Session One

Revelation – God making himself known

ta biblia -

"The books of scripture firmly, faithfully, and without error, teach that truth which God, for the sake of our salvation, wished to see confided to the sacred scriptures." (Vatican II, *Dei Verbum)*

"To compose the sacred books, God chose certain men who, all the while he employed them in this task, made full use of their powers and faculties so that, though he acted in them and by them, it was as true authors that they consigned to writing whatever God wanted, and no more." (Vatican II, Dei Verbum)

(as one theologian put it: the Bible is "The Word of God in human words")

"Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received." (Luke 1:-4)

"The interpreter must go back wholly in spirit to those remote centuries of the East and with the aid of history, archaeology, ethnology and other sciences, accurately determine what modes of writing the authors of that period would be likely to use, and in fact did use. For the ancient peoples of the East, in order to express their ideas, did not always employ those forms of speech which we use today." (Pope Pius XII, *Divino Afflante Spiritu)*

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK....

Day One – *How have you experienced God in and through the world which God created? Are there specific places or experienced of God's creation which help you to experience God's presence on your life? Thank God in specific ways for these experiences.*

Day Two – *How have you experienced the ability of God to bring order out of chaos in your life? Thank God for these experiences.*

Is there currently some chaos in your life which needs 'ordering' through God's mercy? Ask the Lord to 'breathe' on this chaos...

Day Three – *How have you experienced the power of God's word to 'effect what it says?' Have you ever had an experience in which reading the scripture, or hearing a homily, or praying, has enabled you to experience the power of God's word? Thank God for those experiences.*

Day Four – *Being created in God's image means, in part, that I must relate to creation the way that God did, i.e., tending, caring, blessing, multiplying, creating, bring order from chaos. How have I done that in the past? How can I better do that today?*

Day Five – *The 'original blessing' is to create life. How have I shared in that blessing? How can my life be more life-giving?*

Day Six – *God looks at all that he has created (in nature and people) and sees that they are good. When I look at the world, do I judge people or things to be 'bad' simply because of their very being? How can my view of them be converted to God's view of them?*

Day Seven – *God rests. Do I understand that rest ('re-creation') is an 'activity' which helps me to express the fact that I am created in God's image?*