

**Item for August 30 and September 13 bulletins and parish website:**

**THURSDAY MORNING SCRIPTURE GROUP**  
Fall 2015: September 24 – December 10

**The Word of God and Vatican II:  
50 Years After the Council**

*“A majority of Catholics alive today have no personal recollection of the church before Vatican II.”*

Richard R. Gaillardetz and Catherine E. Clifford,  
*Keys to the Council* (2012)

On December 8 of this year we will observe the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council, a council that no one was expecting when Pope St. John XXIII announced in January 1959 that he was convoking an ecumenical council of all the bishops of the Catholic Church. This council, Vatican II, has had a profound impact on the Church and the lives of Catholics throughout the world. Yet most Catholics, even those who do have a personal recollection of the Church before Vatican II, know very little about the work of the Council beyond the changes that were made in how we celebrate Mass.

This fall St. Patrick’s Thursday Morning Scripture Group, led by parishioner Susan Carlson, will turn to the fascinating story of Vatican II. We will explore what the Council did, how it did its work (in St. Peter’s Basilica and behind the scenes), and the consequences of the Council’s work on our lives today.

We will look at several documents produced by the Council including those that concern the roles of the laity and hierarchy in the Church, religious liberty, and the relation of the Church to non-Christian religions. We will focus on the Council’s teaching on divine revelation. The study of the Council document known as *Dei Verbum* – the “Word of God” – can lead us to new insights in understanding our lives as followers of Jesus. We sometimes think that the essence of being a Catholic is believing in a set of doctrines. What we believe is important, but in *Dei Verbum* the Council teaches that God does not reveal to us a collection of information; rather, God comes to us as a person, Jesus Christ, who offers to share God’s very self with us.

The Thursday Morning Scripture Group's 11-week fall 2015 session will begin on September 24 and end on December 10. The group is friendly, lively, co-ed, and welcoming. We meet from 9:30 until 11:00 a.m. each Thursday in the O'Gara Parish Activity Center. The fee for the fall session is \$10, payable at the first meeting. To register or to obtain more information, please contact Susan Carlson at [SMcCarlson@aol.com](mailto:SMcCarlson@aol.com) or 847-295-9714. Please consider joining the Thursday Morning Scripture Group to learn about what happened at Vatican II. All are welcome!