The Gospel of John

The Prologue

John 1:1-18

雷永明神父向聖言誦

啊！降生成人的聖言，我的天主的聖言！
我願意耗盡我的一生，聆聽祢！
阿！天父光榮的聖言！
請驅散我心靈的黑暗，
使我在祢的光照下，
時常履行祢的聖意！

Verbum Domini: Theologian Pope writes Apostolic Exhortation on the Word of God

Verbum Domini

Masterful, Mystical, and Missionary

Prologue

- 1:1-18
- Introduces the reader to the Incarnation
- Introduces themes and terms for the Gospel Creation, God, Word, believe, light, darkness, life, truth, witness, glory…
- Introduces us to the role of John the Baptist
- Connects fullness of God's grace, His blessings and truth to Jesus

In the beginning …

John 1:1-2

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

Recalls Genesis 1:1

An affirmation of Jesus' deity

Creation and order are key themes of Scripture

Creation in the New Testament (Col 1:16-17)

For in Him (***Jesus***) were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through Him and for Him.

- He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Creation in the New Testament
Heb 1:2

In these last days, He [*God*] spoke to us through ***a Son***, whom he made heir of all things, and ***through whom he created the universe***.

Mystical like the Eagle John

- *May John, who "saw and believed" (cf. Jn 20:8) also help us to lean on the breast of Christ (cf. Jn 13:25), … Following the example of the Apostle John and the other inspired authors, may we allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit to an ever greater love of the word of God."*
- "Verbum Domini" ➔ our response is: "Laus tibi Christe" (Praise to you Christ).

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

"The Lord made his word short, he abbreviated it" (*Is* 10:23; *Rom* 9:28) … The Son himself is the Word, the *Logos*: the eternal word became small – small enough to fit into a manger. He became a child, so that the word could be grasped by us. Now the word is not simply audible; not only does it have a *voice*, now the word has a *face*, one which we can see: that of Jesus of Nazareth (VD 12)

"The word, in fact, can only be spoken and heard in silence, outward and inward. Ours is not an age which fosters recollection; at times one has the impression that people are afraid of detaching themselves, even for a moment, from the mass media…

Rediscovering the centrality of God's word in the life of the Church also means rediscovering a sense of recollection and inner repose… Only in silence can the word of God find a home in us" (VD 66)

In him was life… "In Christ"

No Condemnation
Dead to sin
Alive to God
Eternal life
Form one body
Sanctified
God's grace
Hope
Made alive
New creation

Reconciled
Justified
Freedom
Faith
Every spiritual blessing
God's workmanship
Brought near to God
God's eternal purpose
Forgiveness
Peace of God

John's mystical prologue

- Beginning of John: no infancy gospel.
- Matthew and Luke begin with J's birth, then through genealogies to Abraham (Matt.) and to Adam (Luke).
- John pushes His origin back even further, "In the beginning" – *echoing Genesis!*
- "Word" – Logos – Gk. means something like Reason, Speech, Thought.
- So the true origin of the Christ is the pre-existent Logos of God; Jesus is the enfleshment (incarnation) of that Logos in human form.
- All very philosophical, very Greek.
- But related to the idea of God's Wisdom in Hebrew Scriptures.

The deity of Jesus is a primary point of the prologue.

John 1:1-18

Themes Originating in the Prologue

Words occurring at least this many times in John…

- *Light* 23
  φῶς
- *Truth* 38
  ἀλήθεια
- *Life* 36
  ζωή
- *Son* 43
  υἱός
- *Glory* 42
  δόξα
- *Witness* 54
  μάρτυς
- *World* 79
  κόσμος
- *God* 82
  θεός
- *Believe* 98
  πιστεύω

