

Catholic Biblical School and St. Thomas Seminary 2017 – 2018
ADVANCED-YEAR (ORANGE) REGISTRATION, TEXTS AND SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

CBS 400 Summer Assignment

Due: Opening Scripture Day August 26, 2017

Summer Assignment Text: *The Word of God at Vatican II: Exploring Dei Verbum* by Ronald Witherup, SS (Liturgical Press, 2015) (ISBN 978 0 8146 3556 8)

Instructions: Read *The Word of God at Vatican II* and answer each of the six questions (below) in full, citing references from the text. *Please type the questions with your answers on a separate sheet.* Proper notation from *Dei Verbum* is by *paragraph number* (e.g., No. 12 or DV 12); proper notation from the commentary text by Fr. Witherup is by *page number* (e.g., p.13). The text of *Dei Verbum* is included in the Witherup text.

Do not forget to use quotation marks for any quotes you choose to include from either text (*Dei Verbum* or *Witherup commentary*).

1. Define the following terms:
 - a. Ecumenical council
 - b. Dogmatic constitution
 - c. Prooftexting
2. According to *Dei Verbum* No. 1 (DV 1), use your own words to explain the *purpose* of the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation? (aka, *Dei Verbum*)?
3. According to DV 2, what is God’s purpose for revealing himself? From your studies, how do you think this purpose is understood in terms of the Old Testament covenant? In terms of the NT gospel message?
4. *Dei Verbum* (DV) No. 12 states that the goal of biblical exegesis is to “help the church’s judgment to mature.” And in DV No. 8, we read, “The tradition that comes from the apostles makes progress in the church.... There is a growth in insight into the realities and words that are being passed on.”

What “growth in insight” into the biblical texts do you think would help “the church’s judgment to mature” in the twenty-first century?

5. Using your own words, explain what Fr. Witherup means when he says, “One cannot naively assume the literal historical details of each and every gospel story.” (p. 47) Use DV 19 to back up your answer.
6. Do you agree with Fr. Witherup when he says that the opening statement of paragraph no. 21 is “so remarkable”? (p. 49) Why or why not?