



VATICAN II AND YOU

ITS STORY AND MEANING
FOR TODAY



Session Topics

- **The Story of the Second Vatican Council**
- **Exploring the Reform of Our Liturgy**
- **The Wisdom and Relevance of the Constitutions on the Church and Divine Revelation**
- **The Calling and Mission of the Laity and the Church in the Modern World**



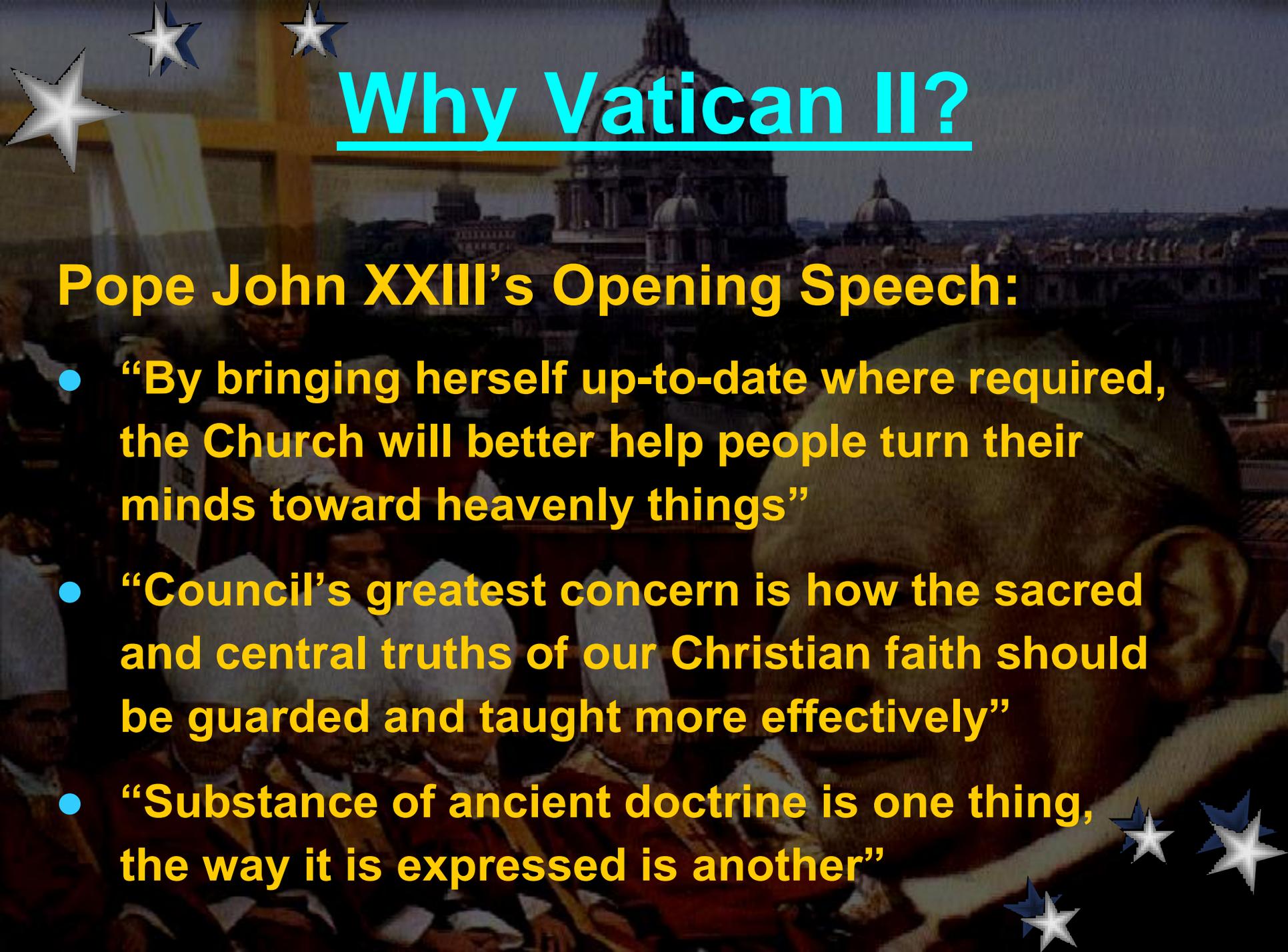
Session 2

Exploring the Reform of Our Liturgy

Opening Prayer



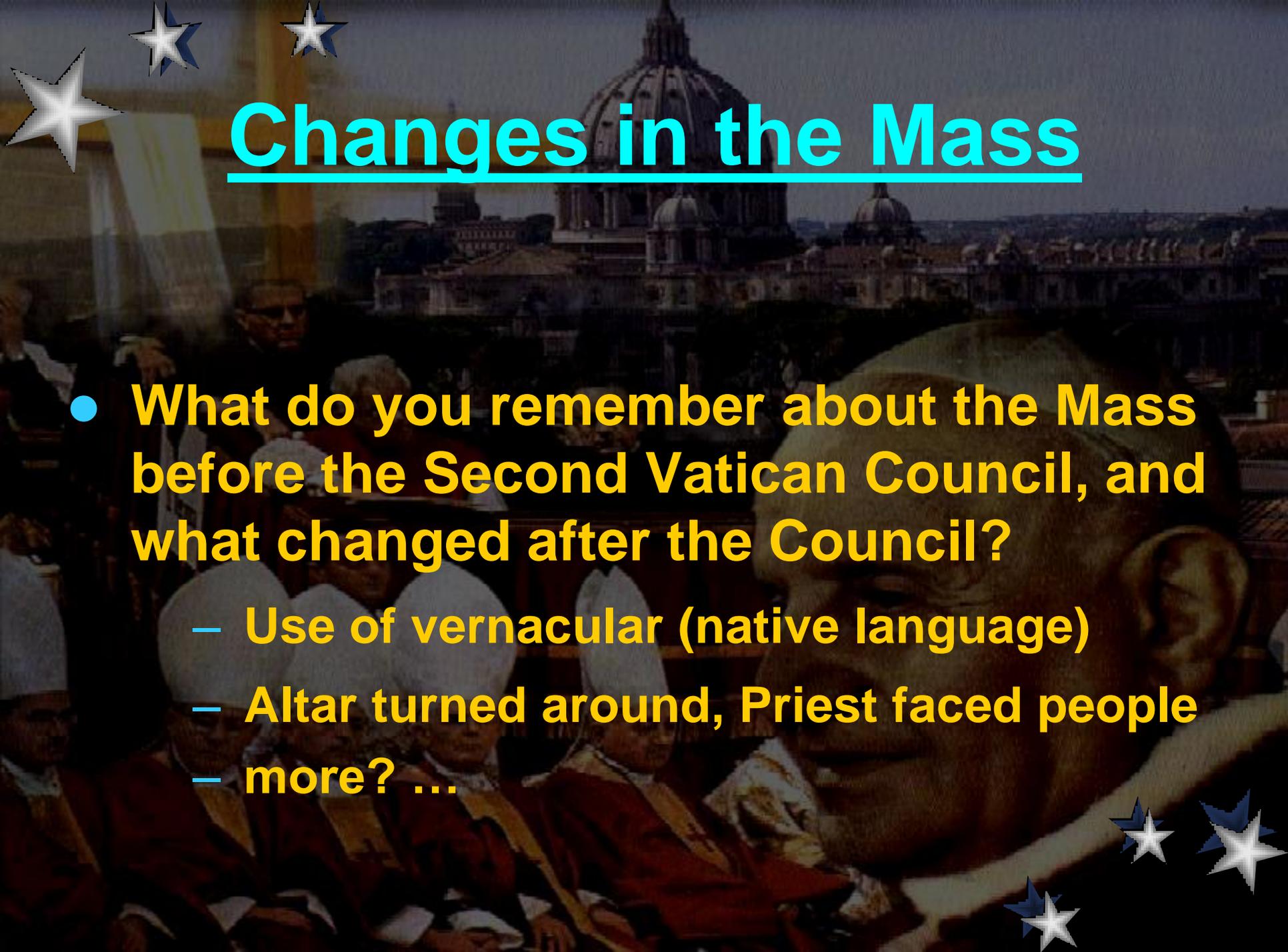
- **What do you remember from our last session?**
- **Do you have any questions about what we talked last week?**



Why Vatican II?

