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University of Dayton

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Feb. 28, 2002
Contact: Pam Huber
Huber@udayton.edu
Or Tom Columbus
Columbus@udayton.edu

NEWS RELEASE

TEACHINGS, GUIDANCE FROM VATICAN II DOCUMENTS A GOOD GUIDE FOR THE CHURCH IN THE NEW MILLIENNIUM

DAYTON, Ohio — As the church finds its way through the first decade of the new millennium, looking 40 years back may help it confront the future, says an author and expert on Vatican II and the Catholic Church.

Pope John Paul II wrote in the apostolic letter *Tertio Millennio Adveniente*, "The best preparation for the new millennium, therefore, can only be expressed in a renewed commitment to apply, as faithfully as possible, the teachings of Vatican II to the life of every individual and of the whole Church." The italics on applying Vatican II to life are in the letter's text.

Those teachings and guidance in applying them can be found in *The Church Emerging from Vatican II: A popular approach to contemporary Catholicism*, a book by Dennis Doyle, a University of Dayton professor of religious studies. According to Doyle, his book "takes both liberals and conservatives seriously and tries to work something out."

What he has worked out is a readable, yet substantial, look at the Catholic Church in the context of the documents of Vatican II. The Rev. Francis J. Buckley, S.J., professor of theology and religious studies at the University of San Francisco, has called it "the best available introduction to the documents of Vatican II for college students." Other reviewers recommend it for religious education programs and study groups.

Doyle has organized his book, published by Twenty-Third Publications, Mystic, Conn., to parallel the sections of the council document *Lumen Gentium* and *Gaudium and Spes*.

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
300 College Park Dayton, Ohio 45469-1679
(937) 229-3241 (937) 229-3063 Fax
www.udayton.edu

The book's second edition came out this year. The first edition, published in 1992, won a second-place award from the Catholic Press Association for an educational book and sold 18,000 copies. For the new edition, Doyle updated and expanded the reading lists, added commentary based on what has happened in the intervening years and did some rewriting based on comments he has received. Both editions grew not only out of Doyle's scholarship but also out of his classroom teaching.

Acknowledgments in the front of the book include the students — listed individually — in his "Religion 340: The Church" classes of winter 1991 and fall 2000.

Doyle gives much of the credit for the book being readable to his students and his wife, Patricia. "She read every line," he said. "She'd tell me in no uncertain terms when something wasn't clear."

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For media interviews, contact **Dennis Doyle** at (937) 229-4219 or via e-mail at dennis.doyle@notes.udayton.edu. For a review copy of the book, contact Jane Evans at 1-800-321-0411, ext. 115, or via e-mail at ttpubs@aol.com.