

Doctrinal Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA Divine Revelation in Christ

“Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.” (Hebrews 1:1–2)

Insight

What are the ways we get to know someone?

Joyce was enjoying her breakfast at a local coffee shop when a commotion caught her attention. An elderly woman was very agitated. Her purse was missing. A young guy stood out from the crowd and engaged the elderly woman, helping her. He called the police on his cell phone and then tried to comfort the woman. “What a gentleman,” Joyce thought.

Two days later the same young guy was back in the coffee shop. Joyce struck up a conversation, telling him she was touched by his actions. This conversation led to many more over the years which fostered a deep and lasting friendship between the two.

For Reflection . . .

We can know God through his works.

What would you name as the most beautiful or the most awesome aspects of creation which help you come to know God?

What makes it possible for you to grasp something that is mysterious or to understand another person more completely?

Church Teaching

Stages of Revelation

What we learn when we are children is refined through the years. Conversely, what we know as adults builds on our experiences and knowledge of the simpler things we learned as children.

God’s self-Revelation to humanity also progressed in stages. Each stage laid the foundation for the next. God disclosed himself to our first parents at the dawn of creation and invited them to communion with himself. God then formed a covenant with Noah and all living beings and later with Abraham, making him “the ancestor of a multitude of nations” (Genesis 17:5). He established the Covenant of Mount Sinai with Israel, our forebears in faith, and established the New Covenant in his Son, Jesus. God invites all men and women to enter into that relationship of love.

The Fullness of Revelation in Christ

Just as we get to know and understand another person through what they say and how they act in various situations, so too do we get to know the heavenly Father through the words and actions of Jesus Christ.

Jesus’ public ministry and his life, suffering, Death, Resurrection and Ascension reveal to us that we are loved and saved by God. There will be no other Revelation because the completeness of God’s Revelation is found in Christ.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 50–73

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: pages 85–87

Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church: 7–9