

Knowing God

- Faith is a gift from God that allows us to believe in him and all that he has revealed. We can know God from creation.
- Saint Thomas Aquinas' five proofs of knowing the existence of God by reason.
 - First Mover:** Anything moved is moved by another. There cannot be an infinite series of movers. So there must be a first mover.
 - First Cause:** Anything caused is caused by another. There cannot be an infinite series of causes. So there must be a first cause.
 - Necessary Being:** Not everything is contingent. So there is a necessary being upon which other beings depend for their existence.
 - Greatest Being:** Whatever is great to any degree gets its greatness from that which is the greatest. So there is a greatest being, which is the source of all greatness.
- Intelligent Designer:** Whatever acts for an end must be directed by an intelligent being. So the world must have an intelligent designer.
- It is not contrary to the faith to accept the theory of evolution, so long as we understand that God is our Creator, man is the highest level of creation, and man's soul is created only by God.

Man – Made in God's Image

- Man is composed of a body and a soul.
- Man's soul is rational. The intellect is a power of the rational soul.
- Man is created in God's image. All men are created equal in dignity.
- Man is called to relationship and stewardship.

Revelation

- God has revealed himself out of love for man. The two channels of revelation are Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.
- Revelation is safeguarded by the Magisterium (the teaching Church founded by Jesus Christ).
- Man is called to respond to revelation (the Faith) with a response of belief, which is an act of the will also called faith.

The Trinity

- Faith is reasonable.
- Jesus is the perfection and fullness of the revelation of God. In his Divine Person, Jesus revealed who God is in word and deed.
- The Trinity is the central truth of the Faith. It expresses our belief in one God in three Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation History

- Salvation history is the summary of God's saving actions since Creation.
- The Old Testament teaches how God prepared his people for their Savior, Jesus Christ. The New Testament records the life and teachings of Jesus. The tradition of the Church guides us in living these teachings in anticipation of the Second Coming of Christ.
- The Creed is a summary of salvation history.

Holy Bible

- Sacred Scripture is the inspired word of God, recorded in Seventy-three books.
- The Old Testament books are in three categories:
 - Historical books (which include the Pentateuch).
 - Wisdom books.
 - Prophetic books.
- The New Testament books include:
 - The Gospels.
 - Acts of the Apostles.
 - Epistles of Saint Paul.
 - Letters to all Christians.
 - Revelation.

Inspiration

- Sacred Scripture is inerrant, which means "without error."
- The Scriptures are inspired by God. The human writers did not add or subtract from the revelation of God.
- The Scriptures are written for and interpreted by the Church.

Magisterium

- The Magisterium is the teaching authority of the Church. It includes the Pope and the bishops in union with him. The Magisterium is infallible in teaching in matters of faith and morals. The Pope is the successor of Peter. The bishops are successors of the apostles. The Pope has the gift of infallibility. The bishops share in this gift when they teach in union with him.
- The Church's teaching is the same all over the world and throughout time.

Terms and Definitions

- Revelation:** God's communication of himself, by which he makes known the mystery of his divine plan, a gift of self-communication which is realized by deeds and words over time, and the most fully by sending us his own divine Son, Jesus Christ (CCC 50).
- Sacred Scripture:** The sacred writing of the Old and New Testaments (CCC 101). The books which contain the truth of God's revelation and were composed by human authors inspired by the Holy Spirit (CCC 105). The Bible contains both the forty-six books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament (CCC 120).
- Sacred Tradition:** The living transmission of the message of the Gospel in the Church. The oral preaching of the Apostles, and the written message of salvation under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (Bible), are conserved and handed on as the deposit of faith through the apostolic succession in the Church. Both the living Tradition and the written Scriptures have their common source in the revelation of God in Jesus Christ (CCC 75-82). The theological, liturgical, disciplinary, and devotional traditions of the local churches both contain and can be distinguished from this apostolic Tradition (CCC 83).
- Magisterium:** The living, teaching office of the Church, whose task it is to give as authentic interpretation of the word of God, whether in its written form (Sacred Scripture), or in the form of Tradition. The Magisterium ensures the Church's fidelity to the teaching of the Apostles in matters of faith and morals (CCC 85, 890, 2033).
- Infallibility:** The gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church whereby the pastors of the Church, the pope and bishops in union with him, can definitively proclaim a doctrine of faith or morals for the belief of the faithful (CCC 891). This gift is related to the inability of the whole body of the faithful to err in matters of faith and morals (CCC 92).
- Inspiration:** The gift of the Holy Spirit which assisted a human author to write a biblical book so that it has God as its author and teaches faithfully, without error, the saving truth that God has willed to be consigned to us (105).

