



Archdiocesan Program

WHY CATHOLIC?

STRENGTHENING FAITH ... MAKING DISCIPLES



THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

THE DIVINE REVELATION

Biblical Reflection: 1 Pt 1:12-21

What Christ entrusted to the apostles, they in turn handed on by their preaching and writing, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to all generations, until Christ returns in glory. (CCC 96)



God is the author of Sacred Scripture. The divinely revealed realities, which are contained and presented in the text of Sacred Scripture, have been written down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. (CCC 105)

The Old Testament is an indispensable part of Sacred Scripture. Its books are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value, for the Old Covenant has never been revoked. (CCC 121)

The Word of God, which is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, is set forth and displays its power in a most wonderful way in the writings of the New Testament which hand on the ultimate truth in God's Revelation. Their central object is Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Son: his acts, teachings, Passion and glorification, and his Church's beginnings under the Spirit's guidance. (CCC 124)

The Church "forcefully and specifically exhorts all the Christian faithful... to learn 'the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ,' by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures. 'Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ'" (St. Jerome). (CCC 133)

The unity of the two Testaments proceeds from the unity of God's plan and his Revelation. The Old Testament prepares for the New and the New Testament fulfills the Old; the two shed light on each other; both are true Word of God. (CCC 140)

St. Thérèse of Lisieux wrote: "But above all it's the Gospels that occupy my mind when I'm at prayer; my poor soul has so many needs, and yet this is the one thing needful. I'm always finding fresh lights there, hidden and enthralling meanings", *ms. autob.* A 83v. (CCC 127)

Questions for discussion:

- How does the Church help you to learn and understand the Bible?
- What Bible's book(s) do you read more frequently? What book(s) are you less familiar with?
- Who is the individual in the Bible with whom you most identify yourself? Expand your answer.
- St. Thérèse of Lisieux said that, in the Gospels, she always discovered "fresh lights, hidden and enthralling meanings". What lights and meanings do you discover in the Gospels?
- In your own personal opinion, what is the difference, if any, between the Bible and other religious books, such as spirituality, lives of Saints, theology, etc.?
- If there is an opportunity for a Bible course, which book would you choose to be studied in such course? Why?

Further reading: Catechism of the Catholic Church, numbers 74-141