Mystical like the Eagle John

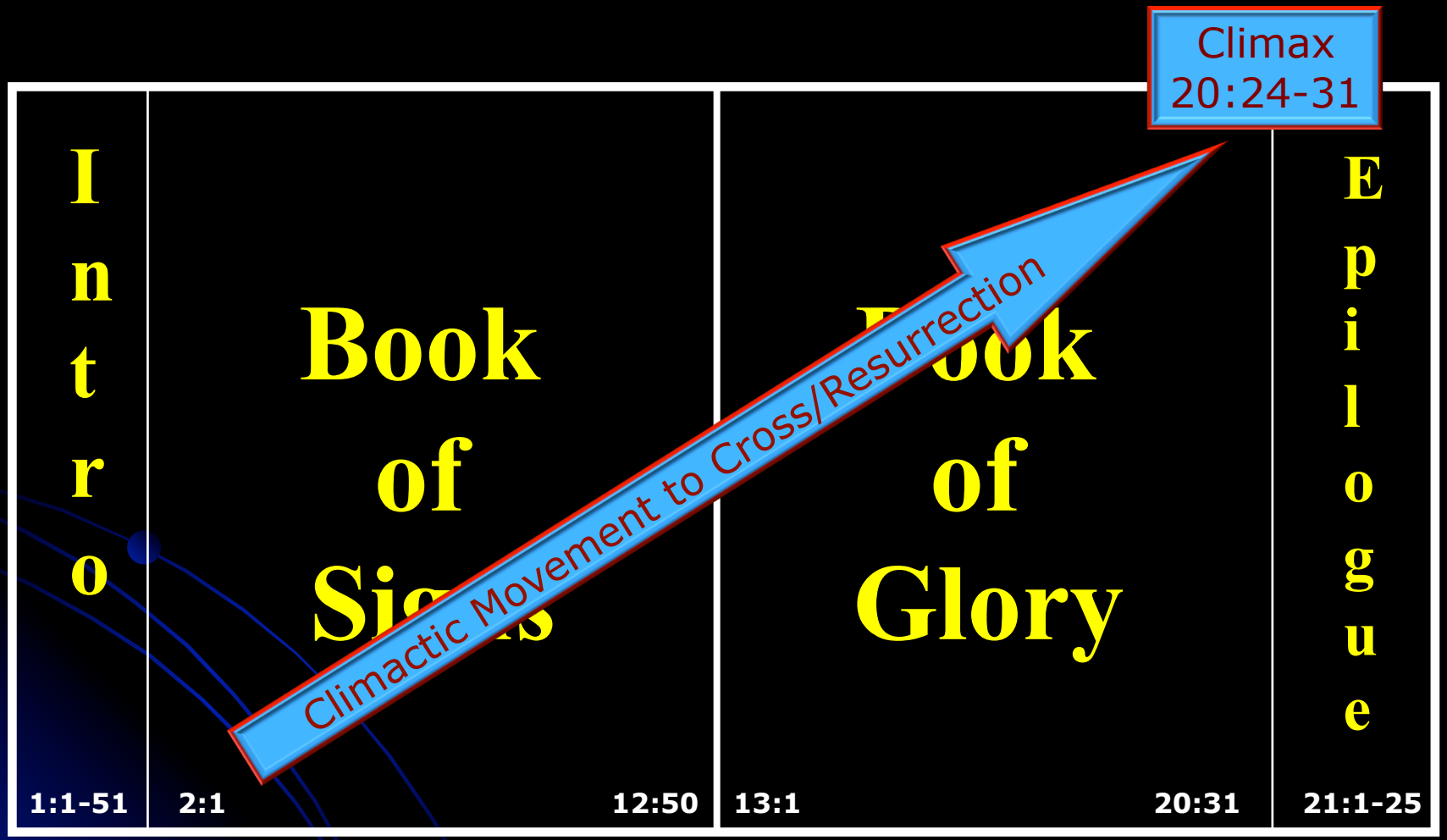
- *The Prologue of John's Gospel leads us to ponder the fact that everything that exists is under the sign of the Word. The Word goes forth from the Father, comes to dwell in our midst and then returns to the Father in order to bring with him the whole of creation which was made in him and for him.*
- *The Church now carries out her mission in eager expectation of the eschatological manifestation of the Bridegroom…*

Gospel of John

Introduction
1:1-18 (51?)

