

~~Pope~~ Pope John XXIII was an extremely significant person in Christianity. His numerous deeds <sup>had</sup> ~~and~~ an immense affect on Christianity during his time and have greatly influenced Christianity as it is today.

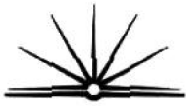
Born in 1881, Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli led a tumultuous life which greatly influenced his contributions and effect on Christianity. He entered the seminary before becoming Priest secretary to Bishop Tedeschi where he developed a sense and need to achieve peace and justice. As a chaplain in WWI, Roncalli witnessed the horrors of war which fiercely fuelled his need to achieve a harmonious world. As Bishop of Bulgaria he initiated dialogue amongst Orthodoxy and Islam. It was in 1958 following the death of Pope Pius<sup>Pius</sup> XXIII that he was inducted as Pope John XXIII.



Pope John XXIII greatly affected Christianity via the Second Vatican Council. In 1959, Pope John XXIII stated it was time for a "new pentecost". He initiated the council as he wished to redefine the church, renew the church, create unity amongst Christians and engage in dialogue. The Vatican II which Pope John XXIII presided over eventuated in 16 documents which included four constitutions. These four constitutions greatly affected Christianity. The constitution on the sacred liturgy had an immense effect on Christians. John XXIII along with other bishops and religious leaders formed the constitution which states that the church exists because of the people and if there are no people then there can be no liturgy. Hence John XXIII's impact on Christian liturgy was significant in that the liturgy was made to be more inclusive and mass was to be spoken in the vernacular.

John XXIII also had an undeniable effect on Christianity via the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation and the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church. Both constitutions included the idea of the church as the people and encouraged adherents to seek an intimate relationship with God. Hence, by initiating the Vatican II, John XXIII greatly effected Christianity, as the religious tradition began to concentrate on the community and strengthening ones faith.

By initiating the Vatican II, Pope John XXIII had a great effect on Christianity as he encouraged increasing dialogue and created an ecumenical climate via the Final constitution, the Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World. Hence the constitution focused on initiating dialogue with other



religious traditions and attempting to achieve respect, mutual understanding, cooperation and peace. Hence, via the Second Vatican Council, Pope John XXIII had a direct and great effect on Christianity as he made the liturgy more opened to the laity, encouraged an ecumenical climate and strengthened Christian faith and spirituality.

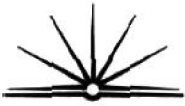
Pope John XXIII also had a great effect on Christianity via his peace encyclical entitled "Pacem in Terris". Pope John XXIII was from a time of great conflict and decadence, with the Cuban Missile Crisis just ending and the mass bombardment of the media, John XXIII felt humanity had lost its way. He stated, "In every age the church carries the responsibility of reading the signs of the times". Hence, through his peace encyclical, John



XXIII creates a document for every age, and for years to come about the importance of peace and how it can be achieved.

Through "Pacem in Terris", John XXIII greatly effected Christianity in regards to peace, Christian life, human rights and ecuminism and interfaith dialogue.

The encyclical created by Pope John XXIII includes four parts, that being human rights, building peace, Christian life and war. John XXIII has an immense effect on Christianity via the section on human rights as he states that all humans have the right to live, right to freedom, right to education and a right to medical attention. His focus on human rights therefore impacted greatly on Christianity, as adherents were made to realise



the many injustices in the world and to take action. Also, the encyclical included an area on building peace. In the encyclical, John XXIII states that all should work towards a harmonious world where all are free to live and are free from discrimination and racism. Hence, John XXIII greatly effected Christianity as he initiated various peace actions and movements.

The areas regarding christian life and war included the idea that immigrants should be welcomed and accepted and that nuclear weapons should be banned as they destroy lives. Hence, through his encyclical, Pope John XXIII created a climate of love, he effected christians greatly as they were and are still encouraged to love all and to not harm other living beings.



Therefore, Pope John XXIII immensely affected Christianity through the Second Vatican Council and the "Pacem in Terris" encyclical as he encouraged dialogue, reformed Christian life and most importantly <sup>source</sup> strived to achieve a ~~model~~ <sup>source</sup> for peace for generations to come.