

18.12.80
10.15 am.

ARCIC 235/Infallibility Continuation/5.

Para.9.

There remains a problem concerning the proper subject-matter of authoritative definitions. This was faced at Vatican Council I, which restricted definitions to 'faith and morals'. But one may wonder about the Marian definitions of 1854 and 1950: do they really pertain to faith? Granted ^{that} the Christian views of Mary must be closely related to the Church's understanding of Christ, one may still doubt the appropriateness for the Church to state essential doctrine in Marian rather than directly Christological terms, [the truth of doctrines that seem loosely based on spiritual readings of Scripture, and the possibility of making definitions on the basis of ^{theological} speculation.] Such questions will in the future need further examination in the context of growing relationships between our Churches.