Pope John XXIII's Opening Speech:

- “By bringing herself up-to-date where required, the Church will better help people turn their minds toward heavenly things”
- “Council's greatest concern is how the sacred and central truths of our Christian faith should be guarded and taught more effectively”
- “Substance of ancient doctrine is one thing, the way it is expressed is another”



Changes in the Mass

- **What do you remember about the Mass before the Second Vatican Council, and what changed after the Council?**
 - Use of vernacular (native language)
 - Altar turned around, Priest faced people
 - more? ...

Constitution on Sacred Liturgy

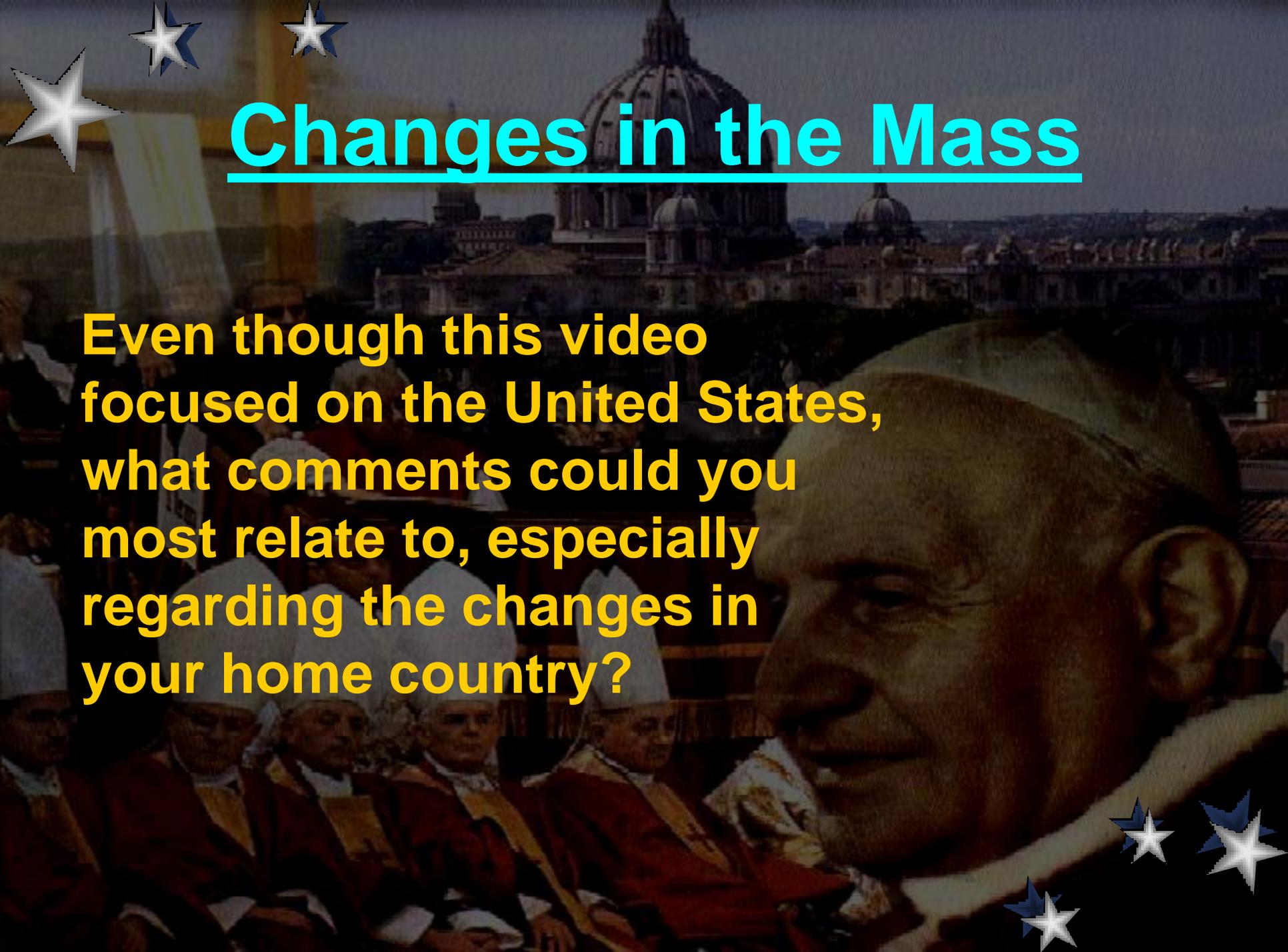
- **Only first draft accepted**
 - Preparatory Commission had experts & pastoral leaders from 19 countries
 - Liturgical and Biblical Movements basis
 - On second day of Council, reform of Liturgy selected as first task
 - Showed a skeptical world could do true reform
- **First doc. to pass, vote of 2147 to 4**
 - Promulgated by Pope Paul VI on Dec. 4, 1963
- **Had far reaching effect on faithful**



Video

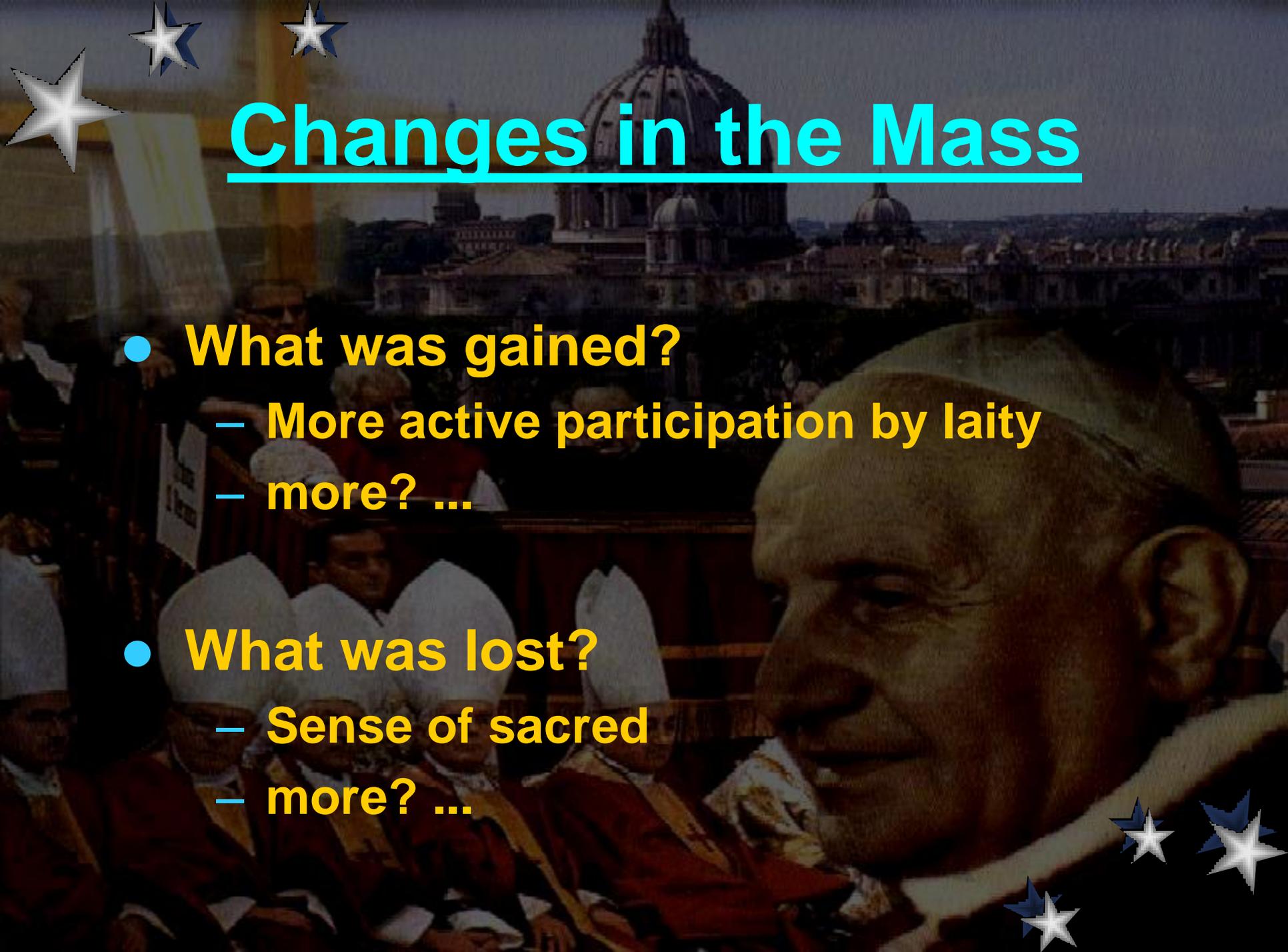
**The Faithful Revolution:
Genius of the Heart
(continued)**



The background of the slide features a composite image. The upper portion shows a wide view of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy, with its iconic dome and surrounding architecture. The lower portion shows a group of cardinals in their traditional red and white vestments, with a large, close-up profile of a cardinal's head on the right side. The overall image is dimmed to allow text to be read.

