

## Catholic Bible Institute – Diocese of San Bernardino

### Philosophy

The Catholic Bible Institute offers an experience of encountering the Word of God that is professional, prayerful, purposeful, participatory, pastoral, and personal.

- It is **professional** in that the team and the instructors present an understanding of the study of the Sacred Scriptures through a variety of adult learning experiences using the most contemporary scholarship and methodologies available.
- It is **prayerful** in that the planning, preparation and presentation of each session is woven together with prayer. Also, a variety of liturgical expressions and rituals following the session theme or liturgical season enhance the Institute to give the participants a sense of the rich tradition of our Catholic heritage and to aid them in praying the Scriptures.
- It is **purposeful** in that each activity and process is designed to increase and enrich one's knowledge and understanding of Scripture by integrating the information with one's personal life experience and prayer.
- It is **participatory** in that it fosters community in small groups. Each participant is a significant and active part of a small group throughout the institute. The membership of the small group changes annually while the leadership of the small group changes monthly. This opportunity allows the participants to reflect on one's experience and attitude of being Church. The Church is not a group of like minded or related individuals, but rather it is a group of committed people where the unity of the Spirit is the bond that proclaims the presence of Christ despite our differences.
- It is **pastoral** in that the Institute strives to be pragmatic through modeling of various alternative means of presenting Bible Study Programs at a parish level. Multicultural concerns are respectfully addressed for men and women at various levels of experience, and a spirit of dialogue among all Christian groups around the theme of biblical studies will be promoted.
- It is **personal** in that each participant is challenged to grow in a deeper understanding and practice of the Word of God in the midst of the Church. Through an environment and attitude of prayerful reflection the participant is invited to open oneself to being transformed by the Scriptures.