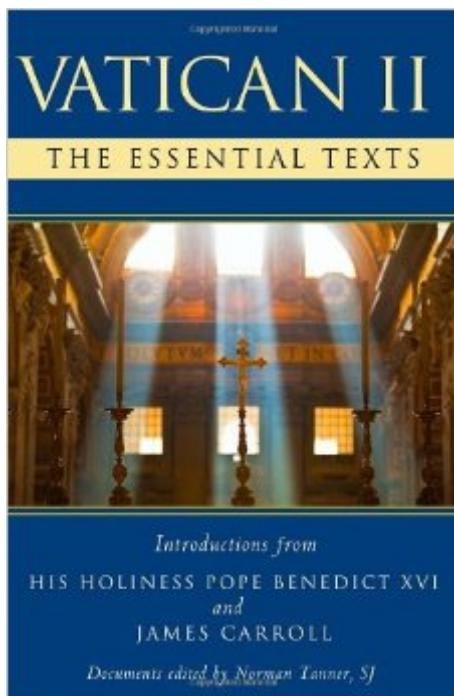


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# Vatican II: The Essential Texts



## Synopsis

By encouraging engagement with the modern world and a refocusing of traditional teaching, the Second Vatican Council brought new life into the practice of Catholicism. The council's impact on the Church is still playing out today, and with many current church issues finding their roots in differing interpretations of Vatican II it has never lost relevance. *Vatican II: The Essential Texts* brings together the key documents of the council. As the council is commemorated on its 50th Anniversary, readers will be returning to these source materials to understand the Church's developing positions on its relationship with the secular world and other religions, the role of lay people, human rights and the common good, the liturgy and other still highly relevant issues. In addition to the introductions from Pope Benedict and James Carroll, the documents will also be accompanied by brief historical prefaces from Professor Edward Hahnenberg.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am somewhat embarrassed to admit that having been a Catholic my entire life and having taught Catholicism for two years, having read numerous books on theology and biblical studies in that time, that I had neglected certainly the most important writings in Catholicism in the century and possibly in the last 500 years. I am always apprehensive in approaching Church documents, whether they be encyclicals, exhortations and the like, because of the assumed dry nature and technical language I expect them to have. Fortunately, most of the time I am dead wrong, especially with the last few the Church has been graced with (especially Francis, B16, and St. JP2, but I could go all the way back

to Paul 6 really). The documents of Vatican II "follow" (from my perspective, though they actually precede) in that same spirit. In them I find a Church that is not floundering but alive and active and, like the Sacraments it bestows, also gives life to the reader who finds them with a clear, engaged and open mind to God's guidance. This compilation does narrow the scope somewhat, but I think it is because the average lay reader has no need to read some of the more obscure documents that don't apply, but is more concerned with those that apply to everyone, especially Lumen Gentium (Light of the Nations) and Dei Verbum (Word of God) as the first deals with the life of the Church, Her "body," the people, and the second with God's written Word, the Bible. As I mentioned before, my initial worry was that I would be put to sleep in reading these and only Bishops, who in my mind have to read them, are the only ones who had the mental capacity, theological vocabulary, and moral duty to trudge through them.

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