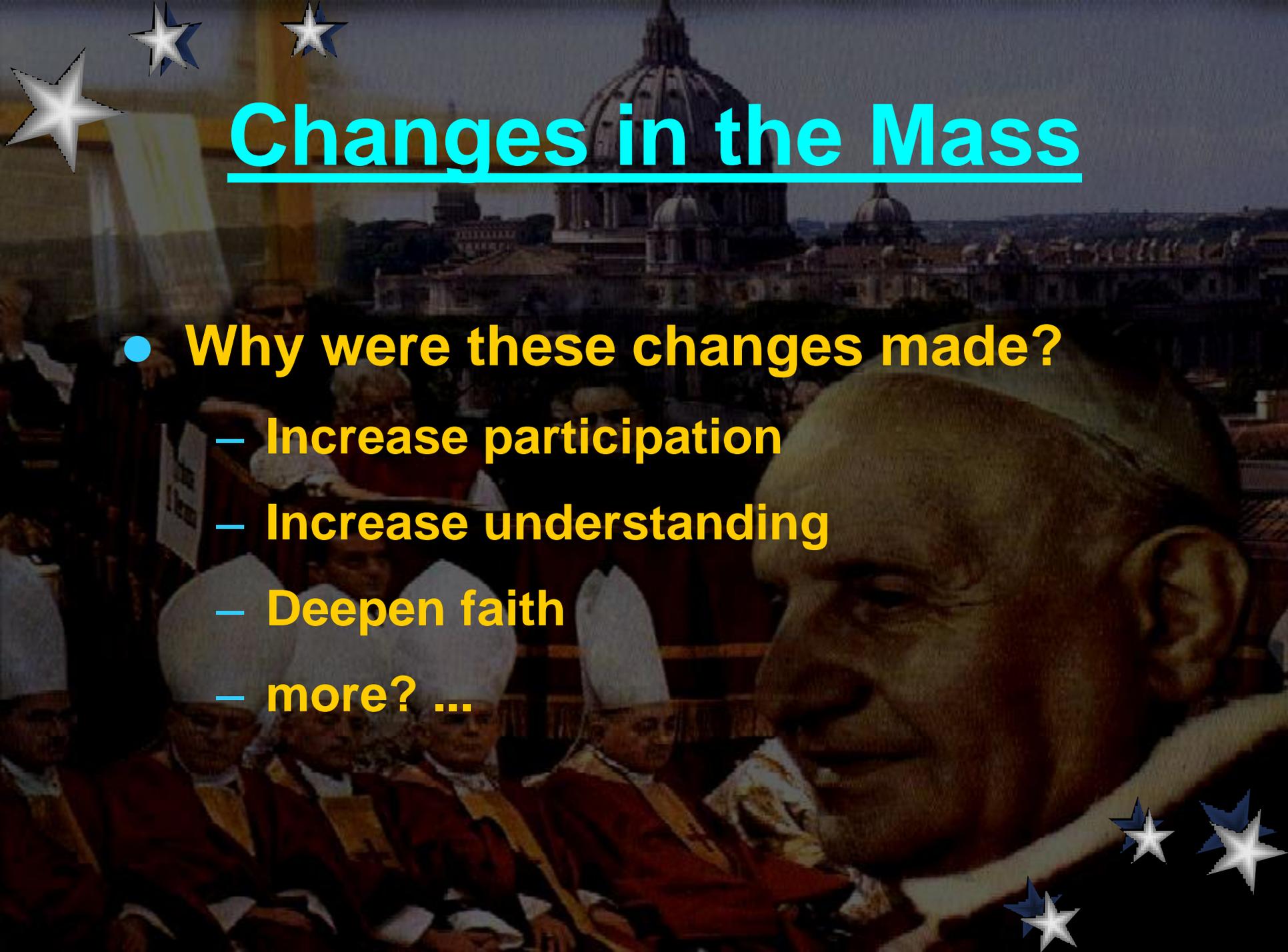
Changes in the Mass

Even though this video focused on the United States, what comments could you most relate to, especially regarding the changes in your home country?



Changes in the Mass

- **What was gained?**
 - More active participation by laity
 - more? ...
- **What was lost?**
 - Sense of sacred
 - more? ...

The background of the slide features a composite image. The upper portion shows a panoramic view of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, with its large dome and surrounding architecture. The lower portion is a close-up profile of a Pope, likely John Paul II, wearing his white zucchetto and looking towards the left. The overall image has a dark, semi-transparent overlay.

Changes in the Mass

- **Why were these changes made?**
 - Increase participation
 - Increase understanding
 - Deepen faith
 - more? ...



Early Church

- **Baptism major celebration and turning point in life (adults)**
 - Measure of readiness to join community was lived charity
 - **Small communities**
 - People knew each other
 - Agape Meal, met in homes
 - **Leadership arose from the community**
 - **No Clergy / Laity distinction**
 - “Baptism everything”
 - “Ordination nothing”
- 



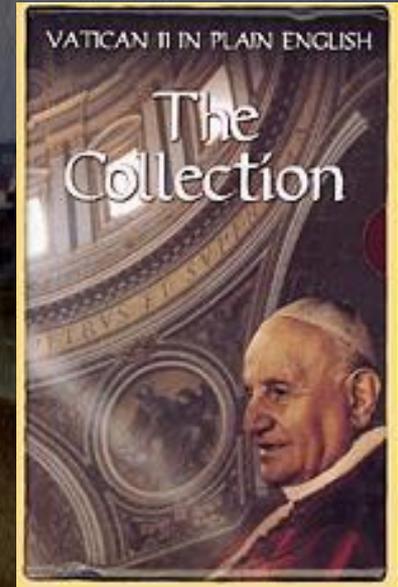
After Edit of Milan (312 A.D.)

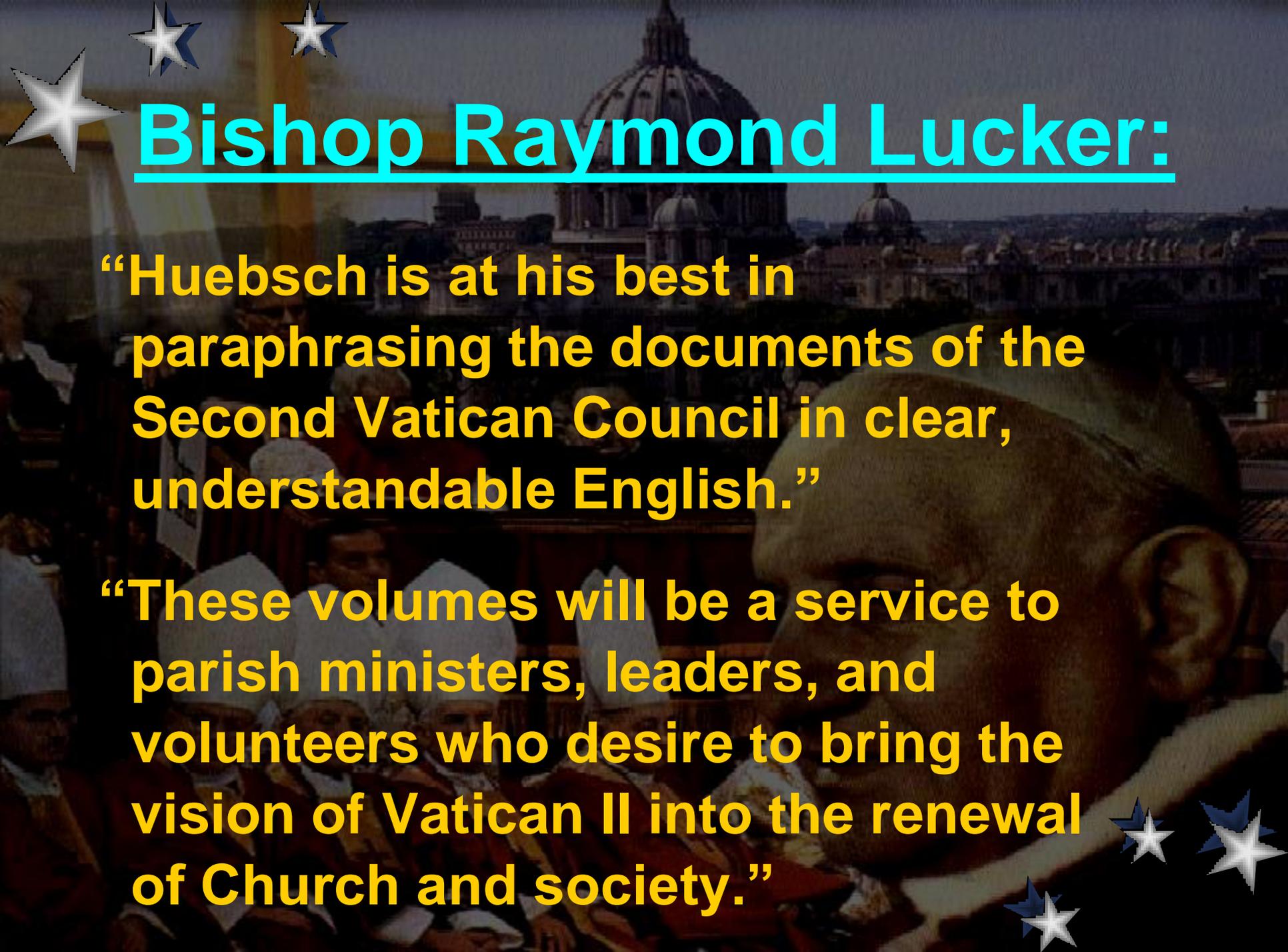
- For Church, Everything Changed
 - Privileges Lavished on Clergy
 - Millions Baptized, many weak faith
 - “Baptism nothing”
 - “Ordination everything”
 - Mass Ritualized and Standardized
 - Special duty of sacred clergy
 - Mysterious, remote, sacred ritual
 - Laity passive observers
 - Infrequent Communion, no cup



