

# CATHOLIC UNDERSTANDING OF SACRED SCRIPTURE

## **Session Description:**

This session presents an introduction to the Bible as the inspired word of God by exploring the composition, canon and authority of Sacred Scripture in both the Old and New Testaments and their relation to Sacred Tradition in the Catholic Church.

## **Focus of the Session:**

"In Sacred Scripture, God speaks to us in a human way. To interpret Scripture correctly, the reader must be attentive to what the human authors truly wanted to affirm and to what God wanted to reveal to us by their words (CCC #109)."

## **Content:**

In conducting this session, the instructor will:

1. Demonstrate the differences between Catholic and Protestant canons of the Bible.
2. Affirm the importance of both the Old and New Testaments as God's divine revelation.
3. Analyze basic criteria for a Catholic interpretation of the Biblical text.
4. Explore the relationship between Scripture and Tradition.
5. View some methods for using and teaching Scripture in catechesis.
6. Offer an opportunity to analyze some sample texts using Catholic criteria of interpretation.

## **Learning Outcomes:**

As a result of this session, the catechist will:

1. Come to appreciate the importance of the Bible in the faith lives of Catholics.
2. Understand the criteria for interpreting the Biblical text.
3. Be able to explain the relationship of Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterium.
4. Be comfortable using Scripture in the classroom and for one's own spiritual growth.
5. Have practiced working with interpreting and integrating critical Biblical texts.

## **References:**

- A Catholic edition of the Holy Bible
- *Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation*: #10-12, 16, 22-25
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: # 80-87, 105-114, 120-133
- *Interpreting the Bible in the Church*: Pontifical Biblical Commission, 1993
- *National Directory for Catechesis*: pp. 70-71