

**KRAKOW: Wednesday October
21, 2015**

Pope Francis

A New Phase of Church Renewal?

- Is what the Lord is doing through Pope Francis different from the contributions of St John Paul II and Benedict XVI?
- How does what Pope Francis is doing and represents relate to the Renewal of the Church called for by St John XXIII and Bl. Paul VI?

What is New with Francis?

- The emphasis on poverty and simplicity

This was present at Vatican Two above all in a group of bishops (inc Cardinal Lercaro of Bologna, & Archbp Helder Camara from Recife, Brazil). This led to a passage in LG, 8:

“Just as Christ carried out the work of redemption in poverty and oppression, so the church is called to follow the same path if it is to communicate the fruits of salvation to humanity. Christ Jesus ‘though he was by nature God ... emptied himself, taking the nature of a slave’ (Phil. 2:6-7), and ‘being rich, became poor’ (2 Cor. 8:9) for our sake.”

An Emphasis on Life-Style

The focus before 2013 was more on the right interpretation of the Council, and on what the Council really taught.

So a major contribution of St John Paul II and Benedict XVI was a wealth of magisterial teaching with the synthesis of the Catechism.

Now the focus of Francis is on living the Council, living the renewal of the Church.

A Practical Teaching

- Francis most often preaches from the Gospels. Always practical, usually with 3 points.
- He uses vivid imagery and striking expressions:
 - * walking together
 - * going out to the extremities
 - * throwaway culture
 - * no airport bishops

- Major Focus on the Holy Spirit
 - * being open to surprises of the Spirit
 - * being open to newness of the Spirit
 - * not being fearful and afraid
 - * being bold

To be developed in Next Talk

All Ministry as Service

- An absolute No to privilege, to Clericalism
- Bishops and Priests not higher or more important
- Bishop of Rome, the church that presides in charity
- Collegiality and synodality (takes part in meetings of C 9, of Synod and of Synod Council)

MERCY

- Centrality of mercy
- God never tires of forgiving (1st Sunday Angelus)
- Communion not a reward for virtue
- Proclaims Year of Mercy (Dec 2015 - Nov 2016)
- Pastoral not juridical approach

Emphasis on Reconciliation

- Mediating between Cuba and the USA
- Influence in Colombia
- Reconciliation as Central to Salvation
- Teaching on reconciling diversity (see Talk 2)

The Journeys of Francis

- To Lampedusa - refugees
- To Albania
- To South Korea
- To Sri Lanka and to Philippines (Tacloban City)
- To Ecuador, Bolivia, and Paraguay

Phase 2 of Renewal

- Moving from discussion to action
- From church maintenance to mission
- Transforming Relationships at all levels of the Church

“I dream of ‘a missionary option’. That is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 27)