

## SOLEMN PROCLAMATION OF THE SAINTLY DEEDS OF POPE JOHN XXIII

Today, the 27<sup>th</sup> Day of April, in the year of our Lord, 2014,  
we acclaim the saintly deeds of Pope John XXIII.

This day Pope John is recognized as a canonized saint by the worldwide Church.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

We honor John as one who lived out of a deeply felt sense of God's presence & love,  
with a wonderful sense of humor.

He wanted the Church to be known as benign, patient, full of mercy and goodness.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

Pope John was born Angelo Guiseppi Roncalli to a family of peasant origins from Sotto il Monte, near Bergamo, Italy in 1881; served in the Italian army, was apostolic delegate to Bulgaria, delegate to Greece & Turkey, and Nuncio to Paris, before being named Patriarch Archbishop of Venice.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of October, 1958, Cardinal Roncalli was elected Pope by the College of Cardinals, taking the name John XXIII. Three months later, Pope John announced the convening of a Worldwide Ecumenical Council, intending it as an invitation to "spiritual renewal for the church and for the world."

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

This Second Vatican Council taught that the Church is the people of God,  
that the cares and concerns of the world are those of the Church  
and that the highest calling for Christians is to be peace-makers.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

In his opening address to the Council, John said he expected it to take a positive approach;  
it should look forward;

it should not be afraid to make changes;

it should not feel constrained to stay within the old methods and forms.

It should be pastoral, not doctrinal.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

The purpose of the Council was *aggiornamento* – bringing the church up to date.

The substance of the ancient doctrine of the deposit of faith is constant,  
but the way in which it is presented must reflect the signs of our times.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

The Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy emphasizes the conscious and active participation in the liturgy based on the baptismal gift of the priesthood of all believers.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

Illustrated in the use of the vernacular languages,  
Jesus is present not only in the bread and wine  
but also in the Word of God as portrayed in the Scriptures,  
and in the community of the disciples gathered around the Eucharistic table.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

The Constitution on the Church taught that the church is the whole people of God  
and not just the hierarchy.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World  
recognizes that the church works together with all people of good will  
to bring about greater peace and justice in our world.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

The Declaration on Religious Liberty brought about a dramatic change  
by asserting religious freedom for all,  
based on the dignity of the human person.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

The Decree on Ecumenism insists on dialogue with other Christians,  
respect for other faiths  
and a specific recognition of the continuing role of God's covenant with the Jewish people.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

In his 1963 Encyclical on Peace, *Pacem in Terris*,  
John XXIII made an insistent and lasting contribution  
to the call for peace among all nations of the earth.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

We are grateful to John and Vatican II for insisting that the Church is always in need of reform,  
*semper reformanda*;  
thereby inspiring organizations like Call To Action, committed to justice, inclusion & accountability.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

John XXIII's ultimate greatness may be the fact that he grew.

He was open,  
he listened,  
and he learned.

In this way he is truly a model for all Catholic Christians today.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

**Let us build the City of God. May our tears be turned into dancing.**

**For the Lord, our life and our Light, has turned the night into day.**