



Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC ) 27

The desire for God is *written in the human heart*, because man is created by God and for God; and *God never ceases to draw man to himself*. Only in God will he find the *truth and happiness he never stops searching for...*

(Add? Romans 1:19-20 – see “Does God Exist page 2)

CCC 1718 (Define Beatitudes – I didn't see this in the chapters or handouts but see it in CC 1718) Recommend defining Beatitudes.

The Beatitudes respond to the natural desire for happiness. This desire is of divine origin: *God has placed it in the human heart in order to draw man to the One who alone can fulfill it...*

# Man's Desire For God

King David wrote in Psalm 42:2-3

As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, the living God. When can I enter and see the face of God?

Our heart is restless until it rests in you.

St Augustine, *The Confessions*

CCC 28

In many ways, throughout history down to the present day, men have given expression to their quest for God in their religious beliefs and behavior: in their prayers, sacrifices, rituals, meditations, and so forth.

**Nothing has changed! Isn't that why we are all here tonight?**

◇What is my purpose? ◇What happens when I die? ◇What will make me happy?

◇We feel "spiritual" ◇We long for "something more"

# Paths to Come to God - *Creation*

- CREATION
  - HUMAN PERSON (REASON)
  - REVELATION
- 
- JUST GIVE THEM THE THREE WAYS UP FRONT TO GET IT INTO THEIR MINDS?

# Paths to Come to God - *Creation*

- Beauty of nature
  - Canticle of the Sun, St. Francis of Assisi 1278
- Order/Purposefulness of nature, not random
  - Fibonacci Sequence
- CCC 46
  - When he listens to the message of creation and to the voice of conscience, man can arrive at certainty about the existence of God, the cause and the end of everything.
  - Add? Romans 1:20 (pg 3 of the USCCA)?

# Paths to Come to God – *Human* *Person/Reason*

- We can believe in God using our mind
  - Logic
  - Observation
  - Science
  - ? (text speaks to moral goodness, hearing our conscience)
- CCC 47

The Church teaches that the one true God, our Creator and Lord, can be known with certainty from his works, *by the natural light of human reason.*
- Reason is limited because we are limited

# Why have so many not found God?

## Pg 4 of text

- Presence of Suffering and Pain
- No one has shared the good news
- Ignorance of religion or indifferent
- Scandalous behavior of some believers
- Sin and resistance to following God ways.

# Paths to Come to God - *Revelation*

- Revelation – The self disclosure of the living God, showing himself by both great deeds, as narrated for us in Scripture and by the words that illumine the meaning of these deeds.
- Revelation enables us to learn about god’s inner life and his loving plan to save us. (text pg 13)
  - In Exodus 3:6 & 3:14, God tells Moses who he is
  - Jesus Christ is the fullness (final/total) of God’s revelation to us

“In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son.” Hebrews 1:1-2
- All that is needed for salvation has already been revealed. (text page 14-15)
- ~~Revelation is transmitted to us through Apostolic (Sacred) Tradition and Sacred Scripture~~
- No amount of unaided thinking or observation could lead to comprehension  
CCC 52 ...By revealing himself God wishes to make them capable of responding to him, and of knowing him, and of loving him far beyond their own natural capacity.
- Revelation calls for a response of faith and conversion
- Public Revelation vs. Private Revelation
  - Public  
God’s covenant revealed for all of God’s people  
All that is needed for salvation has already been revealed  
No new public revelation until Jesus returns
  - Private  
To individuals  
Messages given by Mary at Lourdes & Fatima  
Inspire us to a more profound commitment to God  
DO NOT add anything to public revelations up to/through Jesus Christ

# TRANSMISSION OF REVELATION

- Revelation is transmitted to us through Apostolic (Sacred) Tradition and Sacred Scripture
- When Jesus left the Earth after the Resurrection, he did not leave a Bible in the hands of his Apostles, instead he gave them the mandate to go out and teach all nations all He had commended (Mt 28:20)
- Sacred Tradition came before the New Testament
- Sacred Tradition could be defined as the living interpretation of Sacred Scripture
- We will talk more about Sacred Tradition in our next class

# Resources

- Wisdom 13:1-9
- CCC 27-43, 46-48
- United States Catholic Catechism for Adults  
p. 17 Doctrinal Statements, bullets 2-7  
“Revelation Time Line”
- Association for Catechumenal Ministry (ACM)
  - Does God Exist?
  - Made in His Image
  - The Covenants of God with Us
- Saints Elizabeth Ann Seton, Francis of Assisi & Augustine

## Slide 1 Catechism of the Catholic Church

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* originated with a recommendation made at the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops in 1985. In 1986 Pope John Paul II appointed a Commission of Cardinals and Bishops to develop a compendium of Catholic doctrine. On June 25, 1992 Pope John Paul II officially approved the definitive version of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. On December 8, 1992 Pope John Paul II promulgated the Catechism with an apostolic constitution. (uscgb.org)

Important functions:

It conveys the ***essential and fundamental content of Catholic faith and morals in a complete and summary way.***

It is intended to be a ***teaching resource/tool***

***Reference text for local Catechisms***

## The Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (The Birth of Mary)

Celebrates the birth of Mary to Saints Joachim and Ann.

(be ready to define Protevangelium)

It is recounted by the Protevangelium of James, an apocryphal writing from the end of the 2nd century. Our tradition is based on this account.

### Apocryphal Documents

Writings by [early Christians](#) that give accounts of [Jesus](#) and his teachings, the nature of [God](#), or the teachings of his [apostles](#) and of their lives. The word "[apocrypha](#)" means "things put away" or "things hidden" and comes from the Greek through the Latin. The general term is usually ***applied to the books that were considered by the church as useful, but not divinely inspired.***

### Interesting Fact

In the case of all the Saints, the Church commemorates their birthday on the day of their *return* to the Lord. In the cases of St. John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin, the Church also celebrates the day of their *earthly* birth.

PRAYER FROM MASS TODAY SEPT 8: *“Let us celebrate with joy the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for from her arose the son of justice, Christ our God.”*