WORKSHEETS

Céilí Dé
Mendicant Orders
Vatican II

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WORKSHEET 01

READ • UNDERSTAND • RESPOND

Three moments of renewal: the Céilí Dé, the Mendicant Orders and Vatican II

Name: _____ **Class:** _____ **Date:** _____

YOUR TASK Read each short text carefully. Write your answers into your copy. Answer in full sentences and use evidence from the information in the text. Some questions ask you to explain, compare and evaluate—not just recall facts.

A. The Céilí Dé: Returning to their Roots

In the 8th century, a period of significant change, the Céilí Dé (or Culdees) emerged as an Irish reform movement. It was associated with two abbots, Maelruain and Dudlittir, who led monasteries in Tallaght and Finglas. They were dissatisfied with aspects of monastic life and with the general practice of people who called themselves Christian. Their aim was to renew monastic life by returning to its origins. Prayer, labour and study were central to their way of life. They placed great importance on study and the hermetic life, produced devotional literature and religious poetry, and prayed for at least eight hours each day. They also emphasised Sunday as a day of rest and prayer. The movement was not highly structured and did not develop uniformly, which helps explain why it did not survive in the same way as some other reform movements.

1. What prompted the emergence of the Céilí Dé movement?

2. Name the two abbots associated with the movement and the monasteries they led.

3. Identify the three central pursuits of Céilí Dé life. Explain why each might have mattered to reform.

4. Give two examples of how the Céilí Dé expressed their commitment to prayer and study.

5. Why did the movement not survive in the same way as some other reform movements?

B. The Mendicant Orders: Renewal in the towns and cities

In the 13th century, growing urban centres encouraged people from different backgrounds to exchange ideas and question established practices. Some Christians criticised clergy whom they saw as wealthy and powerful, with lifestyles unlike the values of the Gospels. The Mendicant Orders

responded by embracing poverty, preaching and pastoral care while remaining within the Church. They had no possessions and had the right to beg; they were united regardless of location; and pastoral care was central to their work. Four mendicant orders emerged: the Dominicans, Franciscans, Augustinians and Carmelites. The Dominicans, founded by St Dominic, became known as the Order of Preachers and emphasised learning. St Francis of Assisi renounced his wealth and inspired others through his commitment to poverty and preaching. The Franciscan goal was to imitate Christ in all things.

6. What changes in society helped create the conditions for the Mendicant Orders?

7. List the three common characteristics of the Mendicant Orders.

8. Explain one similarity and one difference between the Dominicans and Franciscans.

9. Why is it significant that the Mendicant Orders remained within the Church?

C. Vatican II: Opening the windows

The Second Vatican Council took place from 1962 to 1965. Pope John XXIII called it because he believed the Church needed to pay attention to changes in the modern world and discern its role in the 20th century. The council's purpose was to update the Church's agenda. This was described as aggiornamento—'throwing open the windows' and allowing the winds of change to blow through the Church. Around 2,450 bishops met in four sessions over four years. Non-Catholic observers and guests, Catholic men and women auditors and journalists were also present. The council produced 16 documents. Lumen Gentium encouraged the Church to understand itself more as a community of believers, and the council called for greater involvement of the laity, reconciliation with other churches, and Christian action for human rights, race relations and social justice.

10. What did Pope John XXIII hope the council would help the Church to do?

11. In your own words, explain the meaning of aggiornamento.

12. Identify two ways Vatican II encouraged the Church to change.

13. Why might the changes have caused both excitement and worry?

14. Which of the three reform movements do you think had the most far-reaching impact? Give reasons for your answer.

WORKSHEET 02

THE GREAT CHURCH DEBATE

Tradition, poverty, authority and change

Name: _____ **Class:** _____ **Date:** _____

BIG QUESTION How should the Church respond when its practices no longer seem to reflect the values of the Gospel?