Intro		"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."	"We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only."	
Prologue 1:1-18	Narrative Intro 1:19-1:51	**Book of Signs** 2:1 – 12:50	**Book of Glory** 13:1 – 20:31	Epilogue 21:1-25

Gospel of John



Gospel of John

Purpose
20:30-31

Intro	Book of Sign		E
1:1-51	2:1		

John 20:30-31

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

What is this Gospel?

John 20:30-31

[31]But these are written that
<u>you may believe</u> (decisively believe) **20:31**
pisteu,ÎsÐhte pisteu**<u>s</u>**hte aorist subjunctive

or

<u>you may believe</u> (continue to believe)
pisteu,the present subjunctive

that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

What is this Gospel?

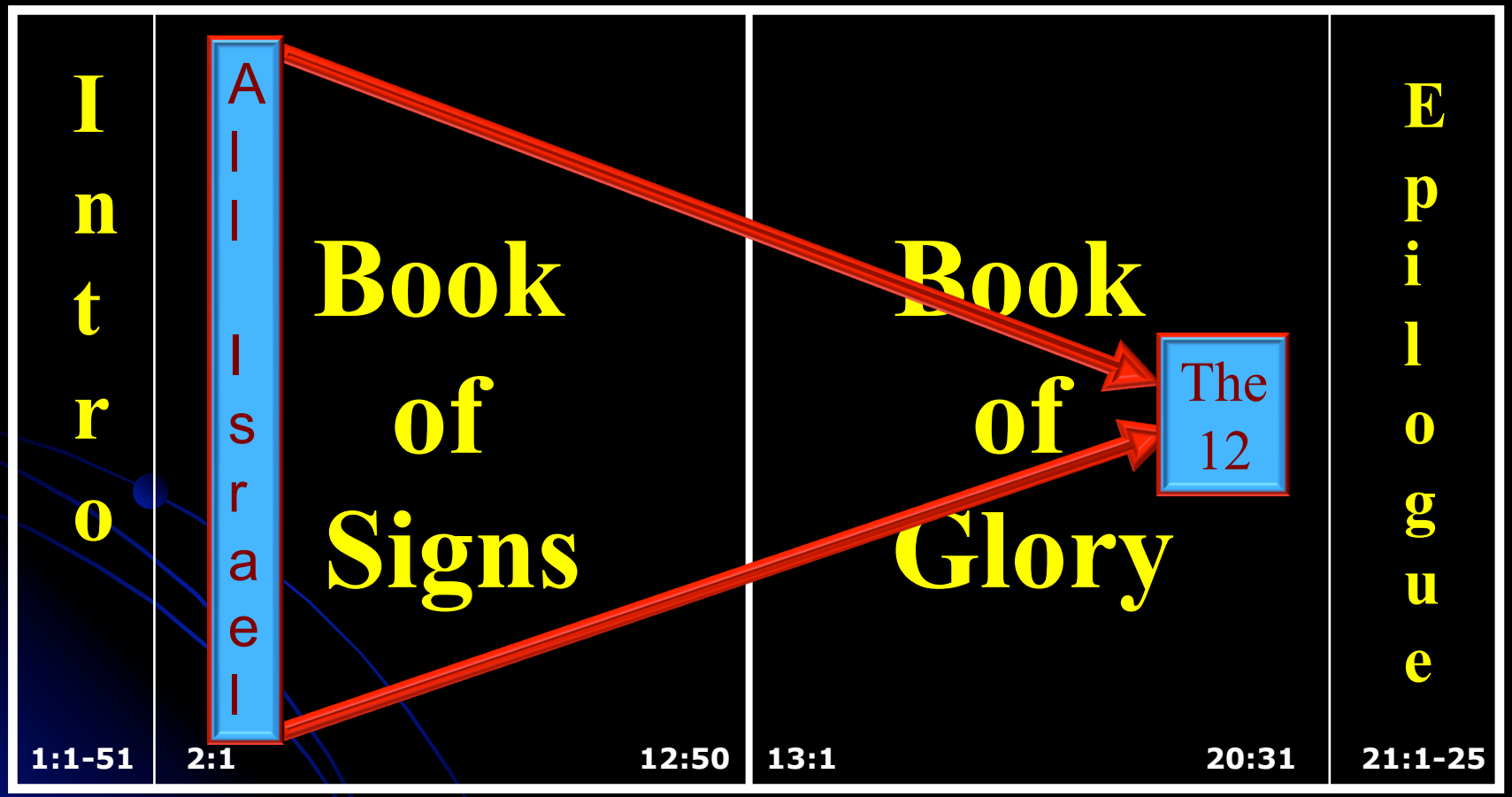
John 20:30-31

31 that **Jesus is the Christ**, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

or

- that the **Christ is Jesus**, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

