

## Sacred Scripture

- In order to reveal himself to men, God speaks to them in human words.
- Just as God took on himself the flesh of human and became like men, his word of God took on the form of human language.
- We call it Sacred because it is the Word of God. – truly inspired by the Spirit of God.
- For this reason the church venerates the Sacred Scripture.
- Sacred scripture brings to us the loving message of our heavenly father.
- The inspired books teach the truth since as affirmed by the Holy Spirit. We must therefore acknowledge that Scripture faithfully and without error teaches us the truth.
- Christian Faith is not a religion of the book but of a word which is incarnate and living.
- The word becomes alive in us when we read it prayerfully and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit who is the author and guardian of the word brings the experience of the Holy Trinity into the hearts of those who read it.
- We must also realize the Bible is not a crystal ball. It is a text. It grows in meaning as our life experience expands.
- The text in all its challenging historical, cultural, religious and linguistic strangeness can be expected to be a complex process to be understood in the true essence.
- Proper interpretation of the word, therefore is very important.
- God graciously arranged that the things he had once revealed for the salvation of all should remain in their entirety, throughout the ages, and must be transmitted to all generations.
- This living transmission, accomplished in the Holy Spirit is called Tradition
- Tradition though closely connected to Sacred Scripture is distinct from it.
- Sacred Scripture and Tradition are bound closely and communicate with one another. For both of them flows from the same Divine source and moves towards the same goal.

## **Sacred Tradition**

### **Apostolic Tradition & ecclesial tradition**

- The Tradition comes from the apostles and hands on what they received from Jesus' teaching and what they learnt from the Holy Spirit.
- Tradition is to be distinguished from the various theological, disciplinary, liturgical or devotional traditions born out of local churches over time.
- We all have a greater sense of responsibility to hand down our Sacred tradition from generation to another..
- It is not enough to profess our Faith. We must also live it.

## Who teaches?

- God the Father is the source of all that is.
- We rightly think of God as the subject matter of our catechesis and base our teachings upon him.
- The Holy Trinity exists in our hearts and minds of the catechist in the work of the catechist and also in the lives of those who are being catechized.
- The Supreme catechist is God himself.
- God has his own way of teaching. This is called the Pedagogy of God.
- God teaches us in stages. First, through the prophets, then he teaches fully through the son of God.
- Through sending his son he calls out to us. God speaks and acts in the same person of Christ.
- Christ is the Word made flesh.
- Not only does Christ, like the prophets, speak the word about God – he IS the WORD of God.
- Not only does Christ, like the prophets before him and saints after him, act as God wishes – He IS God in the flesh.
- Christ is the bringer of the Good news and he is the Good news itself!
- Christ whom we teach about IS in the profound sense the TEACHER.
- The Holy Spirit is the Divine teacher in every catechetical situation.

## The message

- What is the message?
- The message is not just a message... but... a PERSON.
- We open ourselves not just to the message but to the Divine person of Jesus Christ.
- The message is the Good news – The love story of God, the salvation and the promise of Eternal life with God in heaven.
- It all boils down to LOVE! Christ Jesus!
- So we as catechists hand on a precious message. Nothing is more important; it is the pearl of great price about which Jesus spoke of in the Gospels.
- Scripture calls this special message a “deposit” because it has been entrusted by God to his Church.
- A double faithfulness i.e. to God and the message and to the human person.
- We must hand on the full message we have been given without any dilution or mutilation.
- Our lives should bear witness to the message- not mere words that are spoken.