

3 – The Bible

Sacred Scripture contains the Word of God in the words of man

God is the author of the Sacred Scriptures. He inspired human writers who wrote as true authors, using their own language, style, and powers.

But God worked in them and by them so that they consigned to writing “whatever he wanted written, and no more” (CCC 105-106).

Because God is the divine author and everything affirmed by the human writers is affirmed by the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures always teach the truth (CCC 107).

The bible should be read in a literalistic way, but literarily, with attention to what the human writers intend to affirm and to what God wants to reveal through them .

There are three criteria for interpreting Scripture in accordance with the Spirit who inspired it

Pay attention "to the content and unity of the whole Scripture".

Different as the books which compose it may be, Scripture is a unity by reason of the unity of God's plan, of which Christ Jesus is the center and heart

Read the Scripture within "the living Tradition of the whole Church".

According to a saying of the Fathers, Sacred Scripture is written principally in the Church's heart rather than in documents and records, for the Church carries in her Tradition the living memorial of God's Word, and it is the Holy Spirit who gives her the spiritual interpretation of the Scripture.

Be attentive to the analogy of faith, the coherence of the truths of faith among themselves and within the whole plan of Revelation.

Literal and Spiritual Senses

The literal sense is the meaning conveyed by the words of Scripture and discovered by exegesis, following the rules of sound interpretation

the allegorical sense

We can acquire a more profound understanding of events by recognizing their significance in Christ;

thus the crossing of the Red Sea is a sign or type of Christ's victory and also of Christian Baptism

the moral sense

the events reported in Scripture ought to lead us to act justly. As St. Paul says, they were written "for our instruction"

the anagogical sense

(Greek: anagoge, "leading").

We can view realities and events in terms of their eternal significance, leading us toward our true homeland

All Scripture tells a single story—the story of salvation that culminates in Jesus.

The Old Testament prepares for the New, and the New Testament fulfills the Old.

The Catholic Church, under the guidance of the Spirit, has discerned which books are included in the list (or canon) of authentic Scriptures.

The Church has always seen the Scriptures as essential to nourish and govern Christian lives (CCC 131).

