

## **DIPPING INTO THE CATECHISM**

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**From the Compendium to the Catechism paragraphs: 9- 17**

### **WHAT IS THE FULL AND DEFINITIVE STAGE OF GOD'S REVELATION ?**

The full and definitive stage of God's Revelation is accomplished in His Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, the mediator and fullness of revelation. He, being the only-begotten Son of God made man, is the perfect and definitive Word of the Father. In the sending of the Son and the gift of the Spirit, Revelation is now fully complete, although the faith of the Church must gradually grasp its full significance over the course of centuries.

### **WHAT IS THE VALUE OF PRIVATE REVELATIONS ?**

While not belonging to the deposit of faith, private revelations may help a person to live the faith as long as they lead us to Christ. The Magisterium of the Church, which has the duty of evaluating such private revelations, cannot accept those which claim to surpass or correct that definitive Revelation which is Christ.

## **THE TRANSMISSION OF DIVINE REVELATION**

### **WHY AND IN WHAT WAY IS DIVINE REVELATION TRANSMITTED ?**

God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4), that is, of Jesus Christ. For this reason, Christ must be proclaimed to all according to His own command, "Go forth and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19). And this is brought about by Apostolic Tradition.



### **WHAT IS APOSTOLIC TRADITION ?**

Apostolic Tradition is the transmission of the message of Christ, brought about from the very beginnings of Christianity by means of preaching, bearing witness, institutions, worship and inspired writings. The apostles transmitted all they received from Christ and learned from the Holy Spirit to their successors, the bishops, and through them to all generations until the end of the world.

## **IN WHAT WAYS DOES APOSTOLIC TRADITION OCCUR ?**

Apostolic Tradition occurs in two ways: through the living transmission of the Word of God (also simply called Tradition) and through Sacred Scripture which is the same proclamation of salvation in written form.

## **WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRADITION AND SACRED SCRIPTURE ?**

Tradition and Sacred Scripture are bound closely together and communicate one with the other. Each of them makes present and fruitful in the Church the mystery of Christ. They flow out of the same divine well-spring and together make up one sacred deposit of faith from which the Church derives her certainty about revelation.

## **TO WHOM IS THE DEPOSIT OF FAITH ENTRUSTED ?**

The Apostles entrusted the deposit of faith to the whole of the Church. Thanks to its supernatural sense of faith the people of God as a whole, assisted by the Holy Spirit and guided by the Magisterium of the Church, never ceases to welcome, to penetrate more deeply and to live more fully from the gift of divine revelation.

## **TO WHOM IS GIVEN THE TASK OF AUTHENTICALLY INTERPRETING THE DEPOSIT OF FAITH ?**

The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the deposit of faith has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the Church alone, that is, to the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome, and to the bishops in communion with him. To this Magisterium, which in the service of the Word of God enjoys the certain charism of truth, belongs also the task of defining dogmas which are formations of the truth contained in Divine Revelation. This authority of the magisterium also extends to those truths necessarily connected with Revelation.

## **WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SCRIPTURE, TRADITION AND THE MAGISTERIUM ?**

Scripture, Tradition and the Magisterium are so closely united with each other that one of them cannot stand without the others. Working together, each in its own way, under the action of the one Holy Spirit, they all contribute effectively to the salvation of souls.

*It is essential that every Catholic has access to good Catechesis to be able to deepen their faith. The Diocese of Plymouth recommends the many Catechetical Workshops from 'Franciscan at Home,' for more information on access to these and online or real group sessions contact [deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk)*