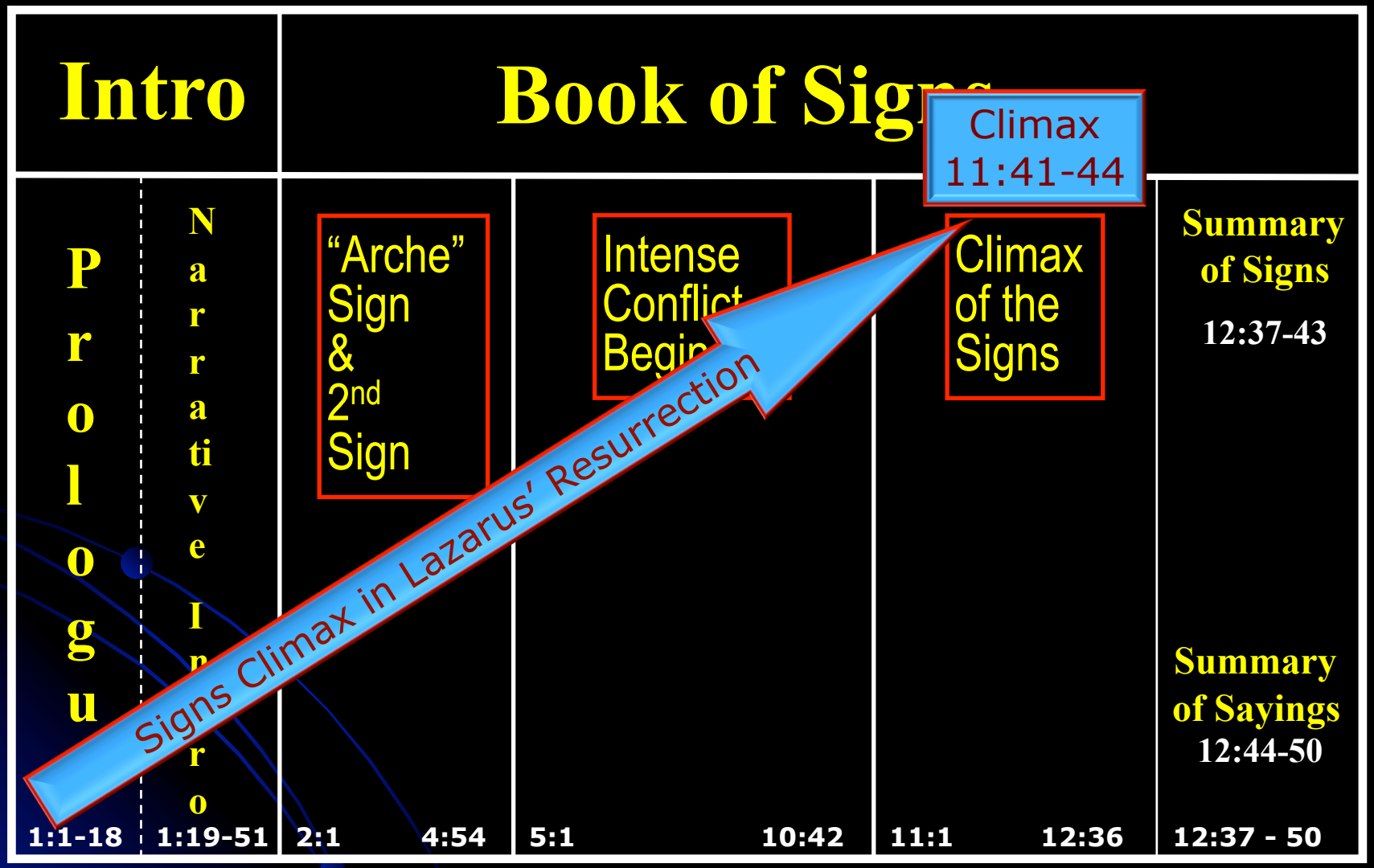
Gospel of John



Gospel of John

Intro	Book of Signs		Book of Glory			Epilogue
	2:1	12:50	13:1		20:31	
	1st Sign	Subsequent Signs, Discourses, Feasts	Jesus' Final Teachings	Arrest, Trial, and Death	Resurrection	
1:1-51	2:1-11	2:12 – 12:50	13:1 – 17:26	18:1-19:42	20:1-31	21:1-25

Gospel of John



Gospel of John

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13:1 20:31</td><td rowspan="3">E
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21:1-25</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Jesus’ Farewell Discourse</td><td>Death and Resurrection</td></tr>
<tr><td>Last Supper Foot Washing
13:1 - 38</td><td>Jesus’ Departure; Spirit’s Arrival
14:1 16:33</td><td>High Priestly Prayer
17:1-26</td><td>Arrest, Trial, and Death
18:1 19:42</td><td>Resurrection
20:1 20:31</td></tr>
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Major doctrines or truths regarding Jesus in John 1:1-18:

1. Jesus is eternal and uncreated, existing before the world began (1:1-3).
2. Jesus possesses Deity (absolute authority and rulership over created things — 1:1).
3. Jesus is a separate Being from the Father (1:1,2,18).
4. Jesus is the Creator – the active force through Whom all things were made (1:3,10).

The Wisdom of God incarnate

- Proverbs 8:22-31: the Wisdom of God.
- The idea of Wisdom (*Sophia* in Greek) is also developed in the Book of Wisdom.
