See* (the Ambassador may have to cancel at the last minute), *Fr Piotr Krystofiak OP, Lecturer in the Norwegian School of Theology in Oslo.*
- 10.45 Coffee break
- 11.15 Discussion
- 12.00 Lunch in aula 4
- 14.00 **The Velvet Revolution and its Aftermath for the Church in the Czech Republic: Vatican II in a Post-Communist Context**, Prof Tomáš Halík, Director, Christian Academy, Prague, with discussion
- 15.00 Short Break
- 15.10 Fr Halík will talk informally about the lay vocation in post-Communist Europe
- 15.50 Session ends; quick break and leave for Trastevere
- 16.30 Seminar organised by Sant'Egidio with the Swedish Embassy to the Holy See to commemorate the Swedish diplomat, Raoul Wallenberg, who saved many Jews in Budapest during the Nazi occupation of Hungary. The seminar is entitled: **Courage in the Face of Evil - Commemorating Raoul Wallenberg**
Details available at: <http://www.swedenabroad.com/holysee/wallenberg>
- 20.30 Evening prayer with the community of Sant'Egidio, followed by a pizza at La Fraschetta in Trastevere
On arrival at the Irish College, get together in your groups, go around one by one and allow each person to say something that they have gained from the day that could be used in the final presentation. Group leaders are to make a note of what each person says. Drinks available in the fridge for those interested.

Day 5: Tuesday Sept 25***The Lay Vocation in Vatican II and Leadership in the Post-Communist Context***

- 07.30 Mass at the Irish College, followed by breakfast
Morning sessions and lunch at the Angelicum; sessions after the visit to the Pontifical Academy in the Irish College
- 09.30 **The Lay Vocation and Catholic Social Thought and Practice according to Vatican II and their implementation in the Church today**, Prof Johan Verstraeten, Professor of Catholic Social Thought, University of Leuven
- 10.15 One 10 minute response: Austrian Ambassador to the Holy See, followed by discussion
- 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.30 **Leadership and Spirituality** Johan Verstraeten
- 12.30 Lunch in aula 4 (Group leaders please sit with Sr Helen and Fr Piotr to discuss what emerged yesterday in the groups)
- 13.30 Leave for the Vatican

- 14.15 Meet Archbishop Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo, Chancellor of the Pontifical Academies of Science and Social Sciences, for a presentation about these two bodies and a tour around the Casina Pio IV where they are housed.
- 15.45 (circa) Return to Irish College,
Once at Irish College, chance to relax and go swimming if desired.
- 19.00 Informal supper, with roundtable of alumni of the Porticus programme talking about their experiences of leadership in their own national, and the general Post-Communist, context:
Andrijana Barisic, working in a media company in Zagreb, originally from Bosnia and Herzegovina
Sr Hedvig Déak OP, formerly Vice Rector of Sapientia University, Budapest, currently Prioress General of the Hungarian Dominican sisters and Professor of Church History at Sapientia
- 20.15 Night prayer
Drinks available in the fridge for those interested.
As last night, briefly get together in your groups, go around one by one and allow each person to say something that they have gained from the day that could be used in the final presentation. Group leaders to make a note of what each person says.

Day 6: Wednesday Sept 26

Vatican II in the Context of Church History

- 07.30 Mass at the Irish College
am chance to go to the Papal Audience (Gábor will organise this), use the libraries, visit bookshops, do group work, visit a monument . . .
- 13.00 Lunch in aula 4 at the Angelicum (Group leaders please sit with Sr Helen and Fr Piotr to discuss what emerged yesterday and/or this morning in the groups)
- 14.00 **Vatican II in Historical Context** *Prof Norman Tanner SJ, Dean of the Faculty of Church History at the Pontifical Gregorian University*
- 15.00 Coffee break
- 15.30 A 10 minute response from *Sr Hedvig Deák OP, Professor of Church History at Sapientia University, Budapest*, followed by discussion
- 16.15 Short break
- 16.30 **Rupture or continuity: two ways of receiving Vatican II**, *Prof Norman Tanner SJ*,
- 17.15 A 10 minute response from *Fr Piotr Krystofiak OP, Lecturer in the Norwegian School of Theology in Oslo*, followed by discussion
- 18.00 Session ends
- 18.40 Leave Angelicum to go to the Polish Embassy to the Holy See
- 19.00 Reception at the Polish Embassy to the Holy See, given by the Polish Ambassador to the Holy See, H. E. Hanna Suchocka
As on previous evenings, short meeting in groups, with group leader taking notes
Drinks available in the fridge for those interested.

Day 7: Thursday Sept 27

Vatican II and Post-Communist Europe

- 7.30 Mass at the Irish College
- 9.30 **Vatican II and the Church in Post-Communist Europe**
Olha Zarychinska, Director, Lay Leadership Centre, Ukrainian Catholic University
- 10.15 Coffee break
- 10.45 Two 10 minute responses: *Fr Piotr Krysztofiak OP, Lecturer, Norwegian School of Theology in Oslo, Fr Ján Ďáčok SJ, former Provincial of the Society of Jesus in Slovakia, Professor of Moral Theology, Gregorian University, and discussion*
- 12.00 Lunch in aula 4
- (13.00 Group leaders to meet with Sr Helen and Fr Piotr to discuss what emerged yesterday in the groups)
- 14.00 **Hungary and Vatican II: A case study of the impact of the Vatican II on a Soviet-dominated Country**, *András Fejérdy, Scientific Director of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Rome*
- 16.30 Leave Angelicum for Santa Sabina
- 17.30 **The Church: an Educator of Personal Liberty: Vatican II and Post-Communist Europe**, *Fr Wojciech Giertych OP, Polish Dominican and Theologian of the Papal Household*
Followed by a visit to the Basilica and Convent of Santa Sabina with Fr Wojciech
- 19.15 Return to Irish College
- 20.00 Informal pizza supper, followed by Night Prayer
Drinks available in the fridge for those interested.

Day 8: Friday Sept 28

Group Presentations and Conclusions

- 07.30 Mass at the Irish College, followed by breakfast
- 09.30 Group work in aula 9 and the sala delle colonne: final preparation of presentations
Coffee and water available
- 12.00 Lunch in the Angelicum
- 13.00 Group Presentations: 1 & 2
- 14.00 Group Presentations continue: 3 & 4
- 15.00 Coffee break
- 15.30 Summing up and conclusions
- 16.00 Session ends
- 19.00 Drinks in the Irish College
- 19.45 Dinner at a local restaurant
Return for Night Prayer, followed by a social (drinks provided by the programme; entertainment provided by the programme participants!)

Departure Day: Saturday Sept 29

- 07.30 Mass
All summer school participants must vacate their rooms **by 9 am**