

***Diocease of Wilmington
Office for Religious Education
In-Service on Revelation for Catechists***

(In addition to Diocesan in-service on Revelation, the catechist may use the following outline to study the topic under the guidance of the Director of Religious Education.)

1. Revelation

Study the explanation of Revelation from the Catechism of the Catholic Church #50.

By natural reason man can know God with certainty, on the basis of his works. But there is another order of knowledge, which man cannot possibly arrive at by his own powers: the order of divine revelation. Through an utterly free decision, God has revealed himself and given himself to man. This he does by revealing the Mystery, his plan of loving goodness, formed from all eternity in Christ, for the benefit of all men. God has fully revealed this plan by sending us his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. CCC #50

2. Vatican Council II on Divine Revelation

Read the article as preparation, followed by the Church document.

Very Revealing: The Constitution on Divine Revelation by Bill Huebsch
<http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/SFS/an0405.asp>

Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum)
Vatican Council II, 1965.
(To access on the www, Google by title of the document.)

**Quotes from Dei Verbum
Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation
Vatican Council II-1965**

(If time does not permit a study of the entire document, the following quotes are most important to the study of Divine Revelation)

...Scripture contains revelation, namely, in the form of a written record; but not all of Scripture is revelation. Much of it is the record of revelation's effects, of the human reaction to it, of men's faith or lack of it. All of Scripture is inspired, but not all is revealed. Similarly, tradition comes to include much that is only of human origin, however venerable and valuable. At the time of the Council of Trent, great difficulty was experienced in drawing a line between traditions which merely witnessed to ancient usages in the Church and those which represented the revelation of Christ. Considerable progress has been made since then by theologians and Church historians in clarifying the point, but not all such questions are yet solved.

From the Introduction by R.A.F. Mackenzie, S.J.

...Jesus perfected revelation by fulfilling it through his whole work of making Himself present and manifesting Himself: through His words and deeds, His signs and wonders, but especially through His death and glorious resurrection from the dead and final sending of the Spirit of truth. Moreover, he confirmed with divine testimony what revelation proclaimed: that God is with us to free us from the darkness of sin and death, and to raise us up to life eternal.

The Christian dispensation, therefore, as the new and definitive covenant, will never pass away, and we now await no further public revelation before the glorious manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ (cf. 1Tim. 6:14 and Tit. 2:13).

Chapter 1 #4

But in order to keep the gospel forever whole and alive within the Church, the apostles left bishops as their successors, “handing over their own teaching role to them”. This sacred tradition, therefore, and sacred Scripture of both the Old and the New Testament are like a mirror in which the pilgrim Church on earth looks at God, from whom she has received everything, until she is brought finally to see Him as He is, face to face (cf. 1Jn. 3:2). Chapter II # 7

This the apostles did , (handed on the faith) in the first place, by word of mouth. That oral transmission has never ceased in the Church. Preaching, instruction of converts, catechetics, are still oral, person to person communication. The message must normally be passed on by personal contact. Christianity can never become a mere book-religion.
Footnote 16 Chapter II # 8.

3. *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*

Chapter 2: *God Comes to Meet Us* (pp. 11-19, On Revelation)

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. 2006

4. Catechism of the Catholic Church

Read the In Brief Sections noted for an understanding of Revelation

Article 1

The Revelation of God

In Brief Section #'s 68-73

Article 2

The Transmission of Divine Revelation

In Brief Section #'s 96-100

Article 3

Sacred Scripture

In Brief Section #'s 134-141

Additional paragraphs from the CCC for a deeper grasp of Revelation.

Article I

The Revelation of God #'s 51-67

Article 2

The transmission of Divine Revelation #'s 74-95

Article 3

Sacred Scripture #'s 101-133