- John takes this Hebraic idea of Wisdom and translates it into the Greek philosophical terminology of *Logos*.

The Wisdom of God is personified in Jesus

- The Letter to Colossians (1: 15-17):

  "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in the heaven and in the earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions, or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together…"

The Word Became Flesh
John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. ***We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.***

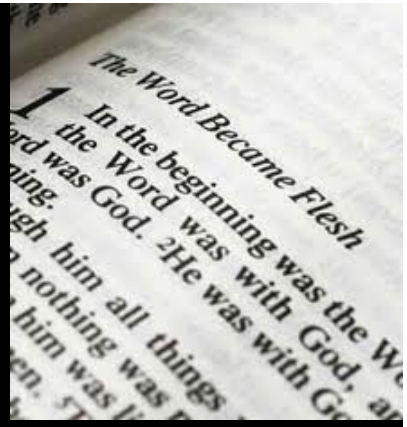
John skips the genealogy, birth story, and reference of Jesus childhood.

- His story focuses on the glory of ***the glory of the One and Only*** Son.

The Prologue of John's Gospel as a guide

- The *Prologue of John's Gospel* (*Jn* 1:1-18), which makes known to us the basis of our life: the Word, who from the beginning is with God, who became flesh and who made his dwelling among us (cf. *Jn* 1:14).
- This is a magnificent text, one which offers a synthesis of the entire Christian faith. From his personal experience of having met and followed Christ, John, whom tradition identifies as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (*Jn* 13:23; 20:2; 21:7, 20), "came to a deep certainty: ***Jesus is the Wisdom of God incarnate, He is His eternal Word who became a mortal man!***

