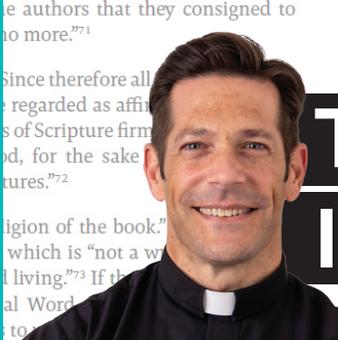


Week 6

Paragraphs 253–298



THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR

WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

f faith.⁸² By “analogy of faith” we mean the

What We Believe PART ONE: THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

CREATION REVEALS THE CREATOR

God created everything that exists out of nothing because of his goodness, wisdom, and love. Creation is designed to reveal the Creator’s call to relationship with him. God gains nothing from revealing his glory or from our worship, yet he creates for our benefit. “Creation is the foundation of ‘all God’s saving plans,’ the ‘beginning of the history of salvation’ that culminates in Christ” (CCC 280).

Keep in Mind

- The “economy of salvation” (*oikonomia*) is how God has worked in the world through Creation, the Fall, and salvation and history into the present day because he wants us to eternally share his blessed life in heaven.
- “The whole Christian life is a communion with each of the divine persons. ... Everyone who follows Christ does so because the Father draws him and the Spirit moves him” (CCC 259).
- The life of the Trinity dwells inside each of us because we are temples of the Holy Spirit.
- God is omnipotent (all-powerful), so “nothing is impossible with God, who disposes his works according to his will” (CCC 269).
- The reality of suffering and evil can make us ask if God is really loving and omnipotent, why does he allow suffering? God does not remove suffering but redeems it.
- Some questions that deeply impact how we live and our choices, like those about the meaning and purpose of creation, go beyond science. Science asks, “How and what?” or, “What is this? How did it come to be?”
- In a purely material world, there is no such thing as free will, no right or wrong, no objective morality. When admiring creation, man should ask, “Who and why?” or, “Who made this? Why was it made?” to discover its purpose and our role in it.



Baptism of Christ by Bartolomeo Coda

Dive Deeper

At Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan, a theophany occurs—a revelation of God that includes the Father in heaven, the Son baptized by John, and the Holy Spirit coming upon Jesus in the form of a dove (see CCC 258).

Have you seen anything in nature that led you to praise God? Find something beautiful in nature today that showcases the goodness of God’s creation, pointing to the hope of our salvation.

- God has revealed everything we need to know, but not every fact there is, about creation. Science deepens our appreciation for creation and the power of its Creator (see CCC 283).
- The universe is not a cosmic accident; God created everything, both visible and invisible, so his existence can be perceived and we could have a relationship with him (see CCC 286).
- God did not create the world because he needed anything or for his glory, “but to show it forth and to communicate it” (see CCC 293).
- As Hebrews 3:11 states, “By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear” (CCC 286).

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

Take It to Prayer

Father Almighty, you are good, merciful, powerful. You created all things from nothing. And you created all things for yourself. You created this universe for us to get to know you. Bring us into your heart where we will find joy. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.



The best place to listen along is the Ascension app. Scan the QR code to get exclusive bonus content and transcripts for every episode.

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.