Constitution on Liturgy

- Let's look at document itself
- From *Vatican II in Plain English*
 - 3 book collection
 - Book 1 - *The Council*
 - Book 2 - *The Constitutions*
 - Book 3 - *The Decrees and Declarations*
 - Official approval (Nihil Obstat, Imprimatur)
 - Paraphrase text, easily readable sense lines
 - By Bill Huebsch
 - Author, theologian
 - Leader of “Vatican II Project”

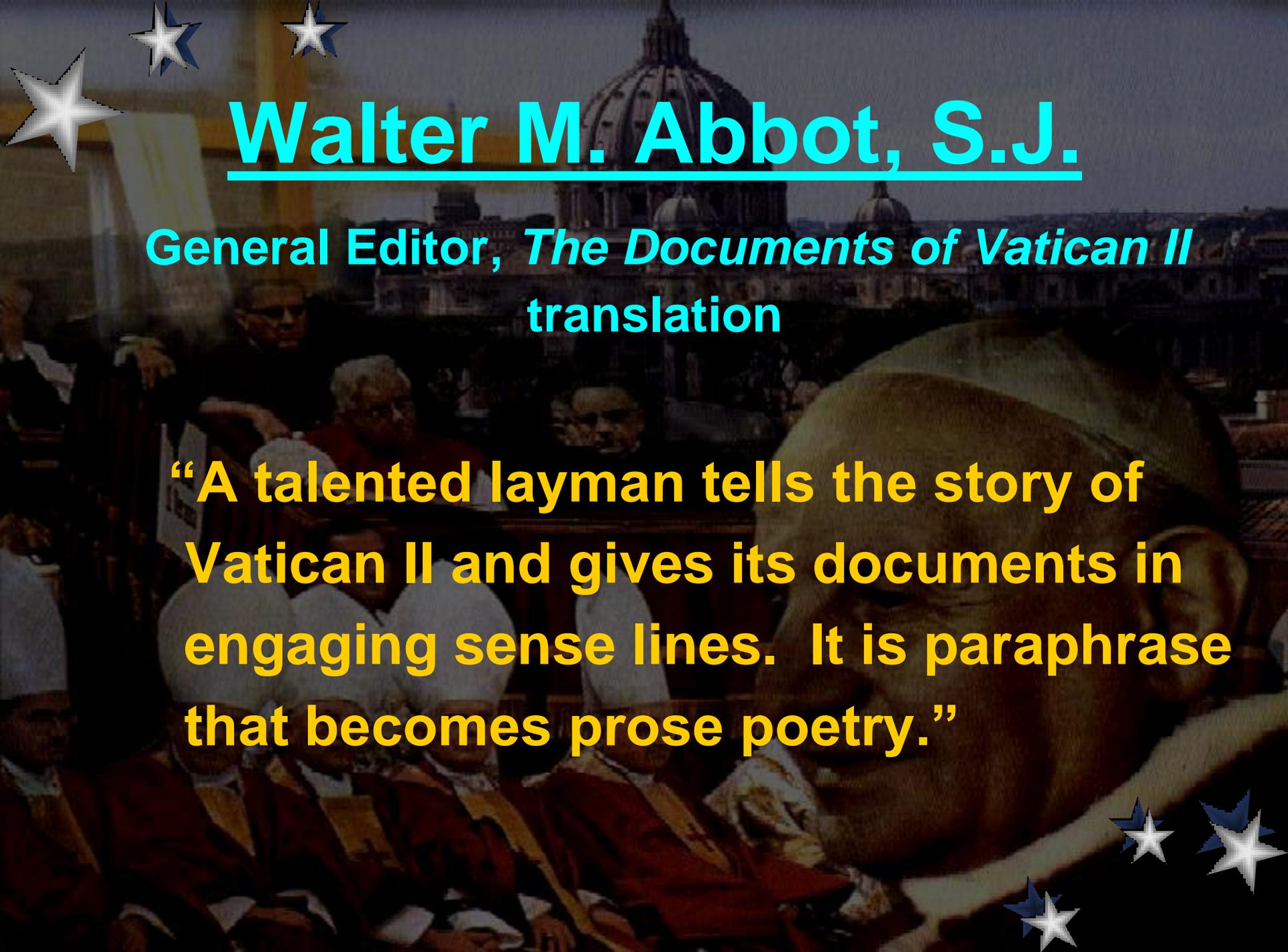




Bishop Raymond Lucker:

“Huebsch is at his best in paraphrasing the documents of the Second Vatican Council in clear, understandable English.”

“These volumes will be a service to parish ministers, leaders, and volunteers who desire to bring the vision of Vatican II into the renewal of Church and society.”



Walter M. Abbot, S.J.

General Editor, *The Documents of Vatican II*
translation

“A talented layman tells the story of Vatican II and gives its documents in engaging sense lines. It is paraphrase that becomes prose poetry.”



Constitution on Liturgy

**“We who are the participants in this,
the Second Vatican Council,
have a sense of both hope and urgency
for the Church.**

**We desire much for the world
and believe that the Church
has much to offer to all people.”**





Constitution on Liturgy

“Therefore, in all the work that is set before us,
we intend to adhere to
the following **ideals**:

First, Christian life is to be lived with vigor.

Our hope is that through the reform of this council

Christians may embrace the Christian faith

more profoundly each day.”





Constitution on Liturgy

**“Second, our world has changed substantially
in recent years.**

**Where it is both possible and beneficial,
we want the Church to change as well
in order to more graciously serve
the needs of our day.”**





Constitution on Liturgy

“Third, presently, Christians are not fully united.

