

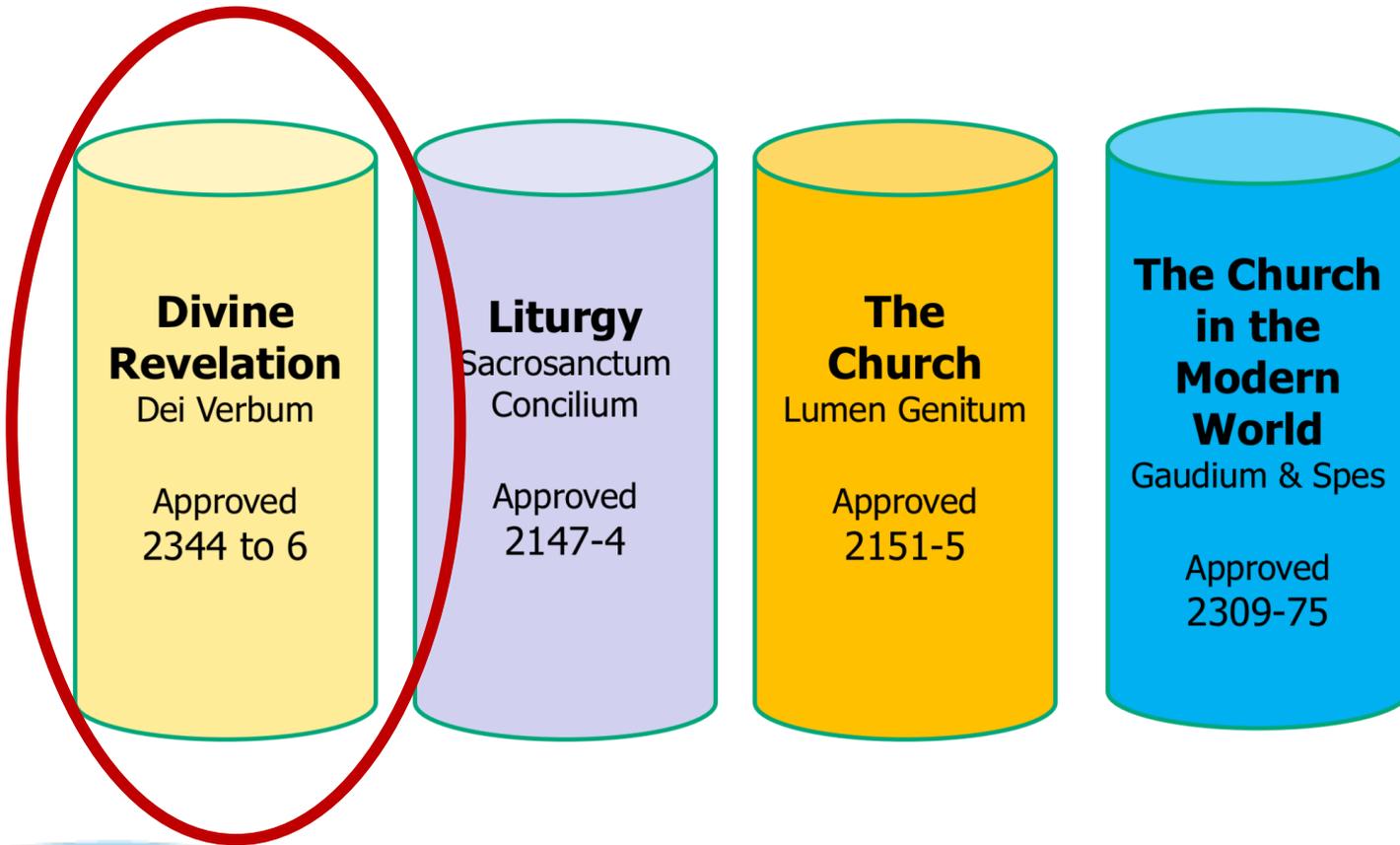
# **The Second Vatican Ecumenical Council**

