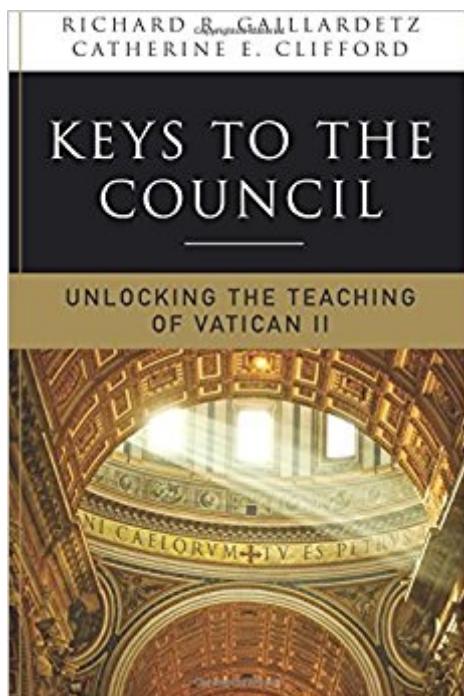


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# Keys To The Council: Unlocking The Teaching Of Vatican II



## Synopsis

As the church marks the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, too few Catholics have an adequate grasp of what the council contributed to the life of the church. The problem is understandable. The Second Vatican Council produced, by far, more document pages than any other council. Consequently, any attempt to master its core teachings can be daunting. There is a danger of missing the forest for the trees. With this in mind, *Keys to the Council* identifies twenty key conciliar passages, central texts that help us appreciate the Vision of the council fathers. Each chapter places the given passage in its larger historical context, explores its fundamental meaning and significance, and finally considers its larger significance for the life of the church today. Chapters include exploration of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*'s demand for full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy; *Lumen Gentium*'s eucharistic ecclesiology; *Gaudium et Spes*'s vision of marriage as an intimate partnership of life and love; *Nostra Aetate*'s approach to non-Christian religions; and more.

## Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Liturgical Press (February 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0814633684

ISBN-13: 978-0814633687

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #118,912 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #52 in Christian Books & Bibles > Biographies > Popes & the Vatican #53 in Christian Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Ecclesiology #138 in Christian Books > Christian Books & Bibles > History > Historical Theology

## Customer Reviews

*Keys to the Council* is the best book reviewed here. If you have time only to read one book, I highly recommend this one. What makes this book so valuable is that it truly does what it sets out to do, namely, to unlock the teaching of Vatican II for any interested reader with 20 key conciliar passages each clothed in a brief, fact-filled, historically accurate, and theologically sound chapter. The significance of the council to the reader's life today, and

how it might be best applied in his or her encounter with the world, is an important part of the book and provides an opportunity for reflection for the thoughtful reader.

**Catholic Studies** This very readable and important book offers the data as well as a history of interpretation and reception that can re-enliven the hope of those who lived at the time of this graced event. But perhaps even more importantly, it can inspire a new generation of Catholics to embrace the Council's vision and appreciate the gift that it continues to be for the Church of the twenty-first century.

**Pastoral Liturgy** Richard Gaillardetz and Catherine Clifford are both recognized practicing theologians. They have written a very useful book which might well be used as a text for undergraduate theology courses or for adult education or discussion groups composed of men and women who are eager to acquire a balanced understanding of the Second Vatican Council because they have heard that it was one of the major events in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ.

**Worship** Keys to the Council provides a cogent, constructive, and insightful overview of the themes of Vatican II that continue to shape the church fifty years after the council. Richard Gaillardetz and Catherine Clifford have crafted a text that promotes a renewed engagement with the council's documents, particularly those teachings that highlight the mission of Christ and the Holy Spirit within the church and its activity in the world. Well-grounded in Scripture and history, nuanced in its claims, and hope-filled, this book is both a faithful echo of Vatican II and a significant contribution to the ongoing reception of the council.

Richard Lennan, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry I recommend Keys to the Council to anyone interested in Vatican II and its impact on the Catholic Church today, fifty years after the opening of the council. This brilliant introduction to the key documents of the council is absolutely indispensable to understanding which of these keys of Vatican II have been received into the life and culture of Catholicism. Clifford and Gaillardetz have produced a masterful synthesis on Vatican II, the most important event in the history of Catholic theology in the last 500 years.

Massimo Faggioli, assistant professor at the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota, author of Vatican II: The Battle for Meaning (Paulist, 2012).

Keys to the Council opens up not only the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, but also its place within the last century of theological renewal. Through crisp and insightful commentary, the authors offer an inspiring reminder of all that the council achieved.

Edward P. Hahnenberg, author of A Concise Guide to the Documents of Vatican II and Awakening Vocation: A Theology of Christian Call

Richard R. Gaillardetz holds the Joseph Chair of Catholic Systematic Theology at Boston College. He has published numerous articles and has authored or edited ten books, including Keys to the Council: Unlocking the Teaching of Vatican II (co-authored with Catherine Clifford, Liturgical Press,

2012) and Ecclesiology for a Global Church: A People Called and Sent (Orbis, 2008). Dr. Gaillardetz has been a delegate on the US Catholic–Methodist Ecumenical Dialogue and served as president of the Catholic Theological Society of America between 2013 and 2014. Catherine E. Clifford is associate professor of theology at St. Paul University in Ontario. She received an STL from the Université de Fribourg and a PhD in theology from the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto. She is coeditor of Vatican II: Canadian Experiences (University of Ottawa Press, 2011).

The authors of the book have put together a great text that is easy to read and understand, even by the average lay person in the Church. It has given me a greater appreciation of what went on during the Council, and a better understanding of the documents. I am currently using this as a course book in a college program. I ordered book from and it arrived sooner than I expected.

This is an excellent collaborative work. The introductory chapter is very good. The layout is user friendly, especially for beginners in the theology of the church. Very powerful insights

This man is one of the smartest people I've ever met and his explanations of Vatican II are superb, succinct, and to the point. I have recommended this book to all those conservative folks who claim Vatican II was a big mistake and some of them have had their eyes opened by this writing.

Gailardetz highlights the key issues debated and decided upon during the Vatican Council deliberations. his analysis is integral and authentic.

Having experienced the council as a youth and remaining active in the church this book gave me new insights into the way in which the church evolved in the post councilor years.

The book is well written and interesting. I was a young adult during the council so this book is very interesting for me.

This book provides a complete discussion of the teaching of Vatican II. It is not light reading, however. And it might be too "dense" for those who have little background in theology or philosophy. I would not consider this an introductory treatment, especially if the reader did not live during the Vatican II years.

I was attending a series of lectures on Vatican 2 and felt very ignorant. This was the better of the 2 recommended books and I learned a lot from reading it. It is clear and interesting, not hard to read for a layperson.

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