**We want to nurture and promote everything
that will help bring about greater understanding
and more authentic unity
among all Christian people.”**





Constitution on Liturgy

**“ Fourth, the Church has much to offer mankind.
We want to strengthen those elements
of the Church
that allow people to experience
the deep love of God
and the challenging call of Christ.”**



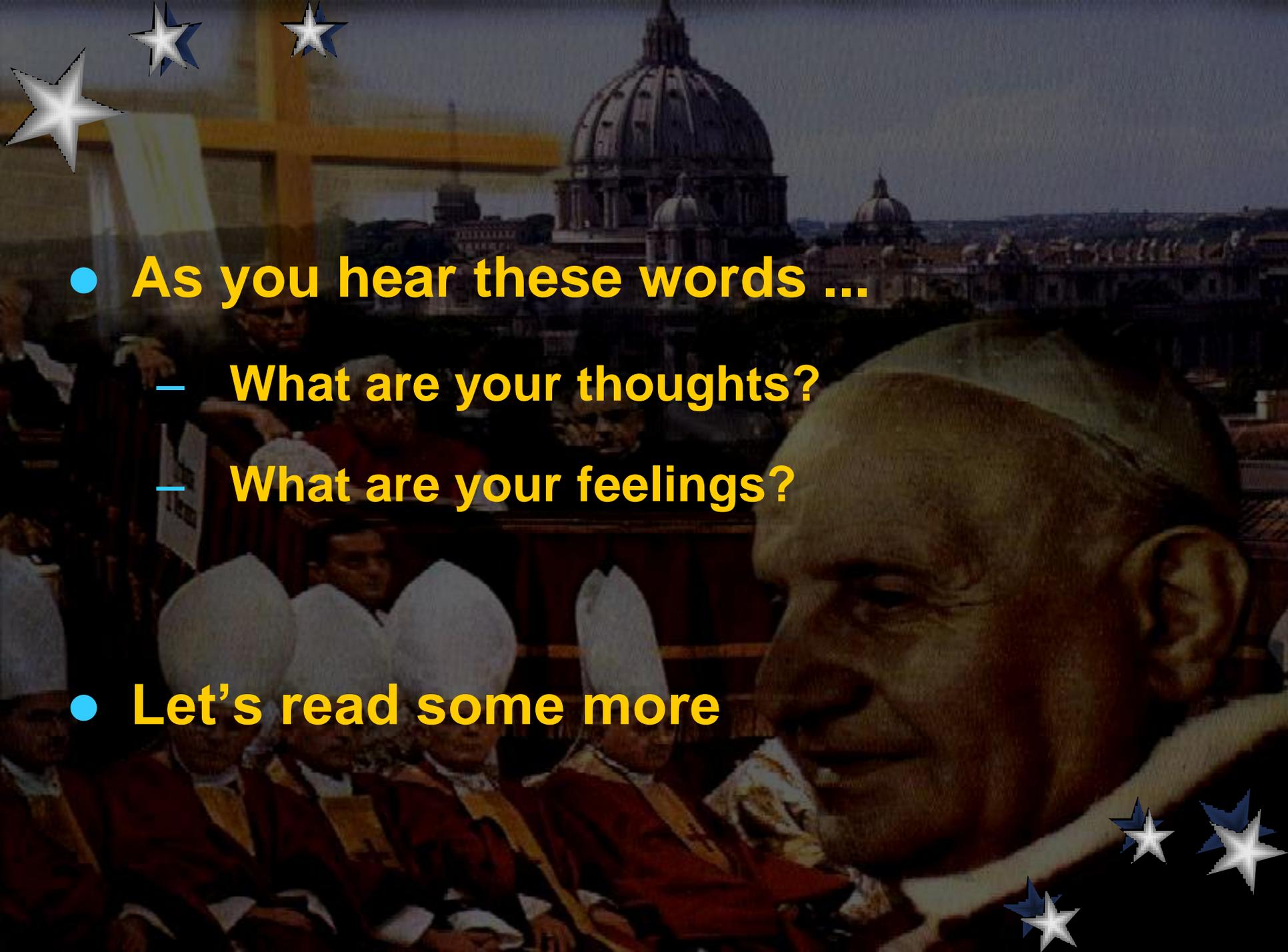


Constitution on Liturgy

**“Given these ideals
and the reform that is already happening
in the Church
we believe that now is the right time
to bring about reform
in the way we worship and pray.**

**We therefore want to reform the Liturgy
and increase our fervor for it.”**

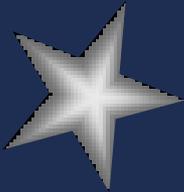




● **As you hear these words ...**

- **What are your thoughts?**
- **What are your feelings?**

● **Let's read some more**



Constitution on Liturgy

**“It was both in their loving actions
and in their worship
that the first disciples came to know
their profound call to ‘be Church.’**

**From that very first day until now,
we have never stopped announcing the Word,
baptizing those who believe,
and celebrating the Eucharist
as God’s priestly people.”**





Constitution on Liturgy

**“In the Mass Christ is really present
in the minister,
in the eucharistic bread and wine,
in the proclaimed Word of God,
and in the whole community
gathered to worship and pray.**

**Hence, Liturgy is the most sacred act of human life,
Nothing more significant is ever done.”**





Constitution on Liturgy

**“But even though Liturgy is most essential to us,
it is not all we do as members of the Church.**

**Various ministries and activities of the Church
help give witness to the truth of Christ’s presence
in the whole world.**

Preaching and teaching help

those who already follow Christ

to grasp more firmly and clearly

the mysteries of the faith they are trying to live.”





Constitution on Liturgy

“Other ministries of service and compassion within both the Church and the world show clearly the call of the Christian to be the Light of the World.

Nevertheless, Liturgy is the **summit** toward which the Christian life is directed and the very **source** of that life to begin with.”





Constitution on Liturgy

“It is the **fount** from which grace is poured over us,
and it is that place to which we go
for reconciliation,
peace,
and communion.

The Eucharist of course holds a special prominence.
In the Eucharist, the eternal covenant
between God and humanity is renewed
and Christ’s love is rekindled in us.”

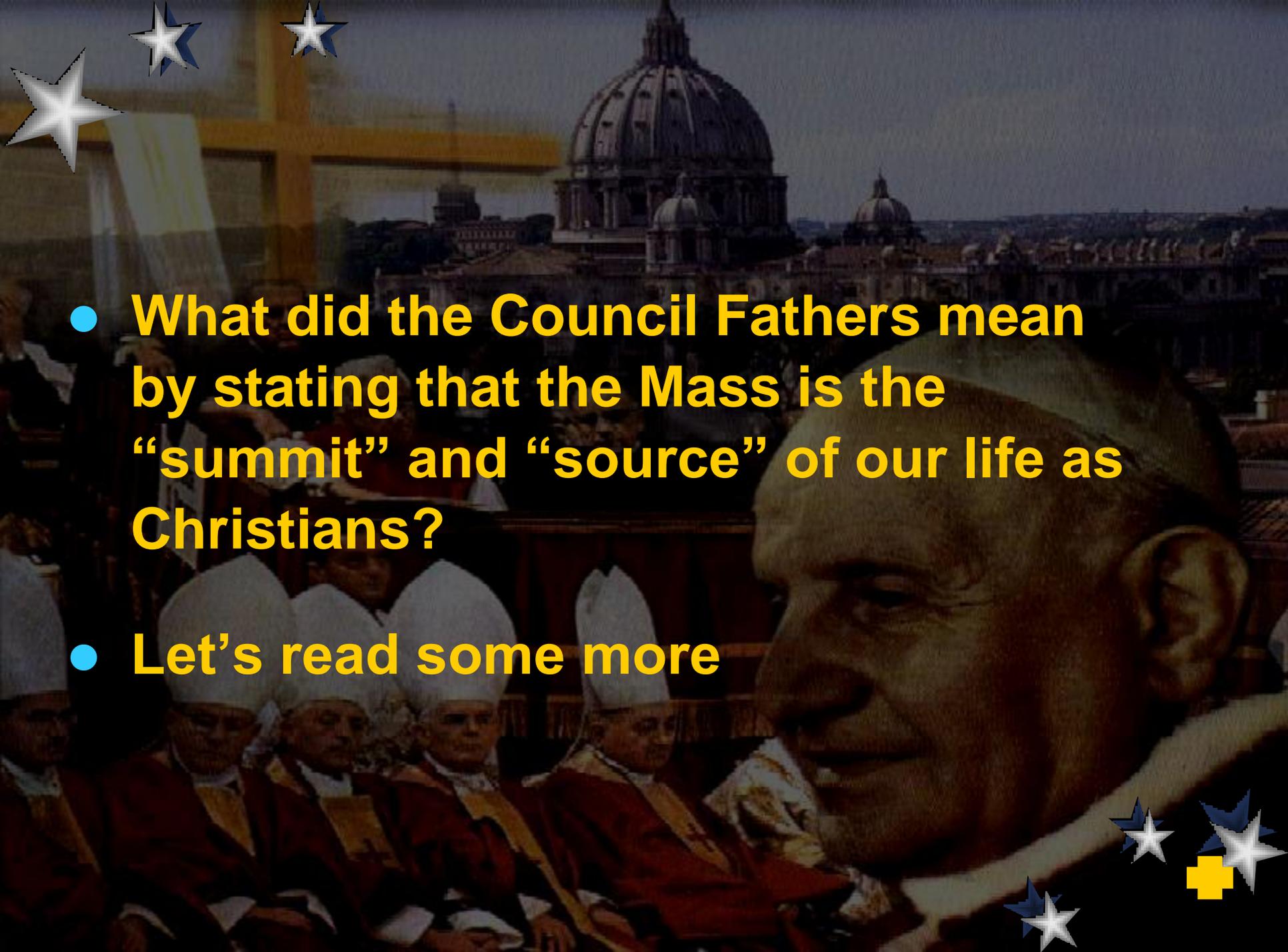




Constitution on Liturgy

“Precisely because it is so **central** to us,
and so important in the **Christian journey**,
the faithful who come to Liturgy
must be well disposed,
ready to participate,
and actively engaged in the rites.”



