

Plenary Council

Background Quotes.

From Vatican Council

“The Baptised, by regeneration and anointing of the Holy Spirit are consecrated to be a spiritual house and a holy priesthood, that through all the works of Christian people they may offer spiritual sacrifices and proclaim the perfection of him who has called them out of darkness into his marvellous light. *The Church, par.10.*

The holy people of God shares also in the prophetic office.....The whole body of the faithful who have an anointing that comes from the holy one (cf. 1`Jn. 2;20)cannot err in matters of belief. This characteristic is shown in the supernatural appreciation of the faith (*sensus fidei*) of the whole people, when, from the bishops to the last of the faithful” they manifest a universal consent in matters of faith and morals. *The Church par 12*

“Now that the Second Vatican Council has deeply studied the mystery of the Church, it resolutely addresses not only the sons and daughters of the church and all who call upon the name of Christ but the whole of humanity as well and it longs to set forth the way it understands the pressures and function of the Church on the world today.
Church in the Modern world Par.2

POPE Francis said (Joy of the Gospel).

“In some people we see an ostentatious preoccupation for the liturgy, for doctrine and for the Churches prestige but without any concern that the gospel has a real impact on God’s faithful people and the concrete needs of the present time. In this way the life of the church turns into a museum piece or something which is the property of a select few”. par. 95.

“The Church is an agent of ..evangelisation is more than an organic or hierarchical institution; she is first and foremost a people advancing on its pilgrim way towards God. She is certainly a *mystery* rooted in the Trinity, yet she exists concretely in history as a people of pilgrims and evangelisers, transcending an institutional expression, however necessary. Par.111

“The Bishops of Oceania asked that the church “*Develop an understanding and a presentation of the truth of Christ working from the traditions and cultures of the region...* WE cannot demand that peoples of every continent, in expressing their Christian faith, imitate modes of expression which European nations developed in a particular moment of their history because the faith cannot be constricted to the limits of understanding and expression of one culture...” Par 118.

POPE John Paul 11 in *Novo Millennio Ineunte* in 2001 encouraged the Church to discern what the Spirit was saying to the church and to put into practice resolutions and guidelines that fit the context and culture of each place, he said “The pastors of particular churches, with the help of all sections of God’s people” to plan for the future in a collegial way that harmonises among the dioceses the work of pastoral revitalisation”

From the Bishop’s Commission for the Plenary Council.

The circumstances of the Church in Australia in our time, including the patterns of change that are evident within the community of the church, the issues confronting the Church...the increase in entrusting responsibility for and leadership of the Church’s mission to laity, and even the changing face of the Episcopate prompt the church to review, analyse, and discern the signs of the times , to listen anew to the Spirit, and to chart its course into the future. *Bishops of Australia*

Will anything change ?

The choice of a Plenary Council- rather than a synod or assembly- is a demonstration of the bishops’ commitment to considering how the church in Australia can continue to serve the faithful. It has legislative and governance authority and decisions that are made in 2020 and 2021 will likely become part of the Code of Canon Law for Australia. That would be a very significant development and wouldn’t be possible under another structure.