

DIVINE REVELATION and Response of Faith

— HANDOUT —

1. What is **divine Revelation**? "Through an utterly free decision, God has revealed Himself and given himself to man." [CCC 50]
2. What is it that **God reveals**: "In His goodness and wisdom...
 - 1) "God chose to reveal Himself." [par. 2]
 - 2) "... and to make known to us the hidden purpose of his will...
What is the purpose of His will? "... through Christ... man might have access to the Father and come to share in the divine nature (see Eph. 2:18; 2 Peter 1:4)."
3. What is man's response to God's invitation: **Faith is man's response to God** who reveals himself and gives himself to man, at the same time **bringing man a superabundant light** as he searches for the meaning of his life. (CCC 26).

STAGES OF DIVINE REVELATION

1. **In the Old Testament**, "through the patriarchs, and after them Moses and the prophets, [God] taught this people 1) to acknowledge Himself the one living and true God, provident father and just judge... 2) "and to wait for the Savior promised by Him... 3) and in this manner prepared the way for the Gospel.
2. **In the New Testament**: When the fullness of time had come God "sent His Son, the eternal Word, 1) who enlightens all men, 2) dwells among them 3) and tells them of the innermost being of God.

THE PURPOSE OF DIVINE REVELATION

Christ "confirmed with divine testimony what revelation proclaimed, 1) that God is with us to free us from the darkness of sin and death, 2) and to raise us up to life eternal.

RESPONSE TO DIVINE REVELATION "The obedience of faith... is to be given to God who

reveals, an obedience by which: 1) Man commits his whole self freely to God...
2) Offering the full submission of intellect and will to God who reveals...
3) and freely assenting to the truth revealed by Him...

THE ACT OF FAITH "To make this act of faith, the grace of God and the interior help of the Holy Spirit... 1) Must precede and assist... 2) Move the heart... 3) Turn the heart to God... 4) Opening the eyes of the mind... 5) Give joy and ease in assenting to the truth... 6) And believe it. The same Holy Spirit, to bring about an even deeper understanding of revelation, constantly brings faith to completion by His gifts." [DV 5].

Note: In much of modern thought and theology today.... Divine Revelation – has become subjective, no longer passed on through the Church, but through human experience. Therefore, ultimately the Church, and even God himself is removed. – Faith, therefore, becomes a very personal effort, a feeling, an individual thing. This is an error.

FAITH & THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Fides qua: believing in the word of God and committing oneself to God..

Fides quae: the content of Revelation and of the Gospel message.

FAITH IS A GRACE: (CCC 153) "Faith is a free gift from God, given at baptism; a supernatural virtue infused into us by God himself."

CCC on Grace: There are two definitions on grace:

1996 “Grace is **favor**, the **free** and **underserved** help that God gives us to respond to his call... to become partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life.”

1997 “Grace is a participation in the life of God.”

FAITH IS A HUMAN ACT:

154 “Trusting in God and cleaving to the truths he has revealed are contrary neither to human freedom nor to human reason.”

155 “In faith, the human **intellect** and **will** cooperate with **divine grace**.”

Our intellect seeks truth and understanding

Our will seeks goodness and love

FAITH AND UNDERSTANDING “What moves us to believe is not the fact that revealed truths appear as true and intelligible in the light of our natural reason... We believe **because of the authority of God himself** who reveals them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.” (156).

FAITH IS CERTAIN “[Faith] is more certain than all human knowledge because it is founded on the very word of God... the certainty that the divine light gives is greater than that which the light of natural reason gives” (157).

THE LANGUAGE OF FAITH “We do not believe in formulas, but in those realities they express, which faith allows us to touch” (170).