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- The background of the slide features a composite image. The upper portion shows a wide view of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, with its large dome and surrounding cityscape under a clear sky. The lower portion shows a group of bishops in red and white vestments, wearing mitres, seated in a row. A large, close-up profile of a man's face, likely a pope, is overlaid on the right side of the image. The text is overlaid on the left side in a yellow, sans-serif font.
- **What did the Council Fathers mean by stating that the Mass is the “summit” and “source” of our life as Christians?**
 - **Let’s read some more**



Constitution on Liturgy

“Because of their baptisms,
all the faithful have both a right and a duty
to **full and active participation in the Liturgy.**
Therefore, we, the participants
in this Second Vatican Council,
propose one guiding principle before all others
as we approach the question on restoring
and reforming the sacred Liturgy.”



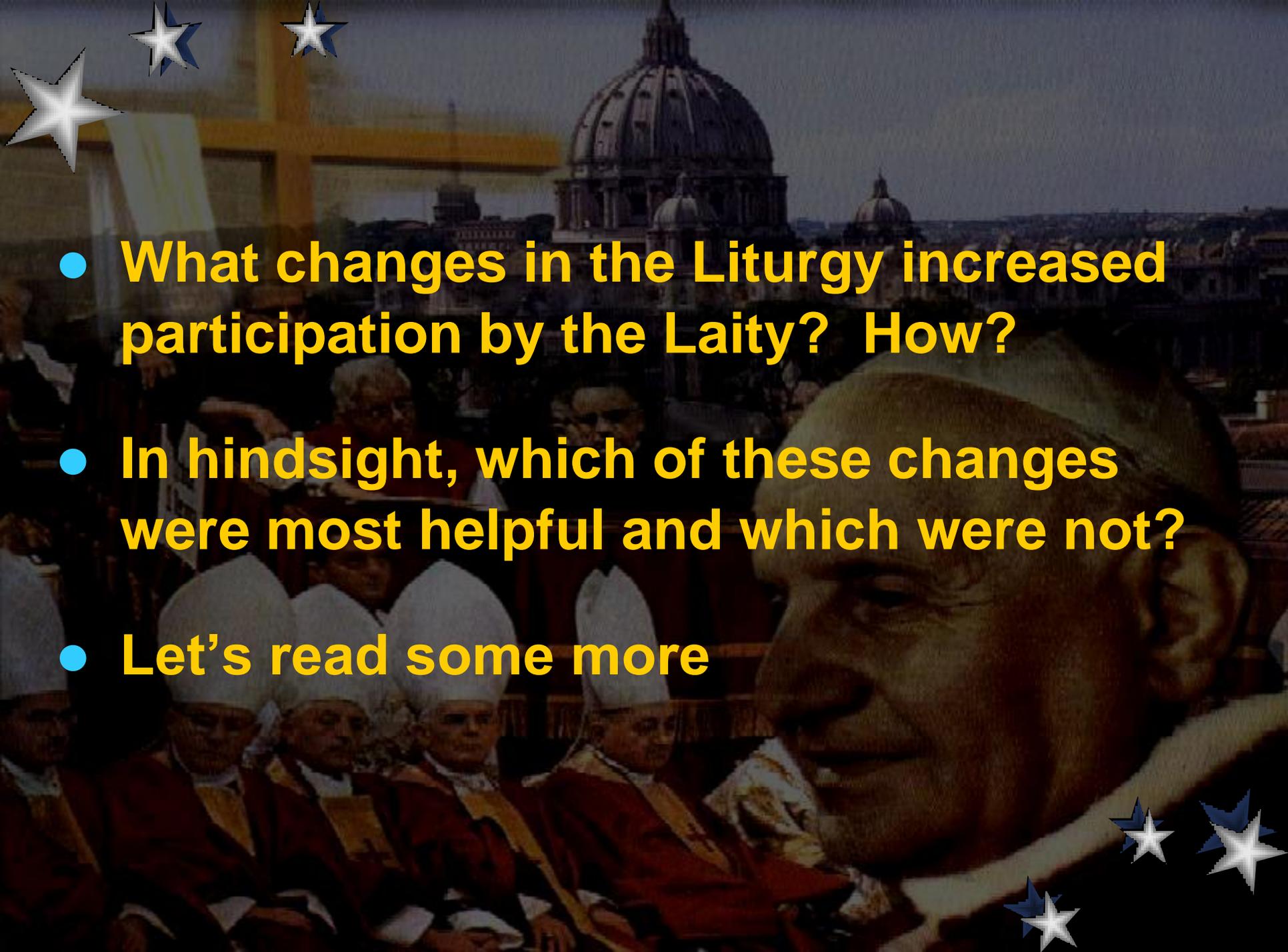


Constitution on Liturgy

“The principle is this:

**In the restoration and promotion of Sacred Liturgy
the full and active participation by all the people
is the aim to be considered
before all else!”**



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- The background of the slide features a composite image. On the left, a group of men in white mitres and red vestments, likely cardinals, are seated. On the right, a large, close-up profile of Pope Francis is visible. In the background, the dome of St. Peter's Basilica is prominent against a dark sky. The text is overlaid on this image in a yellow, sans-serif font.
- **What changes in the Liturgy increased participation by the Laity? How?**
 - **In hindsight, which of these changes were most helpful and which were not?**
 - **Let's read some more**



Constitution on Liturgy

**“Anyone with a part of the rite to perform
should do all of, but only,
that which pertains to his or her role.**

**Servers, lectors, commentators, & choir members
exercise a genuine liturgical function
and should do so with piety and decorum.**

They must, therefore, be well trained.”





Constitution on Liturgy

“The laypeople should take an active role as well by acclamations, responses, songs, & actions, as well as by their posture.

At the proper times,

a reverent silence should be observed.

The sacred Liturgy is both worship of God as well as instruction for the faithful.”





Constitution on Liturgy

**“In the Liturgy, God speaks to the people
and Christ proclaims the Good News.**

The people reply to God in both song and prayer.

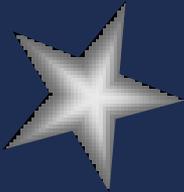
**Therefore, the rites should be distinguished
by a noble simplicity;**

they should be short, clear,

and unencumbered by repetitions.

**Explanation of their meaning
should not be necessary.”**





Constitution on Liturgy

“The Scriptures are of greatest importance to the liturgical celebration so care should be taken in proclaiming them, homilizing on them, singing hymns derived from them, or praying inspired by them.

A warm and living love of the Scriptures is to be fostered.”



