

Reflection Questions for Chapter 5—Divine Revelation

Read Chapter 5 Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum) in Reclaiming Vatican II by Fr. Blake Britton. Begin with Pope John XXIII's prayer for the Vatican Council: "Almighty God! In Thee we place all our confidence, not trusting in our own strength. Look down benignly upon these members of Thy Church. May the light of Thy supernal grace aid us in taking decisions and in making laws. Graciously hear the prayers which we pour forth to Thee in unanimity of faith, of voice, and of mind." Your reflections will be shared **November 15th** in your small group. Your group may not get to all the questions. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to those questions most important for your group.

Ch. 5:127-129 This document of Vatican II really breaks open the word *revelation*. "The Word of God is not a book, but a person, Jesus Christ." Fr. Blake looks at the Greek noun for "Word" which is *logos*. How does he describe this *logos* in God's plan to unveil himself? What does this way that God has of revealing Himself tell us about Him?

Where and when do you feel God is most present and communicating with you?

Ch. 5:130-131 "We are rooted in the living presence of Jesus in the sacramental life of the Church. We are not a religion of the book alone, but a faith of the Christ who is in our midst." What does this statement mean to you?

What does it mean that Christ must be "touched and embraced—body, soul, and divinity."?

Ch. 5:131-132 Here we read that we must meet Christ and know Him. "We cannot love a memory; we can only love a person." How does Jesus help us to do this? What did he commission his apostles to do after breathing on them and giving them authority to bind and loose sins?

How is there an unbroken connection between the Church of the past and the Church of today?

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Ch. 5:133-134 The Church is living, growing, and being refined. Everyday we can learn something new. Our faith also continues to grow and develop throughout our lifetime when we pray, study, and act. God reveals His very own self to us. *How does the Church pass that revelation on to us?*

"Sacred Scripture is the fertilizer. Through the preaching of pastors and catechesis, the field is tilled for harvest." *How does Scripture help you to grasp the reality and truth of God?*

Ch. 5:134-137 Now we read the story about the hemorrhaging woman from the Gospel. It took great bravery for her to even approach Jesus and even greater faith to believe He could heal her. *How does Jesus respond to her? What could have been the consequences of His actions?*

What does this tell you about what Jesus would do for you?

St. Augustine is attributed to saying that God wisely arranged that the "New Testament be hidden in the Old and the Old be made manifest in the New." *What are your thoughts on this quote? Can the testaments stand alone, or should we always see them in relation to one another?*

Thinking about all that you have read about Dei Verbum... *If someone was unfamiliar with God, how would you describe God to them?*

The pre-Vatican II idea that average Catholics should not read the Bible was changed. Scripture holds a central place in Catholic life. Scripture unites us as the Body of Christ. Make it a point to read Scripture regularly. You may choose to get an app to help you such as AMEN from FORMED.