## ***Dei Verbum*** **The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation**

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Advent 2022

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# The Constitutions of Vatican II



Dei Verbum

“The Word of God”

## Dei Verbum *Background*

- Original schema presented to the Council on November 14, 1962
- Original Name – The Twofold Source of Revelation
- Severely criticized
- Debated to November 20<sup>th</sup>
- Vote taken to return to Commission for adjustment – lost
- Pope John XXIII overrode the vote

## Dei Verbum *Background*

- A revised Commission extensively rewrote the schema
- Notable differences
  - Less philosophical language
  - Firmly rooted in Scripture and Church history
  - Endorsed modern methods of biblical research
- Largely based on Scripture
- November 18, 1965, the final document passed 2344 - 6

## Dei Verbum *Preface*

- God's interaction with humans is a mystery
- Questions that arise
  1. How does God speak to humanity?
  2. How do we know that it is actually God whom we hear?
  3. Is God really here, or is God's existence "wishful thinking" on our part?
  4. Are the words of Scripture really God's words?

## Dei Verbum *Preface*

- Council wishes to address:
  1. The matter of how God reveals Godself to humankind
  2. How humans respond to the voice of God
- Why?
  1. Strengthen Faith of all people
  2. Hearing of Christ's message – all will believe, and believing might hope, and hoping might love
- Adopt words of 1 John 1:2-3

## Dei Verbum *Chapter One - Revelation*

- God wants nothing less than
  1. We come to know him fully
  2. Know God's constant love
  3. Understand God's unfathomable faithfulness
  4. Experience God down to our marrow
- Revelation means the reality of God is evident while he is both so far above and beyond us yet closer than we can fathom

## Dei Verbum *Chapter One - Revelation*

- Hearing God is hard by as clear as “I do”
- Revelation is all that God wants to say to us
- God’s revelation is not “information”
- God actually shares the divine life with us, so we are not strangers
- God shows us what he is really like
- This revelation is in word and deed
- God’s deepest truth is made know in Christ

## Dei Verbum *Chapter One - Revelation*

- God has always been with us and knows us
- He promises healing and compassionate care
- He was first manifest in creation
- All people have access to God
- God wishes to speak to us as friends and live among us
- History shows us this clearly – God promises divine closeness and salvation
- Then.....Jesus Christ!

## Dei Verbum *Chapter One - Revelation*

- Jesus is the full revelation of God
- Jesus proclaims that God is with us, frees us from sin and raises us to eternal life
- There is no further revelation
- Jesus Christ: Today and forever
- We are not alone – The Holy Spirit
- We give assent to the truth – Faith!
- We can grasp divine matters that otherwise would be beyond us

## Dei Verbum

### *Chapter Two - Handing on Revelation*

- God made it possible for revelation to be handed on
- Jesus' followers announced the the Gospel in two ways
  - They preached and taught orally
  - They eventually wrote down the message
- Early bishops preserved Christ's message
- The Council believes future generations will have access to the Word of God

## Dei Verbum

### *Chapter Two - Handing on Revelation*

- The message contains everything we need for holy life and calls for a response
- We refer to our response as “Faith”
- This is like passing on an inheritance
- The word of God, most precious to the Church is lovingly guarded and freely given
- It is the “Deposit of Faith” which develops over time with study, contemplation and action
- Even Scripture is more fully understood

## Dei Verbum

### *Chapter Two - Handing on Revelation*

- Scripture is the written Word of God
- Tradition is the Word of God passed on by
  - Liturgy
  - Prayer
  - Teachings of the Apostles
  - Truth not fully explained in Scripture but important
- Both Scripture and Tradition are essential components of the Word of God

## Dei Verbum

### *Chapter Two - Handing on Revelation*

- The task of the Church is to keep the Word of God alive in what we say and do in life
- The baptized can find meaning in life in the Word of God
- The role of the Bishop is crucial – they are the magisterium – official teachers
- All who teach the World pass on only what was handed down to them
- The Word of God is supreme

