



Revelation

Revelation refers to God revealing or “unveiling” the God-self to humankind. From the beginning of time, God has been revealed through and to creation, persons and events. The bible records the history of God’s self-revelation starting with the creation myths and continuing on to encounters with Noah, Abraham, Moses and the prophets, finally culminating in Jesus. For the Christian, God’s self-revelation is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

The Catholic Church teaches that out of the “one common source”, God is revealed through “two distinct modes of transmission”: Sacred Scripture and Tradition.¹

Tradition refers to the teachings of the Church (both past and present); the wisdom of the apostles and the communion of saints throughout history; and the *sensus fidelium*.

Sensus Fidelium literally means “the sense of the faithful” and recognizes the wisdom of the Holy Spirit at work in faith communities who prayerfully dialogue with each other and the teachings of the Church in order that they may live out their faith in the world today. The Church recognizes the important role “the faithful” play in the living Tradition of the Church: “the faithful are not merely passive recipients of what the hierarchy teaches and theologians explain; rather, they are living and active subjects within the Church. In this context, (the Second Vatican Council) underscored the vital role played by all believers in the articulation and development of the faith: ‘the Tradition that comes from the apostles makes progress in the Church, with the help of the Holy Spirit’ (*Dei Verbum*, n. 8)”²

In summary, revelation recognizes that God’s self-communication is transmitted through scripture and Tradition and finds its fulfilment in Jesus Christ.

¹ *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2nd ed. Accessed October 1, 2018
http://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p1s1c2a2.htm n.80

² International Theological Commission *Sensus Fidei* In The Life Of The Church (2014)
Accessed October 1, 2018
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/cti_documents/rc_cti_20140610_sensus-fidei_en.html#Chapter 3: The sensus fidei fidelium in the life of the Church