

Called by God

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 5, Session 23**.

In the mid-20th century, Pope John XXIII called an ecumenical council to address new issues in the Church and society. The pope has the authority to call for an ecumenical council, a gathering of all the world's bishops. **PAGE 196**

The decisions made at the Second Vatican Council continue to shape how we practice our faith today. For example, at the Second Vatican Council, two changes made in the Church were the allowance of prayers and Scripture readings in a language other than Latin and the acceptance of lay ministers. **PAGE 196**

Meetings called by the pope to discuss matters of doctrine and pastoral care are called synods. The decisions of a synod are suggestions to the pope that may or may not become official teachings of the Church at a later time. **PAGE 196**

The goal of the Second Vatican Council was to explore how Church teaching could be made clearer. **PAGE 197**

The Second Vatican Council emphasized the role of laity as the People of God and the need for a renewed understanding of the Church in the modern era. **PAGE 197**

During the Second Vatican Council, Church leaders stated that the Eucharist is the high point of our lives as Catholics. **PAGE 197**

The Second Vatican Council emphasized that all Christians are called to holiness—we are called to be saints. Each person's unique vocation offers its own way to achieve holiness. **PAGE 198**

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that we should wholeheartedly devote ourselves to the glory of God and to the service of our neighbors. **PAGE 198**

All Christians cooperate in the building up of the Body of Christ. We are one human family with God as our father. **PAGE 199**

We receive the grace and strength to live holy lives through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. This grace gives us the strength to practice the gifts we have received from God. **PAGE 199**

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