



ADORATION PRAYER SERVICE ON “DEI VERBUM”

HYMN: O SACRAMENT MOST HOLY

INTRODUCTION:

Dei Verbum, the dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, talks about how God revealed Himself throughout history, ultimately revealing Himself completely through Jesus Christ. We come to know Jesus Christ through Sacred Scripture and also through Sacred Tradition – the faith passed down from generation to generation and protected by the Holy Spirit through the Magisterium of the Church.

The message of *Dei Verbum* is that we are called to get to know Jesus, the Word of God made flesh, and through Him to grow in intimacy with the Holy Trinity. Growing in intimacy with God means studying Sacred Scripture, of course. But it also means being engaged in prayer, the Sacraments, conversion of heart, and participation in the Divine Life by growing in charity. While *Dei Verbum* does not cover all of these areas of spiritual growth, it does get us started.

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Tim 3:16-17

REFLECTION:

Notice the last lines “that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” St. Paul tells us how we are to equip ourselves in this life, by reading the Bible. St. Paul, being a good Jew from birth, that studied under the most well-known scripture scholar of his time, would have had lots of the Old Testament memorized and could quote it at will. He would have been very familiar with what God told Joshua after the death of Moses: “This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night.” (Joshua 1:8). We would all do well to take this to heart, just like Joshua.

The Bible is God’s instruction manual for humankind, and as Creator and Designer, He included every principle we would need for the things we face in life. And, because the wisdom of the Bible originates from a timeless God, it is, in fact, *timeless* in its application to human beings. It’s for everyone, everywhere, in every generation.

There are four reasons why you should study the Bible: it is “profitable for doctrine”, “for reproof”, “for correction”, and “for instruction in righteousness”. But



even if you are convinced of these four reasons you should study the Bible, you still might not find it easy to read. The Bible can indeed be challenging, especially when you are clueless about where to start.

HYMN: O THE WORD OF THE LORD

LESSONS FOR REFLECTION:

Here are some quick lessons we can take from this Church document.

1. Study the Bible and the teachings of the Church in order to grow in intimacy with Jesus. How much do you study your faith? Are you reading and studying the Bible? Are you studying the documents and teachings of the Church? How can you fit regular study into your life?
2. Pair study with prayer so that the Holy Spirit will guide our intimacy with Jesus. Meditative prayer is focusing the mind on the mysteries of our faith and then asking God to give us greater understanding. Bring what you study to prayer and let the Holy Spirit teach you the heart of Jesus.
3. Trust the Holy Spirit is working through Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Magisterium of the Church. Don't let mental blocks about human authority get in the way of trusting the way Jesus made for the Holy Spirit to lead us to all truth.
4. Share the Gospel with others through teaching & evangelization. This is a major theme of the Council.

Dei Verbum calls us to greater intimacy with God through greater knowledge of Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. It is calling you to study your faith in order to know God more deeply.

HYMN: JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE

SHORT ANECDOTE:

In the midst of turmoil during World War II, Anna found herself imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp. Food was scarce, and each day was a struggle for survival. One day, amidst a routine inspection, the guards discovered a small Bible hidden among Anna's meagre belongings. They threatened her with severe punishment if she did not surrender it. With tears in her eyes, Anna clutched the Bible close to her chest. It wasn't just a book to her; it was a source of hope, comfort, and strength through the darkest of times. Despite the threats and the dire consequences, she refused to part with it. The guards, baffled by her attachment to a mere book, eventually relented. Anna's unwavering resolve to hold onto her Bible, even in the face of death, spoke volumes about the profound value she placed on its words of faith and solace.



God grant us that we might pray with the psalmist in Psalm 119:

“With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not wander from your commandments!
I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.
Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes!
With my lips I declare
all the rules of your mouth.
In the way of your testimonies I delight
as much as in all riches.
I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways.
I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word” (vv. 10-16).

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS:

Leader: Gathered as the people of God and having been enlightened by the Word of God, and called to be the doers of the Word, let us bring our needs before the Author of all Truth.

RESPONSE: Lord, hear our Prayer.

1. For our Pope Francis, all the bishops and all those who are associated with them in the Word Ministry may faithfully fulfil their mission of preaching the Word of God to all, we pray to the Lord.
2. For the Church: that deeply rooted in the Word of God, we may continue to build up the Body of Christ and promote the common good, we pray to the Lord.
3. For all who teach and preach the Word of God: that their words may renew the faith of those who listen and encourage them to trust in the promise of God, we pray to the Lord.
4. For our Parish community: that we may have an ever-greater openness to the Word of God and allow it to enlighten the darkness of our hearts and free us to follow Jesus evermore faithfully, we pray to the Lord.
5. Let us pause and pray for our personal needs (p-a-u-s-e) ... we pray to the Lord.



Leader: Merciful Father, hear our prayers. Through your goodness, recreate in us love for your word and renew us through your living word. Grant that we may always be faithful to your word and attain eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER:

Dear Lord,

Thank you that your Holy Spirit helps me to discern and understand your Word. Give me a hunger to feed my soul on Scripture every day, as you have said, "...man shall not live by bread alone but on every Word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4).

I recognize that living according to Scripture gives me a firm foundation for this life and the life to come because "your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens" (Psalm 119:89). Thank you that your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path so that I can walk securely. (Psalm 119:105).

Please use Scripture to teach me, rebuke me, correct me, and train me in righteousness so that I can be completely equipped to do every good work you have prepared for me. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) Let me embrace your words of life more than I embrace my fears, my insecurities, and the lies that have ensnared me.

I know that "your hands formed me and made me" so I know that you can "give me understanding to learn your commands" and teach me the Scriptures. (Psalm 119:73) Please make your Word come alive in my heart; help me to remember it and act on it so that I will not sin against you. (Psalm 119: 11)

Open my ears to your Word, so when I hear it spoken aloud, I will receive it with joy. Use it to guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. (Psalm 25:5) Help me to obey your Word so I will fully understand it and be able to move on to maturity in my faith. (Hebrews 5:12) Place godly Bible teachers in my life, and grant me the opportunity to teach Biblical truth to others.

I pray these things through the Mighty Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

BENEDICTION:

CONCLUDING HYMN: HOW GREAT THOU ART

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