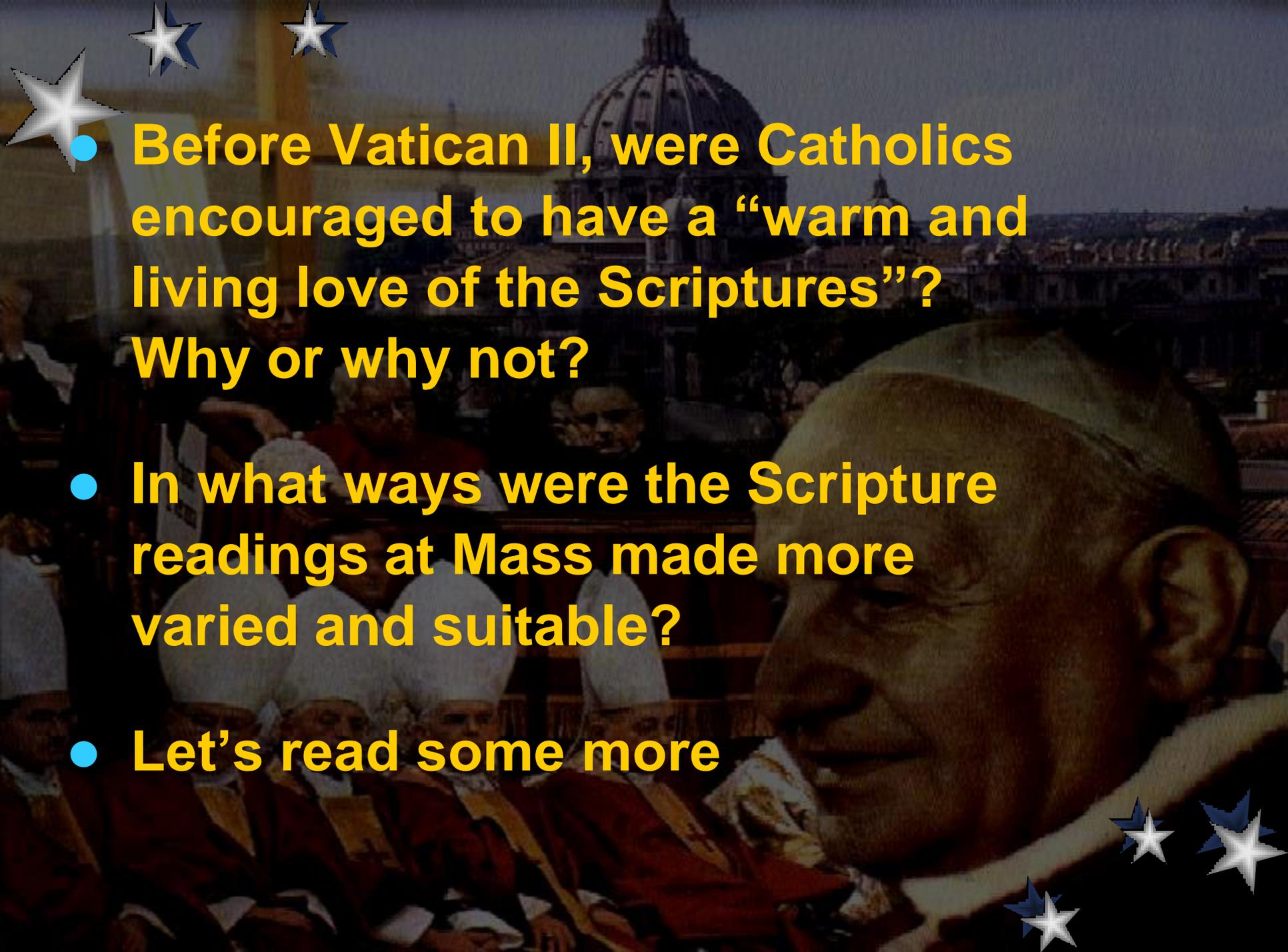


Constitution on Liturgy

**“There is to be more reading from Scripture,
with more variance and suitability.**

**Sermons should be drawn mainly from Scripture
and should proclaim God’s wonderful works,
the mystery of Christ,
and the wonderful moment
that we share together at Mass.”**



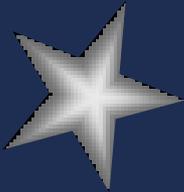
- 
- Before Vatican II, were Catholics encouraged to have a “warm and living love of the Scriptures”? Why or why not?
 - In what ways were the Scripture readings at Mass made more varied and suitable?
 - Let’s read some more



Constitution on Liturgy

**“The use of Latin is preserved
but the use of mother tongue,
which may be of great advantage to the people,
is also permitted
when requested by the local bishops.
Translations into the mother tongue
must be approved.”**



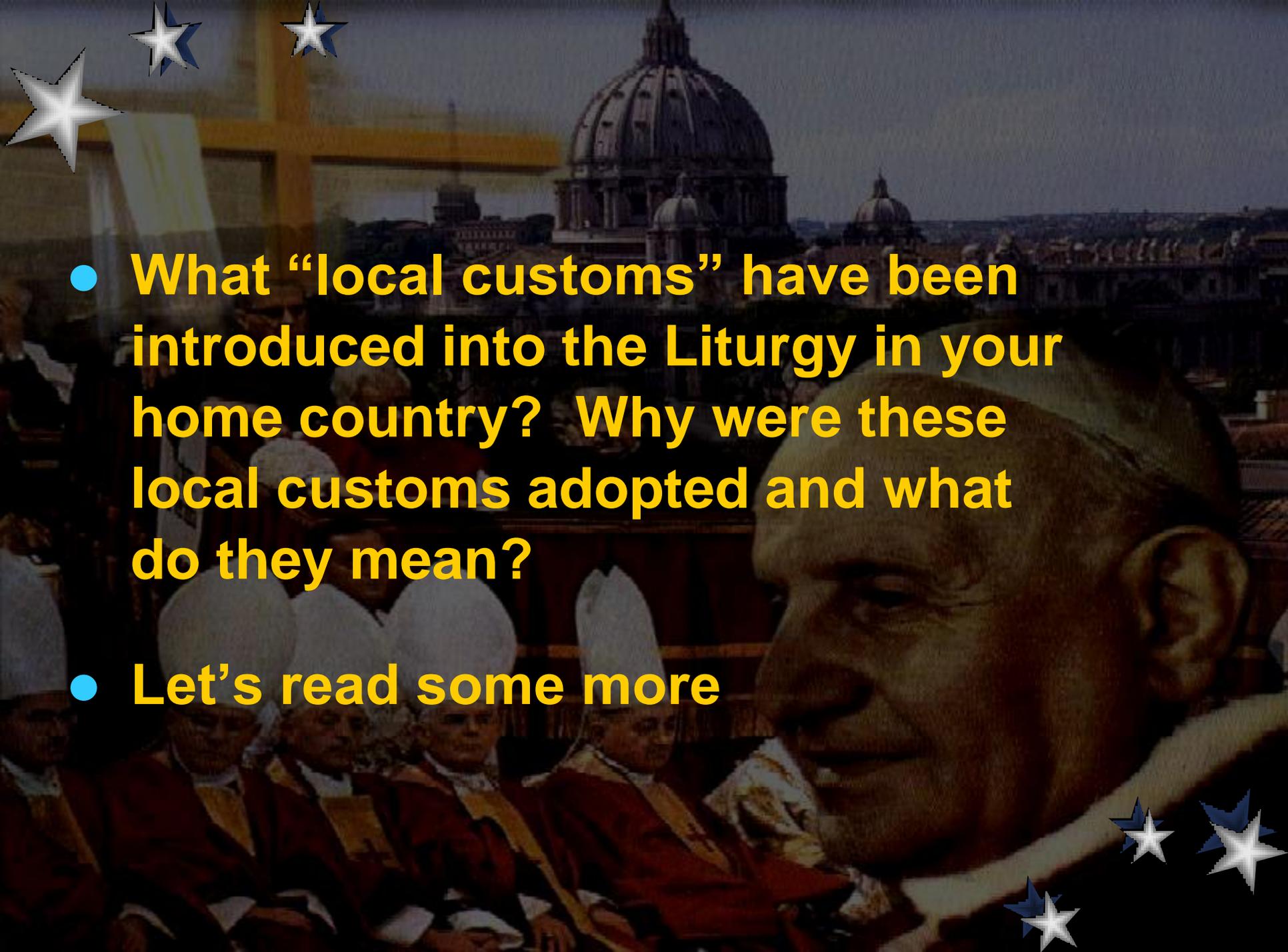


Constitution on Liturgy

**“The Church does not wish to impose
a rigid uniformity
in matters where it is not necessary,
local customs may be introduced into the Liturgy
provided they are not based on superstition
or error.”**

**Therefore, provisions for adaptations of this sort
shall be made.”**



- 
- **What “local customs” have been introduced into the Liturgy in your home country? Why were these local customs adopted and what do they mean?**
 - **Let’s read some more**



Constitution on Liturgy

**“Christ instituted the eucharistic celebration
at his last supper with his friends.**

**His purpose was to provide the Church
with a memorial of his loving death & resurrection
a sacrament of love,
a sign of unbreakable charity,
a bond of charity and justice,
all filling us with grace.”**