Dei Verbum  
*Chapter Three – Sacred Scripture,  
Inspiration and Interpretation*

- Those who wrote Scripture were inspired by the Holy Spirit
- The writers had full use of their intelligence, their hearts, their insights and experience
- Scripture teach solidly, faithfully and without error, what God wants them to teach
- Scripture comes in various literary forms
  - Historical, prophetic, poetic, mythical, hymns and others

Dei Verbum  
*Chapter Three – Sacred Scripture,  
Inspiration and Interpretation*

- The writer's circumstances and world was very different from today's world and culture
- Scripture should be considered as a whole
- The words are human words but imbued with the truth and holiness of God

## Dei Verbum

### *Chapter Four – The Old Testament*

- God chose the people of Israel to form a Sacred nation united by a covenant of love
- They were “chosen” for a task
- God’s revelation began with Abraham and Sarah
- His word was also made known through others like the prophets
- The books of the Old Testament preserved this memory of God’s loving goodness

## Dei Verbum

### *Chapter Four – The Old Testament*

- The books of the Old Testament remain permanently valuable because they show how God prepared the world for Christ
- They hold marvelous teaching about God, wisdom, human life, and a treasury of prayers
- Salvation is present in them in a hidden way
- we are called to revere the Old Testament
- The new was hidden in the old and the old is made manifest in the new

## Dei Verbum

### *Chapter Five – The New Testament*

- Jesus Christ is Lord of heaven and earth!
- That is made known through his works, words and miracles
- Jesus brought order to a chaotic world full of fear and starved for peace
- And doing so he establish the reign of God on earth
- Jesus shows us who God is and completed God's work by dying and being raised

## Dei Verbum

### *Chapter Five – The New Testament*

- The Gospels have a special prominence
- They are our main way of knowing about the words and deeds of Christ
- The message they contain is the foundation of our Faith
- There is really only one Gospel, but this one Gospel is given voice in four distinct books
- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

## Dei Verbum

### *Chapter Five – The New Testament*

- The message of the Gospels was central to the first apostles and foundation of the early Church
- This is the Faith early Christians died for
- The Gospels are written account of the stories and memories of Jesus
- They are not meant as historical records, but they contain the truth of our salvation
- The other books more fully revealed Christ

## Dei Verbum

### *Chapter Six – Sacred Scripture in the Church*

- The Church venerates Sacred Scripture and the Body of Christ with the same vigor
- The bread of life flows from God's Word and Christ's body
- The Church is teaching is nourished and focused by Sacred Scripture
- God meets us and speaks to us with great love through Scripture

*Chapter Six – Sacred Scripture in the Church*

- The power of the word of God is so great that it stands as the support and energy of the Church
  - Strength of Faith for it's members
  - Food for the soul
  - Pure source of spiritual life
- Because of this truth, easy access to Scripture should be provided to all the faithful
- Other Christian Churches are invited to help prepare accurate translations

