

Chapter 4: The Gift of God's Creation

God created the whole world out of love.

Chapter Summary

God's plan of love began with His creation of the heavens and the earth. He created the world in six days, and on the seventh day He rested. Out of nothing, God created the visible and invisible world because He loves us. The invisible world includes angels and Heaven. Everything that God created was good. God gave mankind the responsibility of being good stewards of the earth. He told man and woman to be fruitful and multiply. God created us to know, love, and serve Him.

More for Parents

Children love to know their history: how their parents met and stories about their grandparents. And they certainly love to know any interesting stories about themselves. It is fitting, then, that God would reveal to us an important part of our history: our creation. In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, God tells us about how He created the world. He explains Creation not as a scientific instruction manual but as a family story. God created us in His image and likeness (see Genesis 1:27). He created us "good." He created us to cooperate with Him in this good and beautiful world so that we can be with Him in Heaven. Be sure to share God's account of Creation with your children often so they appreciate their history!

Virtue in the Family

God created human beings to know, love, and serve Him. Prayer, in all its forms, is the way by which God draws us to deeper communion with Him and to true happiness. Prayer helps us nurture all the virtues.

Coming to Know God

- The first step in prayer should always be to recognize God's presence. Try this activity to help your family practice this:
 - Reflect on God's presence to the world He created and keeps in existence.
 - Reflect on His personal presence in us by grace: when we are in a state of grace, our souls become sanctuaries where the Blessed Trinity dwells.
 - Reflect on Christ's bodily presence with us in the Eucharist on the altars and in all the tabernacles of the world.
 - Reflect on the glory of Heaven, where God dwells with all the angels and saints.
- Take a walk with your family and point out the beauty of creation.
- Have a family discussion about why your children think God made them. What gifts does each family member bring to the world?

Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

• angels

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