



## God's Revelation

### Core Competency:

The primary focus of the Core Sessions is the evangelization and faith journey of the catechist. It is essential that these sessions invite the catechist to discipleship by cultivating their relationship with Christ and a life of holiness.

### Focus of the Session:

The participants will discover that God has revealed Himself and His plan for us through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. These truths are only knowable to the human race through God's free gift of self-revelation. "It is good and pleasing to God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth." (1Tim 2:3-4). To proclaim and safeguard these truths to all people and every generation, Jesus entrusted the fullness of divine revelation to the apostles and the Church.

### Content of the Session:

#### 1. Revelation CCC50-53 (*Moderate Development*)

"It pleased God, in his goodness and wisdom, to reveal himself and to make known the mystery of his will. His will was that men should have access to the Father, through Christ, the Word made flesh, in the Holy Spirit, and thus become sharers in the divine nature." (CCC 51)

##### a. Content of Revelation

- God reveals **Himself** as a Trinity, a community of self-giving and life-giving love.
- God reveals **who we are**, His children, created body and soul, in His image and likeness.
- God reveals **His plan** to invite us into His Trinitarian life.

##### b. Purpose of Revelation

- Invitation to eternal intimacy- we are invited to encounter, know, hope in, and love God as individuals and as His people.

#### 2. Modes of Revelation (*Moderate Development*)

##### A. Sacred Tradition (CCC 74-83)

a. "The Tradition here in question comes from the apostles and hands on what they received from Jesus' teaching and example and what they learned from the Holy Spirit." (CCC 83).

- It is the living faith of the Apostles
- It is demonstrated in Scripture
- It is handed on from one generation to the next through Apostolic Succession.
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a summation of much of Sacred Tradition

b. Guided by the Holy Spirit and Sacred Tradition, the Church

- Compiled the books of the Bible
- Authoritatively interprets Scripture
- Leads the faithful through every age and defends against errors and heresy
- Defines doctrine

##### B. Sacred Scripture (CCC 101-108)

a. "God is the author of sacred Scriptures" (CCC 105)

- The Holy Spirit inspired human authors to write down those truths and realities God desired to communicate, His self-revelation.

b. As Scripture unfolds, it reveals the loving person of God and His effort to restore us to life with Him.

##### Overview of Scripture

- I. God created us to be in intimate relationship with Him.
- II. Our sin separates us from God.

- III. God promises to restore us.
  - IV. God fulfills His promise in Jesus.
  - V. Jesus gives us grace and the Church to restore us to intimacy.
- C. The Incarnation- God's perfect revelation (CCC 65, 516)
- “In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son.’ Christ, the Son of God made man, is the Father’s one, perfect and unsurpassable Word. In him he has said everything; there will be no other word than this one.” (CCC 65)
- Revelation is intended to reveal the person and plan of God. Therefore, there can be no more perfect expression than Jesus, who is God and completes the work of salvation.
  - Jesus, “is one and the same Utterance that resounds in the mouths of all the sacred writers” (CCC 102)
  - Jesus’ reveals God’s “innermost secret” of Trinitarian life (CCC 221)
3. **The Church and Revelation** CCC 85-87 (*Basic Introduction*)
- “The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the Church alone. Its authority in this matter is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ.’ This means that the task of interpretation has been entrusted to the bishops in communion with the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome. (CCC 85)
- To ensure the full message of salvation is accessible to “all people” in “all generations” Jesus entrusted the apostles with its care. (CCC 74)
  - Jesus gives the authority and guidance of the Holy Spirit to enable the Church to give definitive interpretations of Scripture, morality, and matters of salvation. (Jn 14:26, Mt 16:18, 28:18-20, CCC 113).
  - This provides us with certitude and assurance that human vices or frailty will not deprive us of divine revelation.
4. **Response to Divine Revelation** CCC 142-143 (*Basic Introduction*)
- “By revealing himself God wishes to make men capable of responding to him, and of knowing him and of loving him far beyond their own natural capacity.” (CCC 52)
- a. God’s self-gift requires a response.
    - Prayerfully read Scripture: St Jerome said: "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ"
      - Reflecting on: How does it point me to Jesus? How does it inform me to live? How is God calling me to intimacy?
    - Seek to understand and be obedient to Church teaching.
5. **Scripture and Tradition in Catechesis** (*Basic Introduction*)
- a. “Catechesis draws its message from the Word of God, which is its main source. Sacred Scripture, which God has inspired, reaches the depths of the human spirit better than any other word.” (DC # 91)
  - b. Practical Incorporation
    - Praying Scripture (lectio divina, Ignatian prayer, quiet meditation)
    - Theological reflection -reading, contemplation, and conversation
    - Fidelity to Church teaching even when we do not understand or agree
    - Resources: Bible & Catechism apps: USCCB, EWTN, Laudate, Halo, etc...

**Additional References:**

- Catechism of the Catholic Church: #120-141
- Directory for Catechesis: #11-12, 22-27

**Document Abbreviations:**

DC- Directory for Catechesis