

Dec. 19, 2004

Creed Part Two: God's Plan for Creation

Genesis 1:1

CC 279-281

CC 282-What is this life all about? Identity Crisis?

CC 290-Bara – “create”

CC 293-294 Created for the glory of God

The Mystery of Creation

1. God creates out of Wisdom and Love – CC 295 – St. Augustine, “Our hearts are restless, O Lord, until they rest in thee.”
2. God creates out of nothing – CC 296-298
3. God creates an ordered and good world – CC 299
4. God transcends creation and is present to it – CC 300
5. God upholds and sustains creation – CC 301

God carries out His plan: Divine Providence

CC 302-314

Divine Providence – CC 303 – both concrete (real or present to us) and immediate

Revelation 3:7 – “Who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one will open.”

Proverbs 19:21 – “Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established.”

CC 305 – Childlike Abandonment to our Heavenly Father's Providence

Matthew 6:31-33 – “Do not be anxious . . . seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.”

God has it handled.

Providence and Secondary Causes CC 306-308

CC 308 – Gaudium et Spes #36

“Drawn from nothingness by God's power, wisdom and goodness, the created being can do nothing if it is cut off from its origin, for without a creator a creature vanishes. Still less can a creature attain, its ultimate end without the help of God's grace.”

Providence and the Scandal of Evil CC 309-314

St. Augustine, “Enchiridion”

“For Almighty God . . ., because he is supremely good, would never allow any evil whatsoever to exist in his works if he were not so all-powerful and good as to cause good to emerge from evil itself.”

Question: Why do bad things happen to good people?

Answer: Only Christian faith as a whole can help with the answer.

Do not ask - Why? – ask how can I glorify God in these present circumstances. Look at the crucifix.

There is not a single aspect of the Christian message that is not in part an answer to the question of evil.

St. Augustine, “With physical good there exists also physical evil as long as creation has not reached perfection.”

Angels - CC 328-330

Angels are real, spiritual essences. They are persons. They have free will and intellect.

CC 329 – Angel – name of their office, not of their nature. Means messenger

CC 331 – Christ is the center of the angelic world

Colossians 1:16 – They belong to him because they were created through and for him.

CC 332 – Tells what angels have done throughout history from beginning to end.

Guardian Angels – protect us and get us to the Father’s house

CC 336 – Cross references in Scripture: Matthew 18:10; Luke 16:22; Psalm 34:7, 91:10-13; Job 33:23-24; Zechariah 1:12; Tobit 12:12

St. Basil

The Visible World CC 337-349

In the Image of God CC 356-361

CC 356 – Of all visible creators only man is “able to know and love his creator.” He is “the only creature on earth that God has willed for its own sake,” and he alone is called to share, by knowledge and love, in God’s own life.

CC 358 – God created everything for man, but man in turn was created to serve and love God and to offer all creation back to him.

Body and Soul but truly one CC 362-368

Soul is everywhere in the body

Male and Female he created them CC 369-379

Equal in dignity, however equality is not sameness: physically, emotionally, and spiritually

The Fall: Where sin abounded, grace abounded all the more

The Reality of Sin

CC 386-387 - Sin is real and present in history

Original Sin CC 388 – 390

1st set of parents disobeyed God – the original sin – pride and disobedience and this results in death and transcends from generation to generation. We do not commit Original Sin, but inherit it.

Fall of the Angels CC 391-395

All began with the angels when they abused their intellect and free will.

Satan is real and is a fallen angel. Demons are real and also fallen angels that fell from grace.