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

OLD TESTAMENT - 46 Books			NEW TESTAMENT - 27 Books	
LAW (PENTATEUCH) - 5	WISDOM BOOKS - 7	PROPHETIC BOOKS - 18	GOSPELS - 4	PAUL'S LETTERS TO FRIENDS - 4
GENESIS	JOB	ISAIAH	MATTHEW	1 TIMOTHY
EXODUS	PSALMS	JEREMIAH	MARK	2 TIMOTHY
LEVITICUS	PROVERBS	LAMENTATIONS	LUKE	TITUS
NUMBERS	ECCLESIASTES	BARUCH	JOHN	PHILEMON
DEUTERONOMY	SONG OF SONGS	EZEKIEL		
HISTORICAL BOOKS - 16	WISDOM	DANIEL	HISTORY - 1	GENERAL LETTERS - 8
JOSHUA	SIRACH	HOSEA	ACTS	HEBREWS
JUDGES		JOEL		JAMES
RUTH		AMOS		1 PETER
1 SAMUEL		OBADIAH	PAUL'S LETTERS TO CHURCHES - 9	2 PETER
2 SAMUEL		JONAH	ROMANS	1 JOHN
1 KINGS		MICAH	1 CORINTHIANS	2 JOHN
2 KINGS		NAHUM	2 CORINTHIANS	3 JOHN
1 CHRONICLES		HABAKKUK	GALATIANS	JUDE
2 CHRONICLES		ZEPHANIAH	EPHESIANS	
EZRA		HAGGAI	PHILIPPIANS	APOCALYPTIC BOOK - 1
NEHEMIAH		ZECHARIAH	COLOSSIANS	REVELATION
TOBIT		MALACHI	1 THESSALONIANS	
JUDITH			2 THESSALONIANS	
ESTHER				
1 MACCABEES				
2 MACCABEES				

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Literal sense of Scripture: Requires one to understand a passage as it is written, taking into account its historical setting. We read textbooks and instruction manuals in the literal sense.

Spiritual sense of Scripture: Requires us to seek the deeper significance of the text.

There are three spiritual senses:

1. Allegorical – the passage as it relates to Jesus.
2. Moral – the passage as it relates to each of us.
3. Anagogical – the passage as it relates to the eternal.

For example, Jesus said he could rebuild the Temple in three days. The literal sense of the Temple is the building in Jerusalem where the Jews worshiped God. It was destroyed in 70 A.D. The allegorical sense tells us that Christ is the Temple destroyed and rebuilt in the three days before the Resurrection. The moral sense reminds us that we are temples of the Holy Spirit. The anagogical sense reminds us that heaven is the Eternal Temple where Jesus reigns.

Sacred Tradition

RCIA Class, St. John Bosco Catholic Church

Revealed & Personal God

- **God comes to meet man**
 - By natural reason man can know God with certainty, on the basis of his works.
 - Another order of knowledge that man cannot possibly arrive at by his own power.
- Divine Revelation.

- **Compare Genesis 1:1 to John 1:1-5,14**

God Reveals His “Plan of Loving Goodness” through Stages of Revelation

- **In the Beginning** (Adam and Eve) Gen 1:1
- **The Covenant with Noah** (divine economy toward the “Nations”) Gen 9:16
- **God chooses Abraham** (“the father of a multitude of nations.”) Gen 17:5
- **God forms his people Israel** (covenant of Mount Sinai, gave them the law)

Christ Jesus – “Mediator and Fullness of All Revelation” (DV 2)

- **God has said everything in his Word**
- **There will be no further Revelation**

The Transmission of Divine Revelation

The Apostolic Tradition

- **Apostolic Preaching**
- **Continued in Apostolic succession**

The Relationship between Tradition and Sacred Scripture

- **One common source**
- **Two distinct modes of transmission** (Sacred Scripture & Holy Tradition)
- **Apostolic Tradition and ecclesia traditions** (Capital T and small t)

The Interpretation of the Heritage of Faith

- **The heritage of faith entrusted to the whole of the Church**
- **The Magisterium of the Church**