

**Mt. St. Michael**  
**CATHOLIC DOCTRINE CLASS**

**“A Study of *Tumultuous Times* – Part II”**  
**By Frs. Dominic & Francisco Radecki, CMRI**

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**Part A – *History and Origins of Vatican II***  
**Preparations for the Council, Communist & Modernist infiltrators, pp. 283-295**

A. Quick Review of Infallibility

1. Christ established the Church as a sure guide to salvation. It cannot defect! “Thou art Peter, and upon this Rock I will build My Church, *and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it* (Matthew 16:18)
2. Hence, the Catholic Church and her true Popes are *infallible*, i.e. unerring in teaching the faithful, whether in solemn manner or in ordinary, day-to-day teaching and ruling.
  - a. Conditions for infallible teaching, as laid down by Vatican Council I, Session 4, Chapter 4, July 18, 1870:

When the Roman pontiff speaks EX CATHEDRA, that is, when, in the exercise of his office as shepherd and teacher of all Christians, in virtue of his supreme apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine concerning faith or morals to be held by the whole church, he possesses, by the divine assistance promised to him in blessed Peter, that infallibility which the divine Redeemer willed his church to enjoy in defining doctrine concerning faith or morals. Therefore, such definitions of the Roman pontiff are of themselves, and not by the consent of the church, irreformable.

- b. This does not have to be a solemn pronouncement! All that is required is that
      - i. He be acting as Pope, not private teacher
      - ii. He speaks on a matter of faith or morals
      - iii. He speaks definitively (not as a matter of opinion)
3. The Pope is not required to convene Ecumenical Councils, which are very solemn forms of teaching. Out of prudence and wisdom he seeks the input of the bishops of the Catholic Church, especially when they are gathered on solemn occasions, but is not dependent on them for his infallibility. He is the only one who possesses it personally. The bishops have it only to the extent that they teach together in union with the Pope.
4. The Church’s day-to-day (ordinary) teaching is infallible! Otherwise, she could be leading us to hell in that regard, and be a sure guide only when pronouncements are solemnly made. This would completely void Our Lord’s guarantee that the Church will ALWAYS be a sure guide. Vatican I declared in Session 3, Chapter 3, April 24, 1870:

Wherefore, by divine and catholic faith all those things are to be believed

which are contained in the word of God as found in scripture and tradition, and which are proposed by the church as matters to be believed as divinely revealed, whether by her solemn judgment or in her ordinary and universal magisterium.

#### B. Communist & Modernist infiltration

1. Things were going well, relatively speaking, prior to Vatican II!
2. 45 months were spent in drafting *schemas* for the Council. Most were very traditional in their nature.
3. John XXIII approved the scrapping of these schemas just before the Council began. This effectively was a master stroke in favor of the modernists, giving the conservatives no time to counter this blow.
4. Communist infiltration in the Church
  - a. Bp. Sheen's testimony
  - b. Former Communists' testimony – Albert Vassart, Manning Johnson, Bella Dodd
  - c. Alice von Hildebrand reference to AA-1025 – *Memoirs of an Anti-Apostle*
5. Modernist infiltration in the Church
  - a. The Modernists are to be feared above all others, for “Modernism is the synthesis of all heresies” (Pope St. Pius X, Encyclical on Modernism *Pascendi*)
  - b. Alfred Loisy, Modernist priest excommunicated in 1908, taught the “evolution of dogma”
  - c. By the end of Pope Pius XII's reign, Modernists were in many positions of power and influence in the Church, sad to say