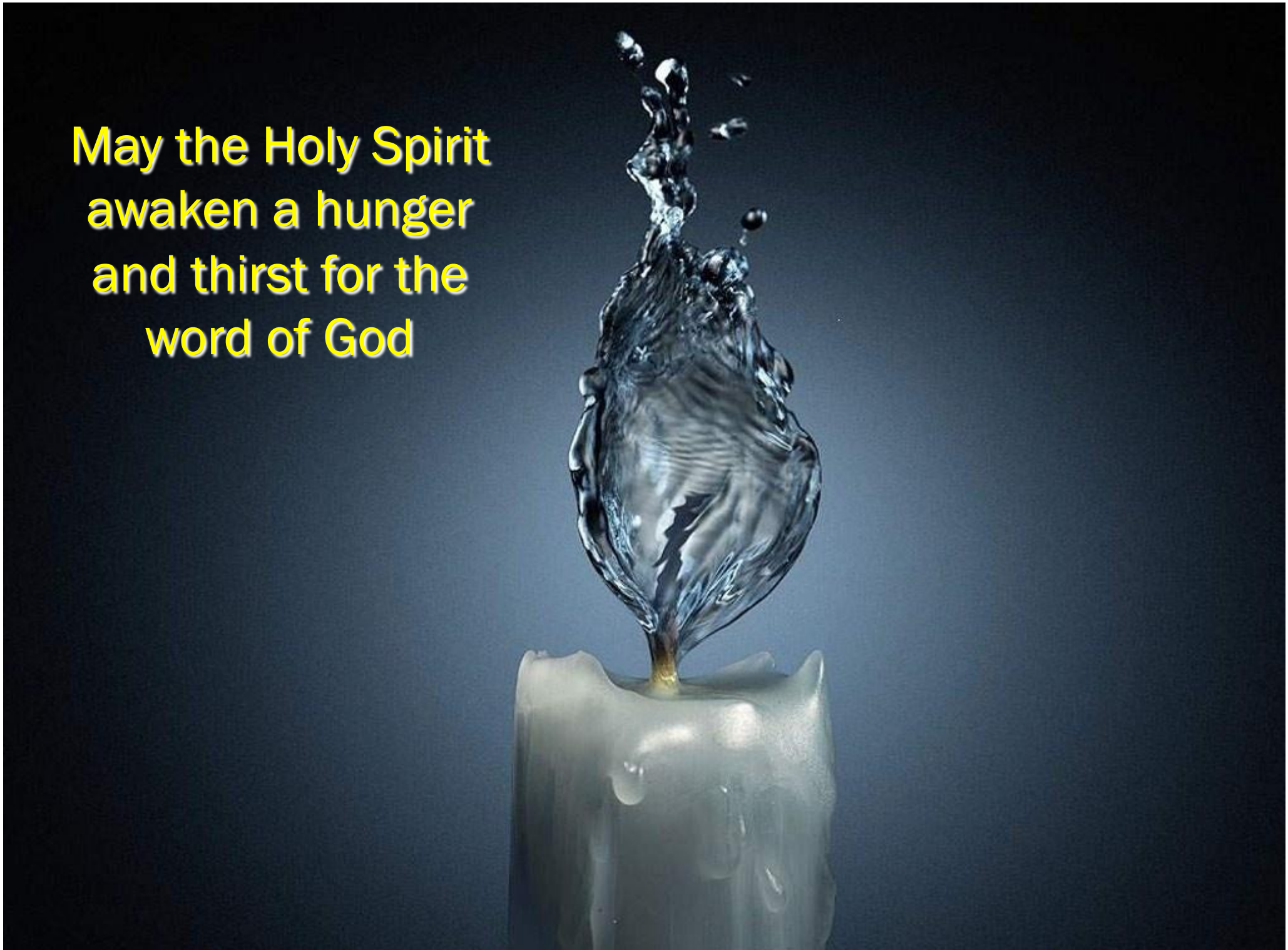
Verbum Dòmini



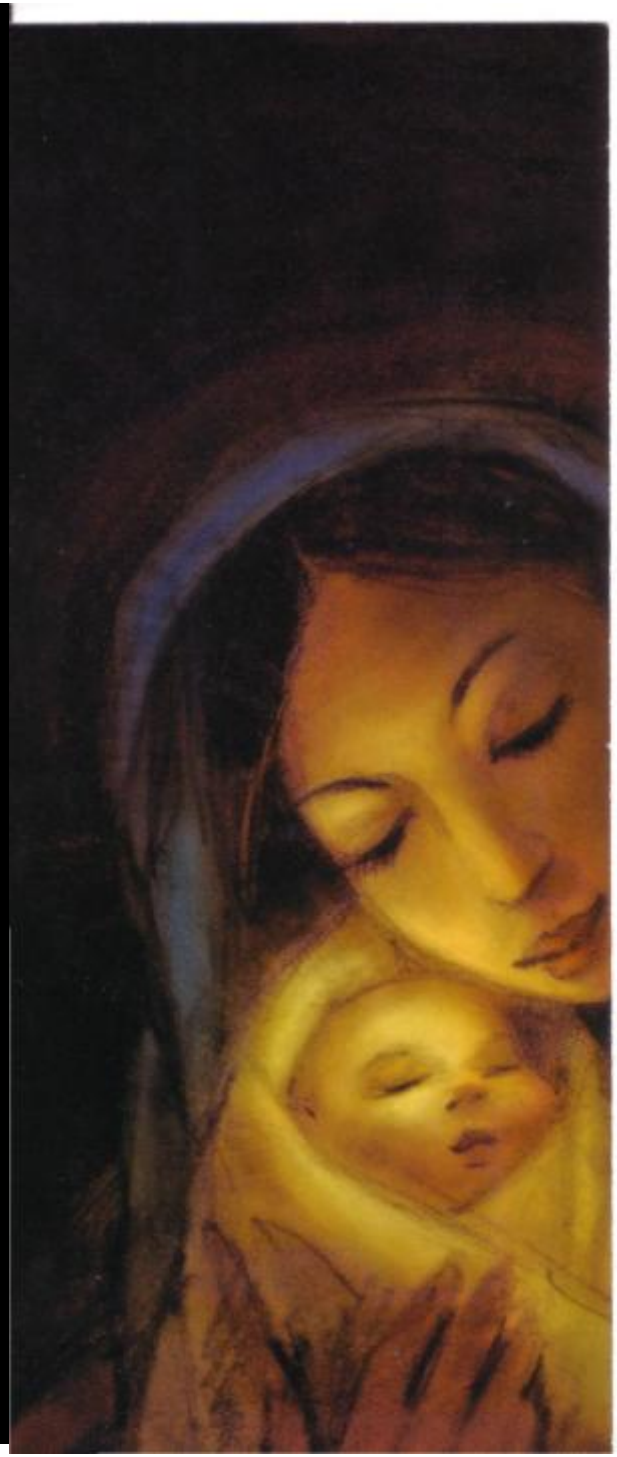
- **The Biblical formation of Christians -** Laity trained to understand, live and proclaim the Word of God (VD 75)
- "the Christian laity, who live out their specific vocation to holiness by a life in the Spirit expressed " in a particular way by their *engagement in temporal matters and by their participation in earthly activities."* **The laity need to be trained to discern God's will through a familiarity with his word, read and studied in the Church (VD 84)**

THE VIRGIN MARY – MODEL OF OPENNESS

"A Virgin ever attentive to God's word, she lives completely attuned to that word; she treasures in her heart the events of her Son, piecing them together as if in a single mosaic" (VD27)


May the Holy Spirit
awaken a hunger
and thirst for the
word of God

Our personal and communal relationship with God depends on our growing familiarity with the word of God
VD 124

JOY!

- May every day of our lives thus be shaped by a renewed encounter with Christ, the Word of the Father made flesh (VD124)
- May our love for the Word made flesh make our joy complete (cf. 1 Jn 1, 4)