

***First Sunday in Lent***  
***February 21, 2021***  
***Year of the Eucharist and Parish (Sermon #7)***

*“When we turn our minds to the consideration of creatures we do not by that fact turn away from God; our creature world is not an alien one into which divinity enters timidly by our gracious invitation or is excluded by our inhospitable provincialism.” (The Summa Simplified for Everyone, p.54)*

In the first two chapters of the Book of Genesis, we can read two different accounts of the story of creation. At different times in the history of mankind, these two accounts have been the subject of scrutiny. They have been dismissed as oral myths written down at a much later date. As Catholics, we understand that the fullness of our faith is not dependent upon the accuracy of these chapters. However, we also realize that they can provide us with much to consider. We may find ourselves asking questions such as: “When was the beginning of our universe? Where did we come from? Did we evolve or where we created as is?” By limiting ourselves to a few points, we can slowly begin to reflect upon our Catholic understanding of Creation.

Allow me to begin by first stating an obvious point. No one was there in the beginning to write down exactly how everything came to be. Guided by science we can formulate theories as to formation of the universe. Yet, even with as much scientific knowledge as we can accumulate, we find ourselves still wanting more. It is this “more” that truly drives man to search for an answer. Our Jewish ancestors provided an oral explanation, later written down as the Book of Genesis, to answer this question of “more” by stating creation was a result of God’s willing it into existence. Catholic theologians and scholars would contribute more to this initial explanation by offering a “how,” a “why,” and a “purpose” to God’s creating of the universe.

We believe the “why” of creation centers upon us. God, infinitely perfect within Himself and not lacking for anything, desires to share His eternal love. He would choose to first share Himself with those created beings which would be most like Himself - the angels. For God, in the beginning, is a spiritual being and we believe that the angels are also spiritual beings. Next weekend, I would like to take some time to reflect upon our Catholic belief of the angels. We must remember their beauty, their grandeur, and their purpose; as we reflect upon our own.