



Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was born in Bergamo, Italy, in 1881. He was born into a peasant family yet it was clear that he was bright from a young age.

Angelo was sent to study in a seminary where his passion and interest for Catholicism and Christianity grew immensely.

He was invited to study under renowned Marxist and philosopher, Benito Mussolini. It was here where Roncalli first became involved in social justice. This

interest in social justice allowed Roncalli to become a pastor in WWII. After witnessing the horrors of the war he strengthened his passion for Christianity.

As his reputation began to develop, as he was becoming well known for his kind, generous and selfless deeds, he was called to Conclave in 1958, at age 77.

Pope Pius XII had just died and it is believed that the conclave felt that Roncalli would make an ideal, caretaker pope who would have little ambition and intention to use his power and



Influence. Noncalli was elected pope and became  
"Pope John XXIII".

Pope John XXIII's intentions and ambitions for his tenure became clear in his opening address to the people where he declared that he sought to 'reconcile' the Church as well as achieving 'world peace'. This was followed by his first changes to the Church. He increased the number of Cardinals to 80, as well as allowing both Asian and African's to become Cardinals. Both of these changes have greatly affected Christianity. The increase in democracy, from the increased number of Cardinals, would allow a more diverse outlook and opinion of the papacy. As well as this, the inclusion of African and Asian Cardinals would allow greater portions of the world to be heard and ~~achieve~~ achieve greater democracy. As well as this, this change meant that the Church had no longer seen any reason why Asians or African's are any different.



The sense of progression that Pope John XXIII made clear on his first day would be the ~~an~~ underlying message of the ~~parts~~ of them.

Pope John XXIII announced an Ecumenical Council to discuss potential changes to the Church.

This was a significant event as this was only the 20th in the last 2000 years.

At the Council there were ~~all~~ two core documents produced. The first of which was ~~the~~ <sup>Nostra</sup> ~~et~~ ~~Actate~~.

This document proposed many changes to the Catholic way of life. These changes included, the ability to eat meat on all Fridays except those in Lent, to perform prayer in your own vernacular, ~~to~~ ~~be~~ a no longer having to genuflect as you pass the throne of the Lord, ~~and~~ no longer having to wear a head covering ~~to~~ you when you are in the throne of the Lord.

These changes left the Catholic world in a state of confusion as the many people began to



question what aspects of Catholic law are in fact dogma.

As well as this, the other changes proposed had a lot of positive effects throughout the Catholic world.

Many saw the changes as a sign that the Church had become dynamic and able to consider the circumstances of our time.

For example, the ability for one to perform Mass or Holy Sacraments in their own vernacular allowed greater understanding for people all around the world. It allowed people to understand their prayer as well as become more interested in it.

At the Council, the late Pope John XXIII declared his intention to reconcile with the Jews. He explained that the Jews were not responsible for the death of Jesus and that "I am your Mother". Implying that Jews and Christians are connected and they should repair their relationship.

These then



As well as this, the council produced another document, *Mutet et Magistrate*. This document signalled the Council's intention to renew the "message of Christianity" and ~~join~~ reconcile with all religions as this is the only way in which world peace can be achieved.

Following the Council Pope John declared that Vatican 2 would be held. The ~~new~~ Pope explained that "The walk from earth of Christendom to do not ~~flashes~~ all the way to heaven." This also explains that we are all the descendants of God and that we must see as one.

Vatican 2 was held over 4 years from 1961. The pope died in 1962 however ~~it was~~ his legacy was maintained through his successor. At Vatican the pope invited all representatives of all religions to witness the proceedings as "observers". This allowed the greater population



to attain an insight into the machinations of the  
once secretive church. During the proceedings,  
14 documents were compiled and many changes  
were implemented. The main changes  
were prayer in our vernacular, Masses and  
Novenas being able to reside in mainstream  
society.

The Pope's death was commemorated globally  
as it was identified by all just how great  
he was. He was considered by ~~many~~ many  
as a "loss in the family". Pope John XXIII's  
impact on Christianity is immeasurable as  
he achieved his goals of 'bringing the church  
into the ~~the~~ modern world'. It is for this  
reason that his changes have left a lasting  
impact on Catholic life as well as  
the perception of Catholicism by the rest of  
the world. He affects that these profound  
changes have had do that many people



have rejoined the Church after feeling leaving due to it being too 'out of touch'. The reassessment of the Church's values have largely been reverted back and many feel that the work of Vatican 2 never finished and in fact that there is still ~~more~~ more room for changes.