

YEAR OF FAITH

October 11, 2012-November 24, 2013

Scripture Study Program—SESSION 3 of 6

(reflections on the 4 Constitutions of Vatican II included in sessions 2-6)

The Year of Faith: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics by Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J., Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., Huntington IN: 2012, \$9.95, 95 pp., ISBN 978-1-61278-623-0

SESSION THREE: “CONVERSION” (pp. 43-57)

Having read everything up to page 57, let us begin with a prayer:

An Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; I believe that your divine Son became flesh and died for our sins, and that he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths that the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because you have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

“In the mystery of his death and resurrection, God has revealed in its fullness the Love that saves and calls us to conversion of life through the forgiveness of sins (cf. Acts 5:31).”—from Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI’s *Porta Fidei*, n. 6 (see page 43)

“The intellect can form the conscience to know more about basic natural law so that the mind knows how to respond to various moral situations and inform the will to make good moral choices.” (p. 44)

“Two actions are necessary for a conversion to take place. First, the person must believe that a good path to a beneficial and healthy goal exists. Second, he or she must turn around from the bad direction, retrace the steps along the bad path, and then find the good one....Faith is the act of believing that there is a good path to take through life.” (p. 45)

Share at table your reflections on the Scripture passages listed on page 47.

AND

In the reflection on the story of the call of Matthew, it is noted that Jesus’ “presence was not a reward for good behavior, but a remedy.” When has Jesus presence been a remedy for *you*?

AND

In the reflection on the story of the Samaritan Woman, it is noted that “While concern for the truth of a situation is important, people need to be alert that theological disputes can be used as dodges to the personal issues of conversion.” When might we have possibly allowed our interpretation of church dictates to hinder our conversion?

Discuss at table the three questions at the bottom of page 56.

READ THE SECTION FOR SESSION 4 (pp. 59-68) FOR NEXT WEEK.

Apply the Practice suggested on page 57 as you go through the coming week.
Quotations from *The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation* of the 2nd Vatican Council
(*Dei Verbum*—from the opening line: “Hearing the word of God...”—11/18/65)
http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651118_dei-verbum_en.html

Chapter 1 of this constitution is titled “Revelation Itself.” It says in article 4:
--“now we await no further new public revelation” than Jesus.”

Do you think some people are still awaiting something further? If so, what?

Chapter 2 of this constitution is titled “The Transmission of Divine Revelation.”
--“The message must normally be passed on by personal contact. Christianity can never become a mere book-religion.”—from article 8
--“Sacred tradition and sacred Scripture form one sacred deposit of the word of God.”—
from article 10

How have you experienced revelation personally? in tradition? in Scripture?

Chapter 3 on “The Divine Inspiration and the Interpretation of Sacred Scripture”
describes in article 12 various literary forms found in Scripture, including history,
prophecy, and poetry.

Do you have a favorite literary form? If so, give an example that may come to mind.

Chapter 4 on “The Old Testament” tells us that the Old Testament remains “permanently
valuable” (article 14) because the New Testament is hidden in it (article 16).

Which part of the Old Testament is most valuable for you?

Chapter 5 on “The New Testament” relates in article 19 that the gospels tell us “the
honest truth about Jesus.”

What portions of the Gospel’s “honest truth” about Jesus do you most cherish?

Chapter 6 on “Sacred Scripture in the Life of the Church” has been referred to as
“perhaps the most novel section of the Constitution” for it promotes joint translation of
the Scriptures with other denominations (article 22).

Which editions of the Bible do you own and use? How do they compare?

(REMEMER: Next Saturday's 3/9/13 session will be in St. James Church hall.)