

Doctrinal Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA The Goodness of Creation

So God created humankind in his image, / in the image of God he created them; / male and female he created them. / God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it;" . . . And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. (Genesis 1:27-28a, 30b-31)

Insight

As you were growing up, how did you learn to share love with others?

Amanda, her mom, and her dad were all sitting around the kitchen table playing Amanda's favorite board game. "Amanda," her mom said, "Dad and I have something very exciting to tell you! You're going to be a big sister. You're going to have a baby brother very soon now."

For a moment, Amanda sat silent, wondering and thinking what it would be like to be a big sister. Then she blurted out, "When, Mommy, when?"

"Your brother is growing in mommy's tummy and when the time is right he'll be born. I just know that you are going to be the best big sister ever."

Amanda was excited to know that her family was growing and that she was going to have a new baby brother to love.

For Reflection . . .

Life is a journey along which we constantly come to discover God in the goodness and wonder of his creation.

What evidence do you see of the goodness and wonder of God in the people who are part of your life?

In the events that mark your journey?

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 279–301, 314–320, 355–373

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: pages 53–56, 67–68

Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church: 51–54

Church Teaching

For the Glory of God

God is the master of this world and of history. He creates out of nothing and with no help. With infinite wisdom, God created a world that constantly reveals his ultimate perfection—his goodness, truth, and beauty. He is present to his creation, upholding and sustaining it while transcending it as its totally free and sovereign Creator.

God created an ordered and good world that shares in his goodness. Out of infinite love, God bestows life upon us, his creatures, making us his sons and daughters in Jesus Christ, for the sole purpose of praising his glory and graciousness. Creation does not increase God's blessedness or further his perfection, for he is blessed and perfect in himself.

Serving and Loving Him

Body and soul, we are created in God's image and likeness. In other words, we are not *something* but someone. We are persons capable of knowing our Creator, of freely responding to his invitation to love him, and of sharing in his love and own life.

God created humanity male and female in perfect equality as persons who have been created to live in community. God willed that they be together to find and live in a communion of help and love. By transmitting life to children, men and women cooperate together as spouses and parents in the Creator's work.

Fruitful and good, the world has not only been created for our benefit and use but has been entrusted to our care. We render back this creation to God, serving and loving him through our good stewardship of his many gifts.