

E. Schillebeeckx OP  
Vatican II: the real achievement  
London: Sheed and Ward, 1967

Het tweede Vaticaans Concilie  
Bilthoven: Uitgeverij H. Nilissen, 1966

Chapter 3: Reflections on the final results of the council. p 53-90

56 "The characteristic of Vatican II is that its basic theme concerns the question of religious existence in a world that is changing, abandoning sacral for human forms. This question is developed from all angles... and in this light I want to outline the council's achievement."

1 "Every man's right to organise his life in accordance with his own deepest convictions... stands foremost... .. religiousness can have no meaning if it does not rest on the free surrender of the heart and on moral conviction." De lib. rel., spec. #2.

57 Comparison of the former Catholic conception of toleration with that of article 124 of the Soviet republic's 1936 constitution, article 124.

"Both cases are based on the conviction: 'I have the truth which alone has rights -- and that includes me.'"

2 (58) "The council regards the religious dimension as a constituent of man. Mankind's religiousness is the answer to man's profound thinking on the reason for his existence. Thus the source of all religions lies in a prereflexive, intimately religious awareness, whilst the concrete religions themselves are the varied reflexive or thematised expressions of religious awareness; they are its historic-al expressions in accordance with the varied & genius of nations." ad rel. non-xtianas, #1.

59 "Anyway, apart from all deviations and wrong interpretations, the council sees something ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ unassailable in all religions: all spiritual, moral, and social-cultural values in these religions are recognised by the church and she even wants to promote them." ad rel. non-xtianas, #2, ad fin.

60 "For the first time in <sup>its</sup> history the church has officially relinquished her religious monopoly. This has led to a new attitude to the non-Christian religions and to 'searching' mankind in general." De act. missionali eccl., ##15, 16, 18, 19; Const. past. de eccl. in mundo huius temporis, #44.