

**Peggy Brechtel, October 20, 2019**

## **DEI VERBUM**

### **Preface**

The Preface very succinctly encapsulates what this document is all about and bears repeating.

(1 John 1:2-3) We announce to you the eternal life which dwelt with the Father and was made visible to us. What we have seen and heard we announce to you, so that you may have fellowship with us and our common fellowship be with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ". Following in the footsteps of the Council of Trent and of the First Vatican Council, this council wishes to set forth authentic doctrine on divine revelation and how it is handed on, so that by hearing the message of salvation the whole world may believe, by believing it may hope, and by hoping it may love.

### **Chapters 1, 2 & 3**

God creates all things through the Word, keeping them in existence. He manifested himself to our first parents and from then on kept the human race in His care, giving eternal life to those who persistently do good in search of salvation. Through Abraham, Moses and the prophets, he taught the people to acknowledge Him as the one living and true God, and to wait for the promised Savior, preparing the way for the Gospel down thru the centuries.

God sent His son, the Word made flesh, so that man might more easily understand the Father and those things the Father wants to reveal to us as necessary for our salvation. To see Jesus is to see the Father. Jesus perfected revelation by manifesting Himself through his words, deeds, signs and wonders, but especially through his death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven, and sending us the Spirit of Truth.

Mankind, by the obedience of faith, submits Himself completely to the Father's revelation of Himself and the truths His son teaches us. Christ commissioned the Apostles to teach the Gospels which are the source of all saving truth and moral teaching. The apostles handed on this authority to the bishops. This is called sacred tradition. The Apostles warn the faithful to hold fast to the traditions which they have learned either by word of mouth or by letter. So, the church, in her teaching, life and worship hands on to all believers of every generation all that she herself is, all that she believes.

Sacred tradition and Sacred Scripture form one sacred deposit of the word of God. Our common effort to uphold the faith is through the teachings of the Apostles, in the breaking of the bread and our prayers.

God speaks in sacred scripture through men in human fashion. Therefore, serious attention must be given to the content and unity of the whole of scripture if the meaning of the sacred texts is to be worked out. The way of interpreting scripture is finally left to the judgment of the church, which carries out the divine commission and ministry of guarding and interpreting the word of God.