

The Bible Page—Bibles and References

I'd like to take this week to mention a few important topics of Bible study. First of all let's discuss Bibles. The best Bible is the one you will read! The book doesn't do much good if it sits on the shelf. There are many kinds, large and small, paper cover and hard cover, large print and small print, inexpensive and expensive. For Bible study it is good to have one you can highlight and in which you can make notes. And get yourself a set of tabs that you can put on the page edges so you can find the different books easily. It will save you a tremendous amount of time and will encourage you to look up the important cross references for a passage. If you are close to Hastings, then Divine Inspirations Books and Gifts downtown (651-437-9169) can help you select one. The other books below can be obtained there or ordered through them. The most important thing in a Bible is the translation. The two below are best for the Catholic reader.

Bible Translations

1. *New American Bible* (NAB). An excellent Catholic Bible, published in 1970, New Testament revised in 1986, and the Psalms revised in 1991. Used in the weekday and Sunday Masses in the United States. Done under the sponsorship of the U. S. Bishops. Excellent footnotes.
2. *Revised Standard Version—Catholic Edition* (RSV-CE). First developed by Protestants in 1965 as the RSV, it now has a Catholic edition with slight changes in wording and with all 73 books. It is accepted by the Catholic Church. It is the one quoted in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The second Catholic Edition was published in 2006. Good for discussion with non-Catholics.

Catechism

You will want to have the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* handy. The second edition was published in 1997. A small "pocket" size catechism is inexpensive. The Catechism is indispensable for full interpretation of the Bible. Over half of all footnotes in the Catechism refer to Scripture.

Commentaries

Good Catholic commentaries are available. Listed below are my favorite two:

1. *Ignatius Catholic Study Bible*, Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch, Ignatius Press, San Francisco, © 2000-2009. The Old Testament is now being written. In May, 2010 the combined commentaries for all New Testament books will be available for \$22. Excellent notes cross-referencing the *Catechism* for further information.
2. *The Navarre Bible*, Scepter Publishers, New York, © 1997-2006, 10 hard cover books for the entire Bible. Each costs around \$40. The four Gospels and Acts in one hard cover book is a good buy at \$45. The New Testament Study Edition is available for \$80. Quotes many Catholic writers, Popes, saints, and Councils.

Websites

Many Websites are available that help tremendously in Bible study. Some are listed below:

1. The U.S. Bishop's website has the entire NAB translation and it can be searched along with the Catechism at www.usccb.org/nab/bible/index.shtml.
2. A useful Website that I think has great Bible information is that of Steve Ray, noted Catholic Bible scholar, at catholicconvert.com/ and then see under Resources.
3. Scott Hahn's Website is a treasure of Bible information at www.salvationhistory.com.

Other References

There are many specialty books available. The one I used for the previous Bible Pages is a good example.

1. *The Passion and Resurrection Narratives of Jesus/A Commentary*, Stephen J. Binz, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota, © 1989.
2. A classic but valuable reference work for all kinds of information is *Dictionary of the Bible*, John L. McKenzie, S.J., Simon & Schuster, New York, © 1965.

Next week we will introduce Acts of the Apostles. Read Acts, chapter 1.