



BURLINGTON•LYONS

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

ST. MARY • ST. JOSEPH • ST. CHARLES

Additional notes on inspiration and interpretation

The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church (1993)

Catholic exegesis does not claim any particular scientific method as its own. It recognizes that one of the aspects of biblical texts is that they are the work of human authors, who employed with their own capacities for expression and the means which their age and social context put **at their disposal**.

What characterizes Catholic exegesis is that it deliberately places itself within the living tradition of the Church, whose first concern is fidelity to the revelation attested by the Bible. . . . Catholic exegetes approach the biblical text with a pre-understanding which **holds closely together modern scientific culture and the religious tradition** emanating from Israel and from the early Christian community. Their interpretation stands thereby in continuity with a dynamic pattern of interpretation that is found within the Bible itself and continues in the life of the Church.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Catechism in a Year Days 15 and 16

Three criteria for interpretation (112-114):

1. Be especially attentive “to the content and unity of the whole of Scripture.”
2. Read the Scripture within “the living Tradition of the whole Church.”
3. Be attentive to the analogy of faith, which is the “coherence of the truths of faith among themselves and within the whole plan of Revelation.”

Four senses of Scripture (115-117)

1. Literal sense: meaning of the words themselves
2. Allegorical sense: How do the words find significance in Jesus?
3. Moral sense: How do the words lead us to act justly?
4. Anagogical (leading) sense: How are the words leading us to heaven?

St. Augustine: “I would not believe in the Gospel, had not the authority of the Catholic Church already moved me.” (119)



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