

A rich Vatican II resource made available

By Father Kevin T Kelly

A collection of recordings of more than 800 talks on Vatican II and its implications for everyday life is being made available on-line (free of charge) or in CD format (at cost price).

As a result of the Second Vatican Council, adult Christian education for laity and in-service training for clergy and religious became key priorities. The northern bishops responded to this need in 1975 by establishing the Upholland Northern Institute (UNI) to serve the northern dioceses and Shrewsbury. After the amalgamation of the two northern major seminaries in Ushaw, St Joseph's College, Upholland was chosen as the hub of this new enterprise to promote Vatican II renewal.

UNI was staffed by specialists in biblical studies, dogmatic, moral and pastoral theology and liturgy. Between 1975 and 1988 a great variety of talks and residential courses were held. Internationally renowned theologians and biblical scholars were invited to lead many of these courses. Members of the UNI team also went out to parishes and deaneries throughout the North to run weekend (or even whole week) courses for clergy and laity.

UNITAPES began with the recording on cassette tapes of a year-long course of evening talks on 'Understanding the Faith' by Fr. Hugh Lavery. These talks regularly attracted an audience in excess of 300 who braved the near arctic conditions of a poorly heated College Chapel. The tapes were on sale the following week and became a very important tool enabling people far and wide to benefit.

UNITAPES soon became a regular feature in all UNI's educational work. By the time UNI closed in August 1988 more than 800 had been

recorded. When the Gradwell Library moved from Upholland College to Liverpool Hope University, the entire collection of followed.

With time cassette tapes can deteriorate. To avoid the rich material being lost, over the past year all 800 recordings have been digitised by the Liverpool Hope University IT Department. This has ensured that the material is available to a wider audience.

The committee behind the project believes that the material contained in many of these lectures has great relevance in today's world. It is a valuable tool for promoting growth in understanding the Christian message, the aims of Vatican II and their implications for life today. Moreover, it is a non-profit-making undertaking.

Hence, the digitised recordings are available on-line free of charge. People will be able to download them or listen to them at www.unitape.org

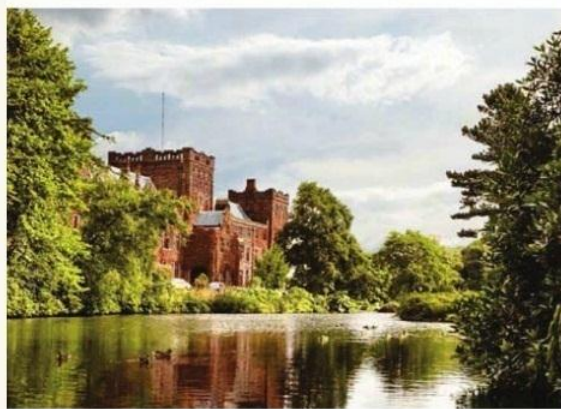
An attractive catalogue can also be accessed on line and contains instructions for downloading talks individually or as a series on a specific theme. Printed copies of the catalogue can be obtained from The Secretary, Department of Pastoral Formation, LACE, Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool L17 1AA.

In addition to the on-line format, CDs of the various talks



are also available charged £2 incl pp for each printed catalogue and £3 for each CD (or £15 for each series of talks) There will be special charges for overseas orders.

The years 2012-2015 make up the 50th Anniversary of Vatican II. UNITAPES are a very valuable tool for anyone wanting to deepen their understanding of the faith at this momentous time. They will bring encouragement and hope.



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