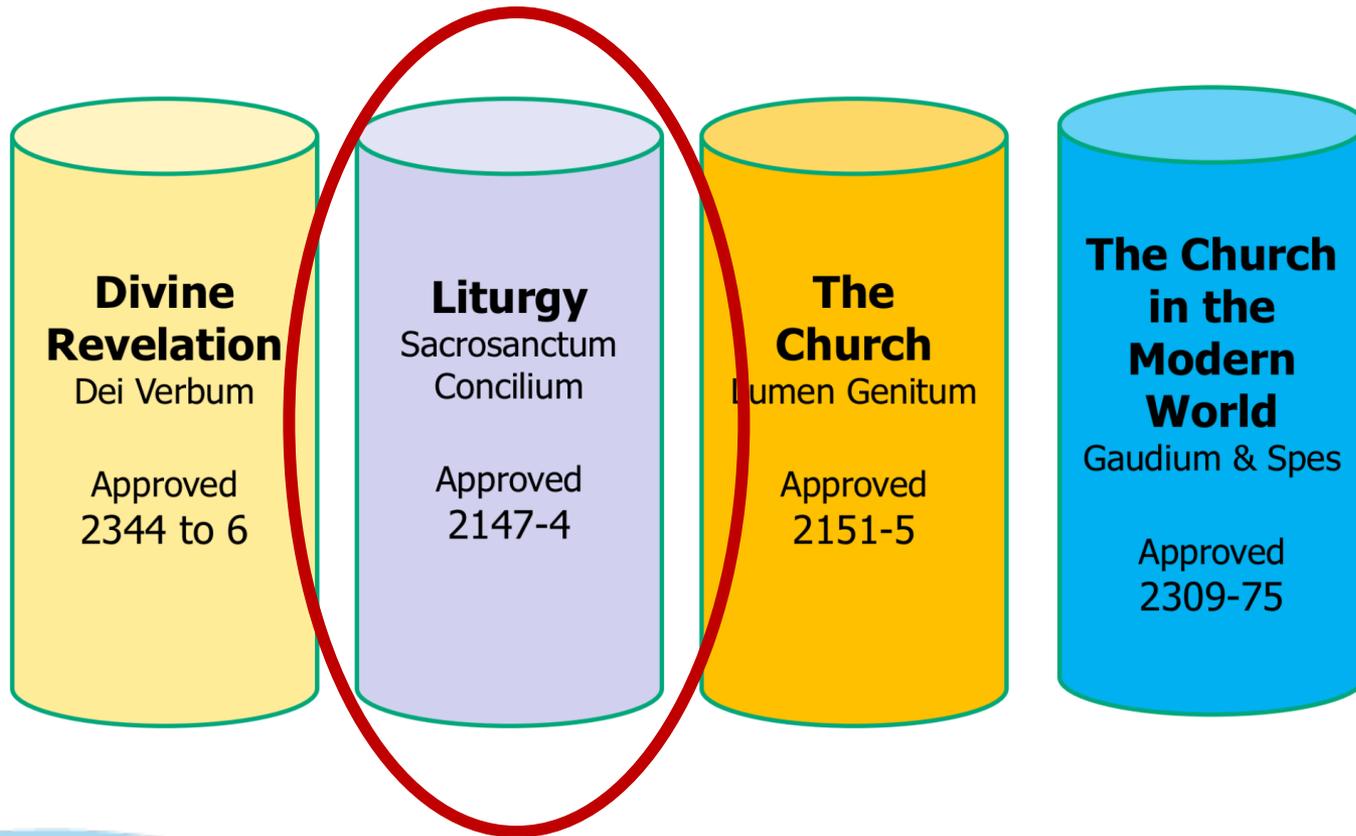
*Chapter Six – Sacred Scripture in the Church*

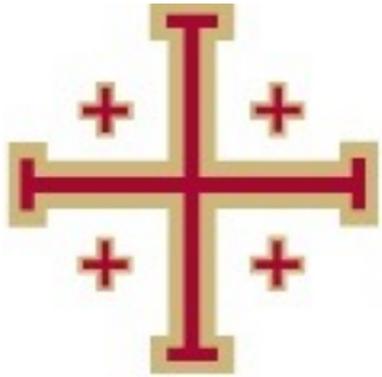
- Those who are preparing for ministry should be fully acquainted with Scripture
- True study of the theology rests on Scripture
- All who work in the Church must be trained in the Scriptures, and use them as the basis for preaching, catechesis, and Christian instruction
- The faithful as well should know Scripture for through the words of these texts they meet Christ

*Chapter Six – Sacred Scripture in the Church*

- Even non-Christians should have access to Sacred Scripture
- The life of the Church is strengthened through more frequent celebration of the Eucharist
- The life of the Church will be stimulated by growing reverence for the Word of God, which will last forever

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