

***The Epiphany of the Lord***  
***January 7, 2024***  
***Year of the Most Holy Eucharist***  
***Reflection #2***

*“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.” (Genesis 1:1-2)*

A wise man was once asked to provide a statement concerning the creation of the universe. He responded by saying he took comfort in the knowledge there were some truths too great for the mind of man. His comfort consisted in the fact that the human mind is much too small to understand the complexity of the created universe. And yet it is here, within the framework of the mystery of God’s plan of creation, where we must begin our study of the Eucharist.

The sacred author of the Book of Genesis described this initial time, “In the beginning,” as void, without form and dark. Even with our advances in science and technology, we are no closer today, than the sacred author in his day, describing the beginning of creation. This truth is important for it admits we are the makers of things and not the creators. We make things using materials already available to us. We cannot create something out of nothing. However, this is exactly what had to have happened for creation to begin. There had to be a First Cause of created things. Our faith defines this first cause as being God.

Within the Divine Intellect of God, a choice is made to create. With a word, The Word, God speaks creation into existence. Again, our faith teaches us, the first things, in the order of creation, which would come into being, would be those things most like God, Himself. They would be created spiritual beings, the Angels. In the instant the Spirit of God enlivened their angelic intellect, they, too, must make a choice. They must choose to serve God, within His Divine Plan, or follow their own separate way. Most of the Angels would choose to serve God. However, a third would choose otherwise.

The great masters of Theology have taught us that found within God is perfect order. This perfect order is a part of who He is and shapes His Divine Plan. Angels were created within this perfect order, situated in Nine Choirs. To the Angels present in each Choir, a Mission is given which gives God perfect praise. Using a rough example, chairs are present in our choir loft. Members of the choir may sit in these chairs thus filling the choir. However, if members are missing, the chairs are not filled. One could say, therefore, at the instant certain angelic creatures fell from Grace (cast out of Heaven), their thrones, present within their choirs, were left empty. To both fill their thrones and complete their mission of giving praise unto Him, new creatures must be created.

These new created beings would differ from the Angels. They would possess a material body. However, before they could exist, a material world would need be created; one which could sustain them. To explain this complicated mystery, the spiritual author offers the first

chapters of the book of Genesis. And, similar to the Angels, created man would be free to choose thus, making his own destiny.