

October 11: Saint John XXIII: The Joyful Pope

Today we celebrate the life and significant contribution of one of the Church's recently canonized saints: Pope John XXIII. He, along with John Paul II, was declared a saint on April 27, 2014, Divine Mercy Sunday. Over the years of his short pontificate (1958-1963) John XXIII became a beloved figure worldwide; he was popularly known as "Good Pope John." He is remembered for the convocation of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) with its *aggiornamento* agenda for the renewal and updating of the Church. In fact, John XXIII's annual feast day on October 11 is fixed to commemorate his opening of Vatican II on October 11, 1962. Each year as the Church celebrates this saint, we are asked to recall the pivotal role of Vatican II in renewing the life and mission of the Church.

Of the many gifts that John XXIII left to the Church one was his "Daily Decalogue." The following are some brief excerpts: **(1)** Only for today, I will seek to live the livelong day positively; **(2)** Only for today, I will not criticize anyone; **(3)** Only for today, I will be happy in the certainty that I was created to be happy; **(4)** Only for today, I will adapt to circumstances; **(5)** Only for today, I will devote ten minutes of my time to some good reading.

Pope John's Decalogue continues: **(6)** Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it; **(7)** Only for today, I will do at least one thing I do not like doing; **(8)** Only for today, I will make a plan for myself; **(9)** Only for today, I will firmly believe, despite appearances, that the good Providence of God cares for me; and **(10)** Only for today, I will have no fears. We marvel at John XXIII's wisdom, guiding us in fulfilling our mission!