• Take a position

Imagine you are a member of one of the following groups when they were first formed– the Franciscans, Dominicans or Céilí Dé. Answer the following questions as from that perspective. For each statement, decide whether you agree, disagree or are unsure. Write one reason.

1. A Church leader should live simply and avoid wealth.	**AGREE / DISAGREE / UNSURE**
My reason:	

2. The Church must change its practices when society changes.	**AGREE / DISAGREE / UNSURE**
My reason:	

3. Returning to the original vision of Jesus is the best way to renew the Church.	**AGREE / DISAGREE / UNSURE**
My reason:	

4. Learning and education are just as important to reform as prayer.	**AGREE / DISAGREE / UNSURE**
My reason:	

5. People who are not part of the Church should be invited to contribute to conversations about its future.	**AGREE / DISAGREE / UNSURE**
My reason:	

6. The laity should have an active role in the life and mission of the Church.	**AGREE / DISAGREE / UNSURE**
My reason:	

WORKSHEET 03

THE TABLEMAT CHALLENGE

Think individually • Share ideas • Build a group conclusion

Name: _____ **Class:** _____ **Date:** _____

Work in a group of four. Each person completes one section independently before the group discusses the ideas and agrees on a shared response.

PERSON 1 • THE PROBLEM What dissatisfaction or challenge led to reform? Think about the Céilí Dé, the Mendicant Orders and Vatican II. Evidence / ideas:	**PERSON 2 • THE RESPONSE** What did the reformers do differently? Consider prayer, study, poverty, preaching, pastoral care, etc. Evidence / ideas:
PERSON 3 • THE IMPACT What changed as a result? Were there tensions, challenges or limitations? Consider the survival of the Céilí Dé and the effects of Vatican II. Evidence / ideas:	**PERSON 4 • THE LESSON** What can these movements teach the Church today about renewal? What should be preserved? What might need to change? Evidence / ideas:

The centre of the tablemat • Our shared response

After everyone has shared, agree on one group answer to the big question. Your conclusion should include at least TWO examples from the material.

OUR GROUP CONCLUSION

Example 1

Example 2

Share back

Prepare a 60-second report. Each group member must contribute one idea. Be ready to explain which piece of evidence most influenced your conclusion.

One idea from another group that made us think:

A question we are still considering:

WORKSHEET 04

THE MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS

Become an expert • Teach your classmates • Make connections

Name: _____ **Class:** _____ **Date:** _____

HOW IT WORKS Each group becomes an expert on one reform movement or council. You will create a mini 'market stall' and teach visitors the key information. Visitors collect ideas from every stall.

Part A • Your expert group

Your teacher will allocate one topic to each group:

STALL 1	**The Céilí Dé — Origins and purpose • Prayer, labour and study • Daily life • Why it did not survive in the same way as other reform movements**
STALL 2	**The Dominicans — St Dominic • The context of the 13th century • Poverty and preaching • Learning and the universities**
STALL 3	**The Franciscans — St Francis of Assisi • Renouncing wealth • Imitating Christ • Commitment to the poor and preaching**
STALL 4	**The Second Vatican Council — 1962–1965 • Pope John XXIII • Aggiornamento • The council's process, documents and key outcomes**

Our assigned stall:
Three essential facts every visitor should remember:
One memorable way to present our topic (timeline, mini-poster, role-play, quiz, quotation or challenge):
A question we will ask visitors to check their understanding:

Part B • Visit the marketplace

Visit the other stalls. Listen actively, ask questions and record the key ideas. Do not simply copy: summarise in your own words.

TOPIC / STALL	TWO KEY THINGS I LEARNED	A QUESTION OR CONNECTION
The Céilí Dé		
The Dominicans		
The Franciscans		
Vatican II		

Part C • Make the connection – *answer the following questions into your copy.*

1. What common concern or goal links these reform movements?
2. Which movement responded most directly to the needs of its time? Explain your choice.
3. What is one important difference between reform that begins within the Church and reform that challenges it from outside?