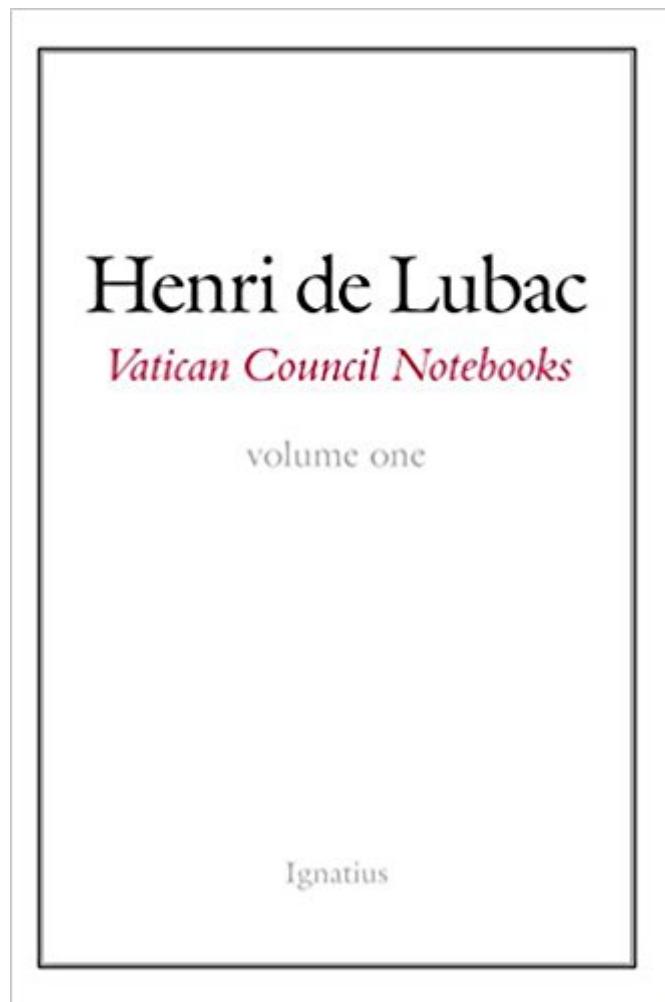


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Vatican Council Notebooks: Volume One



Synopsis

â œSurprising news!â •â With these words, Fr. Henri de Lubac, S.J., whose orthodoxy had been so vigorously attacked, responded to the announcement of his selection to participate in the 2nd Vatican Council. His participation as a theologian and expert would make a lasting impact on the Council, and his insights and comments are recorded in this long-awaited volume. These Notebooks trace the two years of preparation, the four conciliar sessions, and the three periods between sessions. They give us the opportunity to assist at the discussion of the schemas (initial drafts of conciliar texts), but also, during the meetings of the theological commission and the sub-commissions, at the elaboration and correction of the texts submitted to the Council fathers. The eminent theologian de Lubac is a sure guide for the reader, introducing us to the theological ferment of the Council and helping us to grasp what was at stake in the often animated debates.â De Lubac does not hesitate to express clearly what he thinks of the theologians around him, of the new concepts appearing because of the Council, or of the problems he judges to be most serious for the Christian faith. These Notebooks invite us to a greater historical and theological understanding of the Council.â Besides information about the numerous aspects of the conciliar assembly, what makes the testimony of these notebooks so captivating is the strongly rendered presence of men and their psychology. De Lubac excels in sketching the portrait of the participants with only a few words.â Among the many interesting encounters, heâ tells ofâ deepening his acquaintance with Josef Ratzinger, whom he describes as a â œtheologian as peaceable and kindly as he is competentâ •. In the same way, during the long discussion over the drafting of the constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, he observed the assertiveness of Karol Wojty a, whose interventions struck him because of the seriousness, the rigor, and the solidity of his faith, which created in him a lively sense ofâ spiritual friendship, which was reciprocated.â œThese Notebooks bear witness to the difficulties Fr. de Lubac experienced in the years following the publication of *Surnaturel* (Supernatural, 1946), very much in evidence within the Theological Commission, in the preparatory period during which the theologian, just recently named to the commission by John XXIII, was confronted with future conciliar schemas prepared by his adversaries. Nevertheless, it was his theology that prevailed in *Lumen Gentium* and also in *Dei Verbum*.â •â "Jacques Prevotat, Professor of Modern History, University of Lille-III, From the Preface

Book Information

Paperback: 557 pages

Publisher: Ignatius Press (May 12, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1586173057

ISBN-13: 978-1586173050

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.6 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #751,869 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #443 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Biographies > Popes & the Vatican #514 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Ecclesiology #1849 in Books > History > World > Religious > General

Customer Reviews

Henri Cardinal de Lubac was a French Jesuit priest, theologian and expert at Vatican II. He wrote numerous theological and spiritual works including Splendor of the Church, Catholicism, Motherhood of the Church, and The Drama of Atheist Humanism.

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