Constitution on Liturgy

**“The Church wants the faithful, therefore,
to find Christ present at the Eucharist.**

**We’re not present at Mass merely as strangers
or as silent spectators,**

**but we are to take an active part in the rites,
and understand what we’re doing.”**

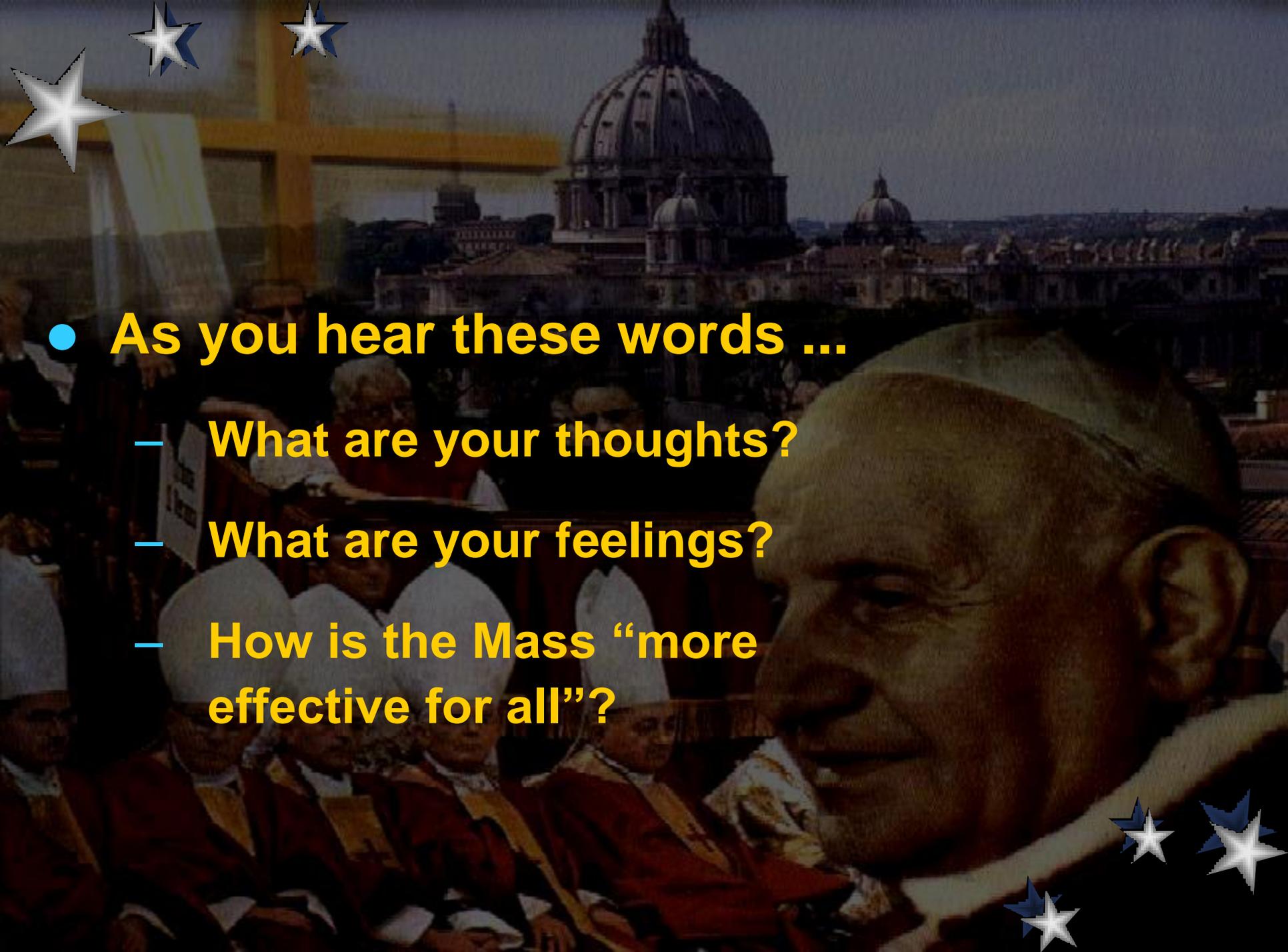




Constitution on Liturgy

“For this reason, we participants in Vatican II,
having in mind mainly those Masses
where the faithful are present
call for revision of the rites
to **make Liturgy more effective for all.**”





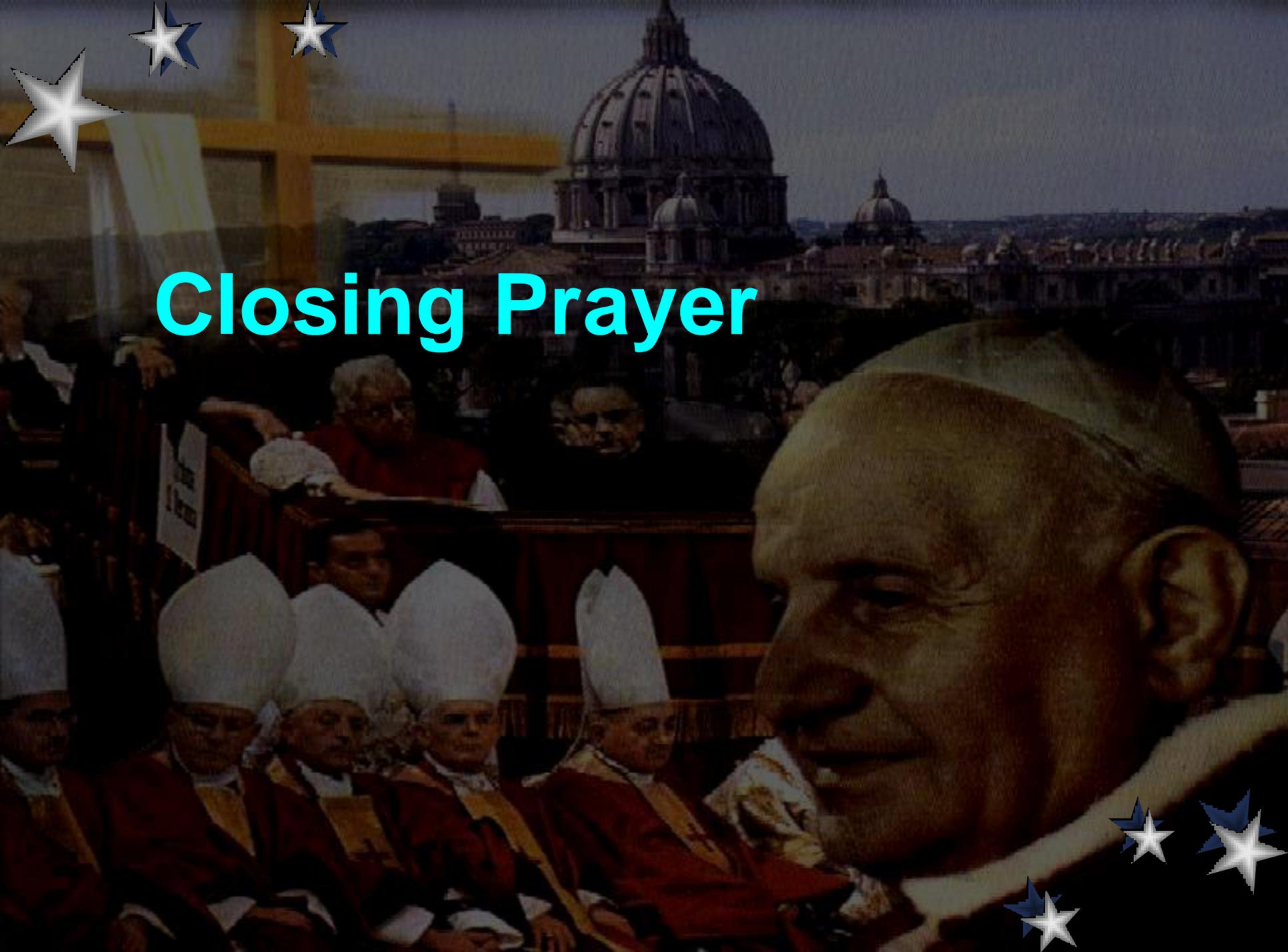
- **As you hear these words ...**

- **What are your thoughts?**
- **What are your feelings?**
- **How is the Mass “more effective for all”?**



Next Session

**The Wisdom and Relevance of
the Constitutions on
the Church and Divine Revelation**



Closing Prayer



VATICAN II AND YOU

ITS STORY AND MEANING
FOR TODAY