

Reflection Monday Week 28 St John XXIII 2021

Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was born in Sotto il Monte, near Bergamo, in 1881. He entered the seminary at Bergamo aged 11, later pursuing his studies at the Pontifical Seminary in Rome. Ordained priest in 1904, he became secretary to the Bishop of Bergamo. From 1921 onwards he served the Holy See in Rome, Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece, culminating as Apostolic Nuncio to France 1944-1953 when he was created cardinal and made Patriarch of Venice. Elected Pope in 1958, he convoked the Roman Synod, instituted the revision of Canon Law, and called the Second Vatican Council, opened on 11th October 1962. He died during the Council on 3rd June 1963.

Thanks to the inspiration of Pope John XXIII the great sign given to this generation was Vatican II in the 1960s. The Council was called to reflect on the Church and its response to a changing world. The documents were inspiring, challenging and motivating. Still today they cause controversy in the Church. But, as the Gospel suggests, Jesus caused much controversy in his day too. This eventually led to his death through which he won salvation for all of us including those who opposed him.

Lumen Gentium 4

“The lay faithful are by baptism made one body with Christ and are constituted among the People of God; they are in their own way made sharers in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions of Christ... They “live in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life... They are called there by God that by exercising their proper function and led by the spirit of the Gospel they may work for the sanctification of the world from within as a leaven. Therefore, from divine choice the laity have Christ for their brother who though He is the Lord of all, came not to be served but to serve. They also have for their brothers those in the sacred ministry who by teaching, by sanctifying and by ruling with the authority of Christ feed the family of God so that the new commandment of charity may be fulfilled by all.”