

REVELATION

Revelation is how God, the Creator of all things, makes Himself known to us – his creatures.

The Catholic Church teaches that revelation has:

- One common source: **GOD**
- Two distinct modes of transmission * :
 - Sacred Scripture** - The *written* record of God's revelation.
 - Sacred Tradition** - The *living* transmission of God's revelation.

Sacred Tradition

Sacred Tradition (Catholic doctrine) has evolved over the centuries, reflecting:

- direct teachings of early Christians
- formal decisions of heretic & orthodox beliefs by Ecumenical Councils & Papal Bulls
- theological debate by scholars.

The Church believes that it is continually:

- guided by the Holy Spirit as it discerns new theological issues
- protected infallibly from doctrinal error when a firm decision on an issue is reached.

Catholic doctrine is authoritatively summarized in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)

The CCC is a complete summary of what Catholics throughout the world believe in common.

It is divided into four part or pillars, which explain what the Church believes, celebrates, lives by & prays:

4 Pillars	Title	Theme	Deconstructs
<i>Believe</i>	1 The Profession of Faith	CREED	Apostles Creed
<i>Celebrate</i>	2 The Celebration of the Christian Mystery	SACRAMENTS	Liturgy & Sacraments
<i>Live by</i>	3 Life in Christ	MORALITY	The Commandments
<i>Pray</i>	4 Christian Prayer	PRAYER	The Lord's Prayer

The CCC comes with a complete index, footnotes, & cross-reference for a fuller understanding of every subject.

Here are some practical directions for using the CCC:

2447	BOLD #s - Each paragraph is numbered in bold.
<i>1460</i>	Italicized #s - are found in the margin & they cross reference the reader to other paragraphs that deal with the same theme.
²⁴²	Superscript #s - are found in the text & they refer you to citations at the bottom of the page. These citations refer to sacred scripture & other documents of the Catholic Church.
small print	Small print - in certain passages is meant to offer historical, apologetic or supplementary explanations or scriptural quotations or paraphrases.
IN BRIEF	At the end of each unit, there is a summary.

* which are authentically interpreted by the Magisterium (Pope & bishops who are in communion with him)

<http://www.mark-shea.com/tradition.html> <http://www.catholicbible101.com/sacredtradition.htm>