1.2: Divine Revelation

- Divine Revelation: why & how God reveals Himself to us
- Jesus as the fulfillment of God’s revelation
- The transmission of Divine Revelation through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition
- The Magisterium as the authoritative interpreter of Scripture and Tradition
Divine Revelation

• Reflect: Do you believe God is a personal God who wants to have a relationship with you?
  • Lot’s of different views of God today
    • A Spiritual “force” (non-personal)
    • Absentee, doesn’t interact w/creation (deist)
    • Some people reject a relationship (“spiritual but not religious”)
  • None of those is the Christian view.
    • Not elusive or evasive--He’s pursuing us
    • For us, God is Love, and love reveals itself to the beloved
    • God, the all-powerful Creator of the Universe, loves us so much he wants to make Himself and His will known to us.
      • Think about how amazing that is!
      • He took on flesh for us, died for us, and preserves His revelation for us.
Divine Revelation

• CCC 50-52
  • God reveals Himself to us so we can . . .
    • Enter into a personal relationship w/Him
      • Know Him
      • Love Him
    • Know His plan for our lives
• God has revealed Himself slowly over time: CCC 53
  • Adam: (CCC 54-55)
  • Noah: (CCC 56-58)
  • Abraham: (CCC 59-61)
  • Israel: (CCC 62-64)
• Episode 4 will cover this in more detail
Divine Revelation

• God’s unveiling of Himself culminated in Jesus: **CCC 65**
  - Public revelation is complete (no new public revelation will occur)
  - God’s revelation has not yet been made fully explicit: **CCC 66**
  - Sometimes God allows private revelations (apparitions) to people, but they don’t add to teaching, they just help strengthen people’s faith in what has already been revealed: **CCC 67**
    - Any “apparition” which contradicts scripture and/or tradition is obviously in error:
      - Muslims (“Archangel Gabriel”)
      - Mormons (two persons “God the Father & Son”, “angels”)
Handing on the Faith

• In the video, the presenter described a 3-legged stool as the stable structure for passing on divine revelation. What were the 3 legs?
  • Sacred Scripture
  • Sacred Tradition
  • The Magisterium of the Church

• Jesus wanted His Revelation to be handed on: Mt 28: 19-20

• His followers handed on His life & teachings: CCC 74-76
  • Orally (Sacred Tradition)
    • A way of life, not just words/stories/doctrines/customs
    • It continued to future generations: CCC 77-79
    • It is distinguished from minor traditions: CCC 83
  • In Writing (Sacred Scripture)
Handing on the Faith

• We have a tendency to want to do things on our own.
• Many Christians reject Tradition and the Magisterium (*Sola Scriptura*)
  • No guarantee of understanding
  • No unity in belief
  • Bible says otherwise:
    • Never claims to be sole rule of faith
    • 2 Thess 2:15
• Not historical—1500 years of Catholicism before *Sola Scriptura* was invented
Handing on the Faith

• We must include Sacred Tradition
• Not every element of Truth is written in Sacred Scripture
  • Jesus didn’t give us Bibles--He didn’t write any books
  • None of the New Testament was even beginning to be written until at least almost 10 years after Jesus ascended
• The Deposit of Faith is more than just what was written down
  • John 21:25
  • 1 Pt 1:25
We need an official interpreter (living voice of authority): CCC 95

Many of the teachings found in Scripture can be hard to understand

- Even very educated people have interpreted the same verses of Sacred Scripture in different ways (30,000 different Christian denominations)
- God knew we would need an official interpreter

1 Timothy 3:15
Magisterium

• Jesus gave the Apostles the authority to guard & interpret Deposit of Faith (His life & teachings)
• After He ascended, they were needed to clarify official teaching
  • CCC 84
  • Magisterium = teaching authority
  • CCC 85
  • They don’t make things up: CCC 86
  • They speak for Jesus:
    • CCC 87
    • Mt 10:40
Primacy of Peter

• Jesus made Peter the head Apostle
  • Mt: 16:13-19
  • Jesus renamed Simon to Rock
    (Kephas in Aramaic ➔ Petros in Greek ➔ “Peter” in English)
  • “On this Rock I will build my Church”
  • The keys signify Peter having authority from Jesus
  • He is Jesus’ steward as Eliakim was the steward of the Kingdom of Judah: Isaiah (Is) 22:20-22
  • Binding/Loosing = sign of authority
    • Given to all apostles (Mt 18:18)
Primacy of Peter

- **CCC 880-881**
- When the apostles are listed, Peter is always first. (Mt. 10:2; Mk 3:16; Lk 6:14; Acts 1:13)
- Peter led the selection of Matthias (Acts, 1:12-26)
- Peter led the discussion at Pentecost (Acts 2:14-36)
- Peter settled the discussion at the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15:6-11)
- Peter became the bishop of Rome, all future bishops of Rome have been the head of the Church (Papa ➔ the Pope)
Magisterium

- The Magisterium is continued today by the successors to the Apostles:
  - The Pope
  - Bishops (only when united with each other and the Pope)
- They are infallible (protected by God from officially teaching errors)
  - Only in 2 areas
    - Faith (what we believe about God, Church, etc.)
    - Morals (what is right or wrong)
- Jn 16:13
Personal Experience

• What a great blessing: God reveals Himself to each of us (me)!
  • I can trust this teaching (handed from Jesus to the Apostles, to the bishops, to me)
  • It all fits together
• Spend a few moments in prayer, asking Jesus to help you to be more receptive to His revelation as handed on through the Catholic Church.
• Closing Prayer: Psalm 119:25-40
• Fill out Call to Conversion.