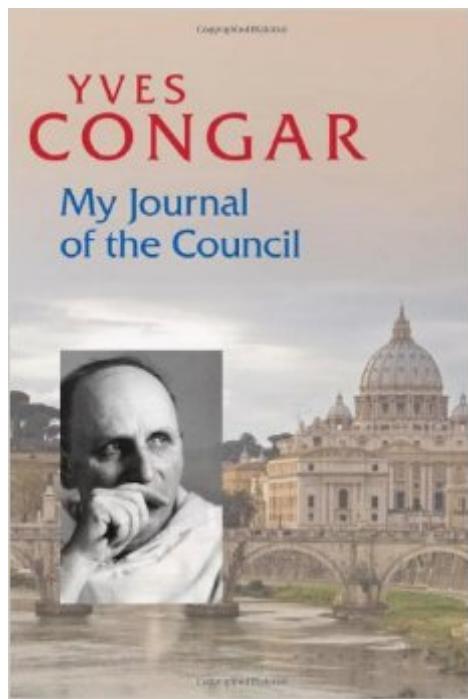


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My Journal Of The Council



Synopsis

"At the beginning of the meeting Cardinal Ottaviani said that, to speed the work up, the experts will speak only if they are asked a question. At my side, Rahner was champing at the bit, and said to me what are we doing here . . . ?" (Wednesday 3 June 1964) Yves Congar, OP, was one of the most important and influential theologians of the twentieth century. Much of this influence came as a result of his role as theological advisor to the bishops who participated at the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). After working under a cloud of ecclesiastical censure and suspicion in the decade prior to its start, Congar was, from beginning to end, an influential day-to-day participant in the council's work. He also managed to keep detailed personal notes throughout the time. At long last, the council diaries of Yves Congar are available in English! This material is a treasure trove of information and insight for anyone interested in the history of that council and its remarkable and historic teaching. It provides a window into the council's workings and the development of what would become a series of historic documents and declarations. It also offers Congar's own down-to-earth and personal perspective on many of the other remarkable figures who played a role in the council.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Yves Congar is widely hailed as a top Catholic thinker, but it wasn't always so. In the 1950's, along with Henri de Lubac and Karl Rahner, Congar was censured for what were perceived to be 'progressive' ideas. The Church's fog of suspicion hung over his work for almost a decade, and he was shunned by many fellow theologians. However in 1960, Congar was redeemed. Pope John

XXIII personally invited him to attend the Second Vatican Council as a consultor, which Congar humbly accepted. He brought his prodigious expertise to the gathering in areas like Tradition, the laity, ecumenism, and ecclesiology. His impact was evident throughout all the conciliar documents, including *Lumen Gentium* (especially sections 9, 13, 16, and 17) and the Declaration on Non-Christian Religions (says Congar, "I worked on this; the introduction and conclusion are very nearly mine.") John O'Malley, author of *What Happened at Vatican II* (Belknap, 2008), considers Congar "the council's single most important theologian". Joseph Komonchak, editor of the English version of *The History of Vatican II* (Orbis, 1996), calls him its "most influential." So what a gift it is that such a pivotal figure recorded his personal thoughts, each day throughout the council, and left them for us. *My Journal of the Council* (Liturgical Press, 1,100 pages, hardcover) may seem intimidating at first glance. It spans half a decade and is written by a top-notch academic.

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