

## Reflection Questions for Chapter 7—What Now?

Read Chapter 7 *What Now?* in *Reclaiming Vatican II* by Fr. Blake Britton. Begin with Pope John XXIII's prayer for the Vatican Council: "Almighty God! In Thee we place all our confidence, not trusting in our own strength. Look down benignly upon these members of Thy Church. May the light of Thy supernal grace aid us in taking decisions and in making laws. Graciously hear the prayers which we pour forth to Thee in unanimity of faith, of voice, and of mind." Your reflections will be shared **December 13<sup>th</sup>** in your small group. Your group may not get to all the questions. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to those questions most important for your group.

**Ch. 7:163-164 "We are entrusted with the right implementation of Vatican II." Fr. Blake asks the question "...what can we do to reclaim it?"** *What applications of the Vatican II documents do you see as crucial to reclaim?*

**Ch. 7:165 "Vatican II is simply not on most people's spiritual radar. But it should be."** *Do you agree/disagree with this statement? How could we move forward as a Church to change this?*

**Ch. 7:165-166 The first bishop in the U.S. knew that to secure the Catholic faith in America, two things had to be evident, piety and education. As we are journeying in the season of Advent, piety and prayer are keys. Since you are here studying the Vatican II documents, this implies you understand the importance of education.** *How are you being intentional during Advent in your prayer? Are there suggestions you could offer to your group that have worked well for you?*

**Ch. 7:167-171 Fr. Blake relates the story of his Church, St. Mary's, and the intentional steps they took to revive their parish. He concluded with the statement: "People do not come to church to be entertained; they come to be sanctified. They desire an encounter with a holy God and expect to find it at Mass and in other liturgies."** *What are your feelings about this statement? What can we do to ensure this same feeling here at St. Therese? How can you be a part of ensuring this is happening here?*

**Ch. 7:171-173 By virtue of our baptism, we are all called to evangelize. To do this we need to be educated and have allowed Mother Church to form us. "The Second Vatican Council sought to open the doors of the Church—not so that the Church could become more worldly, but so that the world could become more holy."** *How can you respond to this call to evangelize?*

**Reflecting back on the previous Vatican II sessions...** *What do you feel are the first steps to take in reclaiming the timeless truths entrusted to our Church that are spelled out in Vatican II? Are there any questions you still have from a previous session?*

**As we continue our Advent journey, remember Fr. Blake's closing words: "It is not an accident that you are alive here and now...God...knows (you) are perfect for the situation in which we find ourselves as Catholics. We do not have to waste time trying to figure out our task. The Holy Spirit gave it to us plainly in the Second Vatican Council. All we need to do now is reclaim it."**

*What are your thoughts?*

**This is a great time to be a Catholic! (pg. 171)**