

The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church

Summary

The Twelfth Ordinary Session of Bishops Synod, which took place from 5 to 26 October 2008, was devoted to the presence of the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church. The document of the *Instrumentum laboris* called for a reflection on six topics:

- 1) not to restrict the Word of God only to the Bible;
- 2) ways of preaching the Word of God, especially during the homily;
- 3) meditative reading of Scripture, known as Lectio Divina;
- 4) the importance of the Old Testament;
- 5) some issues for exegesis as a method of interpreting Scripture;
- 6) Bible translations

Therefore, it is the task of the Church to explore this Word, which comes to us either through the liturgy, or during our meeting with Scripture. The main purpose of the Synod was to draw attention to Scripture, and to rediscover its great power of shaping and transforming the human heart, since the Word of God is alive and effective (Heb 4, 12). The shepherds responsibility is to prepare the lay faithful so that they could draw from this invaluable source that is the Bible, and be fully nourished by the Word of God present in it.