

syncretism. It has had the services of the major protestant and orthodox body. Rome has sent observers but has remained aloof otherwise although the satellite members of the group have been structuring themselves for the inclusion of Catholic clergy in a way that would not make them feel unwelcome. The particular meetings of this body are articulated in Church History III...so you can see that whatever we do not wish to discuss now we dump into another course. Ah, when the end comes...!

But the largest single move probably was the council called by John XXIII and known as Vatican II.

The first Vatican Council was convened in 1868-1870 and, as noted earlier, propounded the dictum *Pat er Aeternum*...the infallibility of the papal officer when speaking from the chair. Vatican II was convened under the eyes of John XXIII (called "good Pope John" incidentally) in 1962 meeting into 1963 and not completing its work until after his death. Protestant and Greek observers were present.

John brought a reconciling spirit to the council and sought a healing of problems within the Roman communion while reaching to those beyond it...the "separated brethren." John's affable disposition was a good sign to the protestant world but it should be known that he did not give up any of the powers of Peter or suggest any lessening of Papal authority. He simply showed greater warmth and kindness and these translated into better understanding. His three major encyclicals: *Peace on Earth; Light of the Gentiles; Concern for the church* (my own rather wretched translations) all had an irenic cast to them and were more disturbing to strong anti-catholics than anything else...it was as if he were putting out their zeal. But through the council a number of changes were effected in the framework of the church and that is why we say the Roman church today is of a different cast than that of just fifty years ago. Among these structural matters were:

allowance of a vernacular mass  
the promotion of church "preaching"