

Yes, the Church 'in' the Modern World!

Thomas C. Fox | Oct. 28, 2009 NCR Today

You can always count on James Carroll to offer an insightful perspective. [His latest column](#) [1] in the Boston Globe begins with these words:

The single most eloquent expression of the Catholic Church's Second Vatican Council in 1965 was a preposition - the word "in." The title of the council declaration "The Church in the Modern World" could readily have been expected to be "The Church against the Modern World," reiterating a long-held opposition. Or, a little more positively, it might have been "The Church and the Modern World," defining a gulf between the sacred and the secular that devalues both realms. But instead, the council fathers stated their conviction that the church, neither above nor detached, is integrally a part of the contemporary human condition - happily so. The decree's Latin title "Gaudium et Spes" translates as "Joy and Hope" - an even stronger signal of the council's affirming mind-set.

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[1]

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