

FAITH AND REVELATION

GOAL: The minister will understand God's on-going self-revelation and the nature of our response.

OBJECTIVES: At the end of this session the participant will be able to

- 1. Explain reasons for belief in the existence of God.** *CCC # 1-3; 27-30*
- 2. Give examples of how God communicates with us from Scriptures, Tradition and lived experience.** *CCC# 31-35, 51-62*
- 3. Explain how God's plan of salvation came to fullness through Jesus Christ.** *CCC# 65-67*
- 4. Identify faith as our response to God's revelation.** *CCC# 144-165*
- 5. Give an example of how we work with God's grace to respond in faith to life situations.** *CCC# 166-175*

Name _____ Parish _____

Homework 1: Faith and Revelation

Read items 50 to 100 and 142 to 184 of Part One of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

https://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/ccc_toc.htm

or

<https://www.usccb.org/sites/default/files/flipbooks/catechism/V/#zoom=z>

**Please print or
type your responses.**

to answer the following questions:

1. Some ways that I see God present in the world or in my own life are _____

2. Revelation is _____

3. Faith is _____

4. A new understanding that I gained from the session or the reading is _____

5. Read the paragraphs from the *National Directory for Catechesis # 16* attached to this page and consider how God is inviting you to grow in your faith. What action could you take to respond to God's invitation?

Please send your homework to officefaithformation@dsj.org. Thank you.

16. REVELATION

A. Gods Self-Disclosure in Salvation History

“It pleased God, in his goodness and wisdom, to reveal himself and to make known the mystery of his will.”⁹² The divine will is that we should come to the Father through Christ, the Word made flesh, and, in the Holy Spirit, become sharers in the divine nature (*theosis*). Divine Revelation, then, is the supernatural manifestation of the inner life of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God’s desire to communicate himself to us is entirely his own initiative. God’s self-revelation aims to bring about our participation in the life of the blessed Trinity, something so wondrous that it is impossible for us even to imagine.

From the beginning, God has made known the inexhaustible mystery of his love in order to give us a share in his own divine life. In doing so, God summons a response in faith from his people. So unimaginable is God’s gift of himself that our response can only be self-surrender, the obedience of faith. God reveals himself to us gradually and in stages, drawing us ever closer in order to prepare us to welcome the culmination of God’s self-revelation in the person and mission of the incarnate Word, Jesus Christ. The pattern of this Revelation unfolds through “deeds and words, which are intrinsically [connected:]... the works performed by God in the history of salvation show forth and bear out the doctrine and realities signified by the words; the words, for their part, proclaim the works, and bring to light the mystery they contain.”⁹³ⁱ

God first revealed himself through creation and continually provides evidence of himself in the created order. God sustains and directs creation toward its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. God revealed himself in a special way through the history of Israel.⁹⁴ He created our first parents in communion with him. After their fall, he revealed his loving plan for redemption through covenants with Noah and Abraham. In the time of the patriarchs, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, he formed ^{Isra⁹⁵el} as his people so that they would know him to be the one, true God. God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, established the covenant of Mount Sinai, and, through Moses, gave them his law, he spoke to his people through judges, priests, and prophets and continued to shape his people in hope for the promised Savior. God made covenant with King David and promised that through David’s offspring, he would establish his kingdom for ever.⁹⁵ We see this covenant promise fulfilled in Mary, the virgin mother of God’s only-begotten Son. She was a unique vessel of God’s Revelation. Obediently bringing forth his Word in human flesh in order to establish his kingdom for ever.

God revealed himself fully in Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man. Jesus is the “Mediator and the sum total of Revelation.”⁹⁶ In Christ, god has said everything in one, perfect, transcendent Word. Jesus Christ “completed and perfected Revelation ... He did this by the total fact of his presence and self-manifestation until Christ returns in glory at the end of time.

The Spirit of truth continues to reveal god in the world and, especially, in the Church. The Holy Spirit inspired the sacred authors to preserve the message of salvation in writing and to ensure the authentic interpretation of the word of God contained in Sacred Scripture through the Magisterium. The Magisterium is the teaching authority of the Church that consists of the pope and bishops in union with the pope. Through the Holy Spirit, the Risen Christ is alive in those who believe, helping them to understand their experiences in the light of faith.

92 Second Vatican Council, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum) (DV), and No 2.

93 DV, no. 2

94 Cf. Pontifical Biblical Commission, *The Jewish People and Their Scriptures in the Christian Bible* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2002), Section II, 19-65.

95 Cf. 2 Sm 7:13.

96 DV, No 2.

97 DV, no. 4