

10th Sunday after Pentecost, 2007

Dedication of Our Lady of the Snows

“I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth.”
(The Apostles' Creed)

In his second Epistle to Timothy, St Paul says: “I know in whom I have believed, and I am certain that He is able to keep that which I have committed to Him against that day, being a just Judge.” Can anyone of us express that same conviction — do we know God, Almighty Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth? How can we believe in One we do not know? That is why there is a need to prayerfully read the Scriptures; to read them listening to what God is saying to us.



Every Sunday, the Church begins her official prayer with the acclamation: “The Lord Who made us; come let us adore Him;” and

throughout the course of Psalm 94 reminds us that “The Lord is a great God, and a great King, above all gods. For in His hands are all the ends of the earth; and the heights of the mountains are His; ... For the sea is His and He made it: and His hands formed the dry land. Come let us adore and fall down: and weep before the Lord that made us.”

Here we see the immense love that God has for each of us; a love that is revealed to us from the very first words of Genesis; because each one of us is part of the Father's Plan from the beginning. Everything that God created, He created for His own glory, and out of His infinite love for all creation, which in the end will all be restored in Christ.

Let us take the six days of creation and separate them into two groups of three days. In the beginning God created heaven and earth; then, we are told, the earth was void and empty. On the first day, He creates Light which He divided from the darkness; and He called the light day and the darkness night. On the second day He made the firmament, dividing the waters above the firmament from the waters below; God called the firmament heaven. The third day He separates the waters from the dry land — the dry land he calls earth and the waters seas. He made the earth bring forth the green herb, and such as yieldeth seed according to its kind, and the fruit bearing tree, each having seed according to its kind.

So we have three realms created: the heavens above, the space beneath, and the dry land and the waters. In the next three days He first creates the rulers of those three realms: Lights in the firmament to give light upon the earth – and that are for signs and for seasons and for days and for years – the sun to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night, and the stars. On the fifth day He creates creeping creatures having life; birds to fly over the earth; the great sea creatures — all living creatures in the waters. On the sixth day He creates every living creature on the earth, cattle etc according to their kinds. And all this was provided for man who was to rule and control all earthly creation: then God said, “Let us make man to our image and likeness.” This likeness to God is not limited to the powers of the soul. When Adam becomes father of Seth, the scriptures refer to Seth as the image and likeness of Adam; there is here then a definite reference to family — so that our likeness to God is a likeness to our Father; so that we must use created things according to the rules that God has placed in our hearts. The Word of God makes it clear that there is a great difference between man and animals: “But Adam was not found a helper like himself.” God creates Eve as a helpmate, who is to be the mother of all the living.

There is an important lesson in the words “And [God] rested on the seventh day, and He blessed the seventh day and sanctified it.” This tells us that from the beginning Adam was to turn his mind away from earthy pursuits and to serve God on the seventh day: when the Scripture refers to Adam walking with God in the Garden, this is what it means. Adam was king and priest, and from the earliest times man had the obligation to worship God and serve Him, just as the angels in heaven worship God and serve Him; all creation is to give glory to the Creator.

The Venerable Francis Libermann, Founder of the Holy Ghost Fathers, wrote: “The true presence of God consists on fixing on Him alone all our desires and affections; we shall never lose His holy presence; we shall live before Him even when we do not think of Him. A man who continually perseveres in the sole desire of being agreeable to God in all things, and of never finding his entire satisfaction in any creature, is always in mental prayer even when his mind is occupied with objects such as study and recreation. I believe that is the interpretation of St Luke: “that we ought always to pray and not to faint.” That is what we must aim to acquire. Let us ask our heavenly Mother to teach us how to reach that high standard of spirituality.