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Personal Commentary on Dei Verbum Chapters IV through VI by Mrs. Marilyn Pipkin OP

Jews understood that revelations in the Old Testament foreshadowed things to come. The promised Messiah would usher in a new era or New Testament. As St. Augustine said, **"The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed, but the New Testament is the old revealed."**

Chapter IV emphasizes all preaching must be nourished and regulated by Sacred Scripture. It is food for our souls, living and active (Heb. 4:12). Sacred theology rests on the written word of God together with Sacred Tradition. That is its primary and perpetual foundation. All clergy and faithful must hold hold fast, read and study the scriptures. "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ."

Through study of the Scriptures we daily gain deeper knowledge of God. Study and contemplation of Scripture is vital to understanding and drawing closer to God through knowing Him better.

The Old Testament prepares us for the coming of the Messiah. It provides wisdom for sound living, understanding God's love and relationship with us. This history teaches us faith and trust in God. It reassures us of God's unfailing love even when He chastises us for sinning. The Old Testament illuminates the New Testament. Many truths of the Old Testament are confirmed and quoted in the New Testament. The gospels clearly reveal the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies in Jesus. **Jesus' teaching is authoritative and clear, not nuanced.**

Dei Verbum firmly places responsibility on bishops, who have apostolic succession, to give the faithful entrusted to them sound teaching and good authoritative resources. Thus, for them to "safely and profitably become conversant with the Sacred Scriptures and be penetrated with their spirit."

Preaching and promotion of the Scriptures to everyone is a duty for all of us.