

Word of God Sunday

"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ"

~ST. JEROME

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Aperuit illis APOSTOLIC LETTER

In Pope Francis' apostolic letter, *Aperuit illis*, he designates a Word of God Sunday. It is an invitation to celebrate, study and share Holy Scriptures. *Aperuit illis* refers to Jesus opening the minds of the disciples to understand sacred Scriptures and in this letter, the Holy Father explains it with the passage on the road to Emmaus.

Pope Francis writes that "Christ is the first exegete," that is, Jesus was the first to explain Scripture to the disciples. Though the two men had journeyed with Jesus, they did not understand the events from the Crucifixion to the empty tomb. Jesus had to point out that he was the fulfillment of the Old Testament. This passage also describes the "unbreakable bond between sacred Scripture and the Eucharist."

The word Bible derives from the Greek word *biblia*, which means "books." "The Bible is not a collection of history books or a chronicle, but is aimed entirely at the integral salvation of the person." Pope Francis suggests practicing Lectio Divina to read and appreciate the Scriptures.

Suggestions to live Word of God Sunday:

- Rite of Installation of Lectors
- Free distribution of Bibles
- Lectio Divina

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Aperuit Illis



"My mother, whom you called blessed, is indeed blessed, because she keeps the word of God. Not because in her the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, but because she keeps that same word of God."

APPROVED BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

- Contemporary English Version - New Testament, First Edition, American Bible Society
- Contemporary English Version - Book of Proverbs, American Bible Society
- New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE)
- Good News Translation (Today's English Version, Second Edition), American Bible Society

FUN FACTS

- The Bible is a collection of books
- St. Jerome translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek to Latin
- The Catholic Bible has 73 books
- Genesis is the oldest book, written between 1400 to 1000 BC
- Old Testament books are categorized: pentateuch, historical, poetic, prophetic
- New Testament books are categorized: Gospels, Acts, Epistles, Revelation

