

# Week 7

Paragraphs 299–354



# THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR

WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

*f* faith.<sup>82</sup> By “analogy of faith” we mean the

## What We Believe PART ONE: THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

### DIVINE PROVIDENCE IN CREATION

**G**od did not create the world arbitrarily or from boredom, but because he desired to share his love with free creatures made in his image and likeness. God is the primary cause of all existence: Everything exists only because God wills it to exist. Yet he also endowed his creations with their own order and laws, and he gave us intellect and free will, allowing us to love. With this freedom comes the ability not to love and to reject the moral law. Still, God acts through creation to bring about his plan of salvation—through his messengers, the angels; in the Incarnation, Passion, and Resurrection of Jesus; and at Mass. Jesus calls us to childlike trust in our Father, who transcends creation yet is always “present to” it (CCC 300).

#### Keep in Mind

- God created a good and ordered world, and acts in it through Divine Providence.
- God created us with intellect and free will so we would have the capacity to love.
- We can also choose not to love; we are free to sin and reject the moral law. This is why moral evil exists in the world.
- God in no way causes moral evil but permits it because “he respects the freedom of his creatures and ... knows how to derive good from it” (CCC 311).
- Jesus freely entered into both physical and moral evil to conquer, transform, and redeem it in the Resurrection.
- Angels have intelligence and will to know and choose, but angels are purely spiritual beings. They serve God, bear his messages, and can intercede for us.
- Humans are unique as both spiritual and material beings and do not become angels after death.
- Tradition teaches that each of us has a guardian angel.



Fresco of Dream of Jacob in Altlerchenfelder church in Vienna

#### Dive Deeper

Angels are servants of God, his messengers. They play a powerful and constant role in salvation history (see CCC 329). This image shows Jacob’s dream, where angels ascend and descend a ladder that connects heaven and earth.

How can you strengthen your childlike abandonment to the heavenly Father? Today, find one way to deepen your faith in him by trusting him to care for his beloved Son’s specific request.

- Each creature has “its own particular goodness and perfection,” but the six days of creation indicate the “hierarchy of creatures,” with mankind as “the summit of the Creator’s work” (CCC 339, 342, 343).
- We are stewards, not owners, of the earth—called to be responsible with the gift of creation.
- All creation exists only because God wills it, and all creation is oriented to worship.
- The Sabbath is holy, set apart for worshiping God and praising his saving actions and irrevocable covenant with his people.
- Christians worship on Sunday instead of Saturday because it is the day of Christ’s Resurrection.
- At every Mass, time and eternity meet.

Use the space below to reflect on this week's content.

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## Take It to Prayer

God our Father, we praise you for the created world, visible and invisible. Lead us through this dangerous world by the protection of your grace and your angels. Help us be more aware of the unseen world. Help us to recognize your divine presence in our lives. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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*The Catechism in a Year* is a daily podcast produced by Ascension and hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz. It helps us understand what it means to be Catholic by reading the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and allowing those truths to shape our lives. This bulletin was adapted from the books that complement the podcast: *The Catechism in a Year Companion* by Petroc Willey, Fr. Mike Schmitz, and Matthew Doeing.