

Revelation

by Donald Senior, CP

At the heart of Christian faith is the conviction that God speaks to us. While human beings can come to know the presence of God through natural reason, there is another reality known as Revelation. By Revelation we refer to God's unique and profound Self-communication through the Scriptures and Sacred Tradition. It is a Revelation that God initiates and that enables us to know God in a true and intimate manner. God, in other words, communicates God's own Self to us. God also offers us the grace to understand and respond to what is revealed.

At the heart of this divine Revelation is God's loving plan for humanity that we call Divine Providence. We believe that God's plan existed from all eternity. God intended that we humans would live together with God in love. This plan came to its fullest expression in Jesus Christ and in the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church.

God's message is constant and unchanging. It is one of unconditional love. The Gospel of John summarizes this loving intent of God in words familiar to many of us. "For God so

loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16–17)

The Church teaches that God reveals God's Self to us in ways we can recognize. The chief means by which God communicates with us are the Sacred Scriptures and the Sacred Tradition of the Church.

God's communication comes to us in Sacred Scripture. In a profound and compelling way God reveals God's love for us through the long saga of the Old Testament. Here we begin with the story of the creation of the world and follow the journey of God's people through history. We hear of Abraham and Sarah, of David, of Isaiah, of Jeremiah and the other prophets. God's Revelation is continued in the New Testament where, beginning with John the Baptist and the Virgin Mary, the life

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