

**Grade Nine**

**First Semester**

**The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture**

**Section 1: How Do We Know About God?**

A. The Thirst and Desire for God –

CCC 27-30,44-45,1718

1. Within all people there is a longing for God.
2. CCC 27 – Only in God will Man find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for.
3. CCC 28 – Man is a religious being because he has given expression to his quest for God in his religious beliefs and behavior, in his

prayer, sacrifices, rituals, meditations and so forth.

4. That longing itself is from God, who desires and initiates a relationship with each person.
5. CCC 29 – The intimate and vital bond of Man to God can be forgotten or even rejected by Man which makes him hide from God out of fear and flee his call.
6. CCC 30 – Although Man can forget God or reject Him, He never ceases to call every man to seek Him, so as to find life and happiness which God demands every effort of intellect, will, and heart.
7. Only in God can lasting joy and peace be found in this life and in the next.

8. CCC 44 – Man is by nature and vocation a religious being. Coming from God, going toward God, man lives a fully human life only if he freely lives by his bond with God.
  
9. CCC 45 – Man is made to live in communion with God in whom he finds happiness:  
“When I am completely united to you, there will be no more sorrow or trials; entirely full of you, my life will be complete.” (St. Augustine, Confessions)
  
10. CCC 1718 – The Beatitudes respond to the natural desire for happiness. This desire is of divine origin: God has placed it in the human heart in order to draw man to the One who alone can fulfill it.

## B. God Reveals in Many Ways

11. Natural Revelation attested to in Sacred Scripture – CCC 32 – The world: starting from movement, becoming, contingency, and the world's order and beauty, one can come to knowledge of God as the origin and the end of the universe.

12. As St. Paul says of the Gentiles: For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

13. St. Augustine issues the challenge: Question the beauty of the earth, of the sea, of the sky, all these realities. All respond. Their beauty is a profession, subject to change. Who made them if not the Beautiful One who is not subject to change?

14. The Old Testament reference Natural Revelation through the books of Genesis, Wisdom and Paul's letters to the Romans.

15. Scholastic theology's arguments for the existence of God.
16. CCC 31 – The Proofs for the existence of God are not in the sense of proofs in the natural science, but rather in the sense of “converging and convincing arguments,” which allow us to attain certainty about the truth.
17. CCC 34 – The world, and man, attest that they contain within themselves neither their first principle nor their final end, but rather that they participate in Being itself, which alone is without origin or end. A reality “that everyone calls God.”
18. St. Thomas Aquinas and the Five Proofs for the Existence of God

19. The first proof is the UNMOVED MOVER.
20. The second proof is the FIRST CAUSE.
21. The third proof that EVERYTHING COMES FROM SOMETHING.
22. The fourth proof is the SUPREME MODEL
23. The fifth proof is the GRAND DESIGNER.
24. Vatican I stated that we can grasp with certainty the existence of God through human reason because Man is created in the “image of God” therefore welcoming God’s revelation – CCC 36
25. CCC 37 – Often times, however, because of the historical conditions of disordered appetites due to the consequences of Original Sin, Man easily persuades himself that what

he doesn't like to be true is false or at least doubtful. (Pope Pius XII, Humane Generis)  
This is why Man needs God's revelation to be enlightened about the truths he cannot grasp.

26. CCC 46 – When he listens to the message of creation and to the voice of conscience, man can arrive at certainty about the existence of God, the cause and the end of everything.

27. CCC 47 - The Church teaches that the one true God, our creator and Lord, can be known with certainty from his works, by the natural light of human reason.

28. CCC 33 – The human person: with his openness to truth and beauty, his sense of moral goodness, his freedom and the voice of his conscience, with his longings for the infinite and for happiness man questions himself about God's existence.

29. In all this he discerns signs of his spiritual soul. The soul, the seed of eternity we bear in ourselves, irreducible to the merely material, can have its origin only in God.

(end of chapter 1 notes)