



# VATICAN II

---

*Celebrating 50 Years*

## **Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation *Dei Verbum***

Lord our God, in times past you spoke in varied ways through the prophets, but in this final age you have spoken through your Son to reveal to all nations the riches of your word.

May we who meet to renew our interest in the Scriptures be filled with knowledge, wisdom and spiritual understanding.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

\* Opening Prayer

**October 11,  
1962**



Our duty is not only to guard this precious treasure as if we were concerned only with antiquity, but to dedicate ourselves with an earnest will and without fear to that work which our era demands of us . . .

\* With the person next to you consider how you would explain each of the following words to a someone who is not familiar with the terms:

\* Inspiration

\* Revelation

\* Scripture

\* Tradition

# \* What is Inspiration?

- \* Inspired word of God.
- \* God's assistance to the human authors
- \* Inspired by God and guided by the Holy Spirit
- \* Human authors' talents and abilities writing the truth that God intended



- \* God's self communication
- \* Revelation of his saving plan
- \* Fully expressed in Jesus Christ

“Those things revealed by God which are contained and presented in the text of sacred Scripture have been written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. . . . They have God as their author, and have been handed on as such to the church itself.” (DV #11)

\* **What is Revelation?**



\* The root word means “to write”

\* *Bible* -- collection of books

\* Reflection on events

\* Oral tradition

\* Written

\* Editing

\* Editions and stories

\* What is Scripture?





- \* Rooted in teaching of Jesus and the apostles
- \* The Church's ongoing teaching
- \* We believe the Church continues to be inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The task of giving an authentic interpretation to 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. (DV #10)

\* What is tradition?

- \* Proclaimed at Mass
- \* Read as part of each sacrament
- \* Prayed in the Divine Office
- \* Homilies on the scripture readings
- \* Applied to our daily lives
- \* Part of RCIA formation process and catechesis for all ages
- \* Used for personal meditation



\* Light to our path

\* [Vatican Council II]. . .wants the whole world to hear the call to salvation, so that through hearing it the world may believe, through belief it may hope, through hope it may come to love.

(DV #10)

\* **Faith, hope and love**

## \* Brief prologue & six chapters

1. Divine Revelation Itself
2. Transmission of Divine Revelation
3. Sacred Scripture: Divine Inspiration & Interpretation
4. Old Testament
5. New Testament
6. Sacred Scripture in the Life of the Church

# Document Overview

- \* Sharers in the divine nature (DV #2)
- \* God in creation (DV #3)
- \* “God chose to show forth and communicate Himself. . .” (DV #6)
- \* Perfect revelation in Jesus (DV #4)

# \* Ch. 1 : Divine Revelation

- \* Close relationship between Scripture & Tradition
- \* One “divine wellspring”
- \* One single “deposit of faith”
  - \* Christ entrusted his message to the apostles
  - \* Christ named them as teachers
  - \* Bishops have continued that teaching role
  - \* Teaching office which is not “above the word of God but serves it.” (DV #10)

## \* Ch. 2: Transmission of Revelation

\* **ACTIVITY**

\* On a scale of 1 to 10  
(10 being the highest)  
where would you place  
the importance of  
Scripture in your life?  
Tradition?



- \* Attention to the literary form or genre
- \* Investigation of what God wanted to communicate & the meaning that the writers intended
- \* Attention to the customary patterns of writing in that period

## \* Ch. 3: Sacred Scripture

\* The holy Scripture must be read and interpreted in the sacred spirit in which it was written.

\* St. Jerome

For the Church the New Testament is hidden in the Old Testament, and the true meaning of the Old Testament is made manifest in the New Testament.

(DV #16)

\* Ch. 4-5: Old and New Testament

- \* Divinely inspired and retains a permanent value
- \* Communicates God's constant activity in the history of humankind
- \* Prepares for coming of Christ (DV #15).
- \* Provides stepping stones to understand the New Testament
- \* Wealth of prayers and insight into the teachings of God
- \* True Word of God
- \* Makes clear how God is just and merciful

\* Old Testament

- \* Gospels have a special place
- \* Gospels of apostolic origin
- \* Gospels are historical but not “diaries”
- \* Writings and letters

## \* New Testament

\* If Jesus' kept a diary, what might he have said about the influence of Hebrew Scripture in his life? Give one example.

\* Discussion

\* Christian doctrine should be guarded and taught more efficaciously. Scripture is to permeate every aspect of church life, especially at the Eucharist where people receive the bread of life from the table both of God's word and of Christ's body.

John XX111, Opening Address

\* Ch. 6: Scripture in Life of Church



- \* All are to know and study sacred Scripture
- \* All to have access to accurate translations
- \* Homilies on the scripture readings
- \* Reject fundamentalism
- \* Historical critical method
- \* Ecumenical Scripture scholarship

- \* God wants us to know God fully. (2)
- \* God reveals the inner life of the Trinity to us, communicating God's own self to us. This is known as grace. (2)
- \* All revelation is complete in Jesus Christ.
- \* Our response is faith where we entrust our whole selves to God.
- \* There is a close link between Scripture, Tradition, and the teaching authority of the Church. (10)
- \* The new emphasis on the Scriptures found in *Dei Verbum* has changed Catholic prayer and spirituality, making us far more biblical in the ways in which we turn to God.

\* Summary



# VATICAN II

---

*Celebrating 50 Years*

**Dogmatic Constitution on Divine  
Revelation  
*Dei Verbum***