

Knights of Columbus
Council 459
Spiritual Training
September: Scripture, Tradition, Magisterium

Opening Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Divine Revelation

- This month we discuss the ways God has made known his truths to us through Divine Revelation.
- Now, we know that God did not reveal himself to one person at one time, but to many people over a long period of time.
- God revealed himself to us through Sacred Scripture and Tradition
 - **Sacred Scripture:** God's word written down
 - **Sacred Tradition:** the entirety of God's Word
- Together, Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition constitute the word of God.
- It's important to note that God's public revelation came to an end with the death of the last apostle (John), but private revelation continues. For example, the revelations of the Virgin Mary at Fatima.

Sacred Scripture

- Now let's talk about the written word of God—the Bible.
- The Catholic Bible is made up of 73 books.
- It is divided into two sections: Old Testament (46 books) and New Testament (26 books)
- The Old Testament points to the coming of Christ and was put together by the Jewish people. It consists of:
 - The Pentateuch, the first 5 books called the Torah or law (including Genesis, Deuteronomy)
 - The historical books (Judges, Samuel)
 - The Wisdom books (Psalms, Proverbs)
 - The Prophetic books (Isaiah, Jeremiah)

- The New Testament contains the life and teachings of Jesus. It consists of:
 - The Four Gospels, written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
 - The Acts of the Apostles
 - The Letters of Saint Paul
 - The Letters to All Christians
 - The Book of Revelation.
- The Bible was inspired by God; God moved men by the Holy Spirit to write down the teachings of Christ.
- The Bible is Inerrant, which means it is free from errors about God and what is necessary for salvation.
 - This does not mean that there are not errors on issues of scientific fact that we know today to be true (like the mistaken belief the sun revolves around the earth). These errors do not affect the truth of salvation revealed by God.
- The writers of the Bible used their own style, language, and perspectives, but they did not add or subtract from the Word of God.
 - For example, each Gospel was written for a different audience and therefore resulted in a different perspective of telling the Good news, but the Word of God was included without error.

Sacred Tradition

- Now, before it was written down, the Word of God was transmitted orally and part of Sacred Tradition.
- It's important to note that Tradition and Sacred Scripture are to be accepted by believers in the same way, as they join together for the same goal.
- Sacred Tradition is the unwritten Word of God given by Jesus through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and handed down to their successors.
- Sacred Tradition is revealed in the creeds, liturgy and prayers of the Church and in the authentic teachings of the Popes and Bishops.
- The chief truths taught by Jesus Christ through the Catholic Church are contained in the Apostles Creed, which we say as part of the Rosary

Magisterium

- The Church is the protector and teacher of God's revelation.
- The teaching authority of the Pope and bishops in union with him is called the Magisterium.
- The Magisterium is guided by the Holy Spirit as they teach Christ's faithful followers.
- The Magisterium is infallible in matters of faith and morals.

Conclusion

- So you can now see the richness of the Catholic faith, revealed by God, and presented through sacred scripture, tradition, and the teaching authority of the church.
- How blessed we are to have all of these gifts available to us to help us grow in holiness.

Closing Prayer

Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that thou art one God in three Divine persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that thy Divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe theses and all the truths that the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because thou hast revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

Resources

- Catechism of the Catholic Church, Ch 2., ¶¶ 74-141
- Outlines of the Catholic Faith, Section III (pages 4-6)