TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface .................................................. 9
Preliminary Remarks ................................. 11
1 An Overview of *Dei Verbum* ..................... 13
2 *Dei Verbum*: History and Context ............ 14

Chapter 1

*DEI VERBUM*, TEXT AND COMMENTARY

1 Preface .............................................. 19
Ch. I: Revelation ..................................... 24
2 The Nature and Object of Revelation ............ 24
3 Preparation for the Evangelical Revelation ....... 27
4 Christ, the Fulfillment of Revelation .......... 29
5 Revelation Should Be Accepted with Faith ....... 32
6 Revealed Truth ..................................... 33
Ch. II: The Transmission of Revelation ............ 35
7 The Apostles and Their Successors – Heralds of the Gospel ........................................... 35
8 The Sacred Tradition ................................ 39
9 The Mutual Relationship between Tradition and Sacred Scripture .......................... 41
10 The Relationship of Tradition and Scripture to the Magisterium .............................. 42
Ch. III: Divine Inspiration and the Interpretation of Sacred Scripture ............................. 45
11 Inspiration and Truth in Sacred Scripture .... 45
12 How Should Sacred Scripture Be Interpreted? 54
13 The “Condescension” of Divine Wisdom ......... 57
Ch. IV: The Old Testament ............................ 59
14 The History of Salvation in the Old Testament 59
15 The Importance of the Old Testament for Christians ..................................................... 59
16 The Unity of the Two Testaments .................. 60
Ch. V: The New Testament ............................ 66
17 The Excellence of the New Testament .......... 66
18 The Apostolic Origin of the Gospels ............. 66
19 The Historical Character of the Gospels ......... 67
20 The Other Writings of the New Testament ...... 68
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ch. VI: Sacred Scripture in the Life of the Church 69
21 The Church Venerates the Sacred Scriptures 69
22 Translations Must Be Appropriate 72
23 The Apostolic Commitment of the Biblical Scholars 73
24 The Importance of Sacred Scripture for Theology 74
25 Recommendation to Read Sacred Scripture 76
26 Conclusion 80

Chapter 2
A SYNTHETIC LOOK:
THE MOST IMPORTANT DOCTRINAL POINTS
1 Development of doctrine 81

Chapter 3
THE CANON
1 The Origin of the Sacred Books in Israel 89
2 The Extent of the Scriptural Canon 92
2.1 The Jewish Context 93
2.2 The Context of the Primitive Church 95
2.3 The Formation of the Christian Canon 96
2.4 The Formation of the NT Canon 98
3 The Most Important Evidence of the Magisterium 99
3.1 God, Author of the Old and New Testament 100
3.2 Canonical, Deuterocanonical and Apocryphal Books 105
3.3 The Definition of Canon 106
3.4 The Relationship between the Church and the Canon 106
3.5 Criteria of Canonicity 107

Chapter 4
THE TEXT OF THE BIBLE
1 The Composition and Transmission of the Hebrew Text 109
2 The Greek Text of the NT 111
3 The Greek Text of the OT: the LXX (Septuagint) 111
4 The Origin of Christianity and the LXX 114
4.1 The New Greek Translations 115
4.2 The Recensions 116
4.3 The Hexapla 116
4.4 The Codices of the LXX 118
4.5 The Vetus Latina 119
4.6 The Vulgate 119
4.7 The Neovulgate 120
4.8 Other Versions 120
5 Textual Criticism 121
6 Hermeneutics 122
Appendix 1

STEP BY STEP:
A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO BIBLICAL RESEARCH

1 The Research on the OT .............................. 130
  1.1 Textual Part .................................. 130
  1.1.1 Comparison with the Ancient Versions ... 132
  1.2 Exegetical Proceeding ......................... 135
  1.3 For the Final Draft ............................ 137

2 Research on the NT ...................................... 138
  2.1 Textual Part .................................. 140
  2.2 Exegetical Part ................................. 142
  2.3 Towards the Final Draft ...................... 141

3 Note on Electronic Tools ............................... 142

Appendix 2

EXCERPTS FROM THE PONTIFICAL DOCUMENTS ON THE BIBLE

1 Pontifical Biblical Commission
   The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church (1993) 147

2 Pontifical Biblical Commission
   The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures
   in the Christian Bible (2001) ............................. 189

3 Synod of Bishops – XII Ordinary General Assembly
   The Word of God in the Life and the Mission
   of the Church. Instrumentum laboris (2008) ............ 203

Bibliography ............................................. 215

Index of Names ....................................... 219