INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

(The information in parts II-V of this outline can be found in paragraphs 27-141 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and in the Second Vatican Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, Dei Verbum)

I. Using the Bible
   A. Choosing a translation
   B. Tips for profitable study
   C. Bible studies and courses
   D. Tools for Scripture study

II. Man’s capacity for God
   A. The desire for God (CCC 27-30)
   B. Ways of coming to know God (proofs for the existence of God) (CCC 31-35)
   C. The knowledge of God according to the Church (CCC 36-38)
      1. Human reason
      2. God’s Revelation
   D. How can we speak about God? (CCC 39-43)

III. The Revelation of God
   A. God reveals His “Plan of loving goodness” (CCC 51-53)
   B. The Stages of Revelation (CCC 54-64)
   C. The Story of Salvation History
   D. Christ Jesus – “Mediator and Fullness of all Revelation”

IV. The Transmission of Divine Revelation
   A. The Apostolic Tradition (CCC 74-79)
   B. The relationship between Tradition and Sacred Scripture
      1. One common source of Revelation (CCC 80)
      2. Two distinct modes of transmission (CCC 81-82)
         a. Sacred Scripture
         b. Sacred Tradition
      3. Apostolic Tradition and ecclesial traditions (CCC 83)
   C. The interpretation of the Heritage of Faith
      1. Sacred deposit (depositum fidei) (CCC 84)
      2. The Magisterium of the Church (CCC 85-87)
      3. The dogmas of the faith (CCC 88-90)
      4. The supernatural sense of faith (sensus fidei) (CCC 91-93)
      5. Growth in understanding the faith (CCC 94-95)

V. Sacred Scripture
   A. Christ - The unique Word of Sacred Scripture (CCC 101-104)
   B. Inspiration and Truth of Sacred Scripture
   C. The Holy Spirit, Interpreter of Scripture (CCC 109-114)
      1. Sacred authors’ intention
      2. “Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted in the same Spirit by whom it was written.” (DV 12) (CCC 111)
         i. Be attentive to the content and unity of the whole Scripture
         ii. Read Scripture within the living Tradition of the Church
         iii. Be attentive to the analogy of faith
      3. The senses of Scripture (CCC 115-119)
a. The literal sense  
 b. The spiritual sense  
 D. The Canon of Scripture (CCC 120-130)  
   1. The Old Testament  
   2. The New Testament  
   3. The unity of the Old and New Testaments  
 E. Sacred Scripture in the life of the Church (CCC 131-133)  

VI. Overview of Old Testament Books  
A. The Pentateuch  
B. The Historical Books  
C. The Wisdom Books  
D. The Prophetic Books  

VII. Overview of New Testament Books  
A. The Gospels and Acts of the Apostles  
B. The Pauline Letters  
C. The Catholic Letters  
D. The Book of Revelation

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