



October 2, 2025



Announcements



- Catechumens- Rite of Acceptance
 - THIS Sunday 10/5/2025, 9am or 4:30 Mass
 - Rehearsal 30 mins before in Holy Family Room
- Candidates- Rite of Welcoming
 - Next Sunday 10/12/2025, 9am or 4:30 Mass
 - Rehearsal 30 mins before in Holy Family Room
- Convalidation Classes
 - Saturday 10/25 & 11/15 from 9am-12pm
 - All Married couples are invited and encouraged to attend the 11/15 class

What is Divine Revelation?

Revelation is God's self-disclosure. He reveals Himself so we can enter a loving relationship with Him. CCC 51: "It pleased God, in His goodness and wisdom, to reveal Himself and to make known the mystery of His will."





Why does man have a desire for God?

- Because the longing for God is written in the human heart. We are made to seek truth, beauty, goodness, and ultimately God Himself.
- This longing shows that we are capable of knowing and loving Him
- **In Genesis:** Humanity is uniquely made “in the image and likeness of God” (Gen 1:26–27). Adam receives God’s own breath of life (Gen 2:7), showing that our identity is bound up with God Himself.

Can human reason discover God without revelation?



- Yes, but only partially. Human reason can perceive God's existence from creation. For example, when we contemplate order, beauty, and causality in the world, we can recognize a Creator.
- However, revelation is needed to know God personally and enter into His plan of love.
- **In Genesis:** Creation itself is God's first revelation. His Word brings everything into being, and everything He makes is "good" (Gen 1:31).



What arguments help us know God exists?

- **The Unmoved Mover:** Everything that is changing or moving is moved by something else. Nothing can cause its own motion. This chain of movers cannot go on infinitely. There would be no First Mover to initiate the chain.
- **The Uncaused Cause:** Everything that begins has a cause. The universe began; therefore, it has a First Cause that is uncaused—God
- **The Argument from Design (Teleological):** The order and beauty of creation suggest an intelligent Designer (CCC 32).

How does science relate to these arguments?



- Science supports, rather than contradicts, belief in God. The **Big Bang theory** suggests a beginning to the universe, which aligns with the philosophical argument that what begins must have a cause.
- The fine-tuning of the universe suggests purpose, not accident.
- Faith and reason are allies, not enemies.

What if someone says, “I only believe in what I can see”?

We believe many things without seeing—such as atoms, love, or the trustworthiness of history. God’s existence is known through reason applied to the evidence of creation.



Reason shows that God is real. Revelation tells us who He is.



- The *preambles of faith*: truths about God and the moral order that human reason, by its own natural powers, can discover without the aid of supernatural revelation.
- Examples: the existence of God, the existence of the soul, the natural law written on the heart.
- The *articles of faith* are supernatural truths revealed by God that **cannot** be discovered or fully grasped by human reason alone but must be accepted on God's authority.
- Examples: the Trinity, the Incarnation, the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the forgiveness of sins.

How does God reveal Himself in Genesis 1–11?



- God reveals Himself as Creator, Lord, and Covenant-Maker.
- Through His Word, He creates the heavens and the earth.
- He establishes relationships with Adam and Eve, Cain, Noah, and even with all of creation through the covenant after the flood.
- God's revelation unfolds gradually. It begins with creation, continues with covenants (like with Noah), and reaches fullness in Christ.

What does Genesis teach about creation?

Genesis 1 presents a structured account of creation in six days, culminating in humanity and the Sabbath rest.

Genesis 2 offers a more intimate portrait: man formed from dust, woman created as his partner, and the garden entrusted to their care.

Creation is good, ordered, and the work of a loving God. Humanity has a vocation: to know the truth, live in freedom, and care for creation as stewards.

God's revelation unfolds gradually. It begins with creation, continues with covenants (like with Noah), and reaches fullness in Christ.





What is humanity's unique dignity according to both Genesis and the Catechism?

- Human beings alone are created in God's image and likeness.
- They are capable of reason, freedom, and love.
- Marriage is instituted by God as a covenant of life-giving communion (Gen 2:24).

What went wrong in Genesis 3?



- Adam and Eve were tempted by the serpent to doubt God's goodness and disobey His command.
- They grasped autonomy apart from God, and sin entered the world.
- The effects were immediate: shame, fear, broken relationships, toil, suffering, and death.
- This first sin is called *original sin*. It deprived humanity of original holiness and introduced a wounded human condition.



Did God abandon humanity after the Fall?

- No. Even in judgment, God promised salvation.
- In Genesis 3:15, He announced that the offspring of the woman would crush the serpent's head. This is called the *Protoevangelium*—the first announcement of the Gospel.
- The Church sees this as a prophecy of Christ, the New Adam, and of Mary, the New Eve

How does sin spread in Genesis 4–11?



- Cain murders Abel (Gen 4), showing violence between brothers.
- Lamech boasts of vengeance, escalating pride and brutality.
- Humanity becomes so corrupt that God sends the flood (Gen 6–9).
- After the flood, Noah's descendants still fall into sin.
- At Babel (Gen 11), human pride seeks to “make a name” apart from God, and God scatters them by confusing their language.

The spread of sin is a sign of humanity's fallen condition. Yet God continues to guide history through His providence.



If God is good, why does He allow evil?

- God permits evil to bring about a greater good—such growth in virtue, Christ's victory over sin.
- The greatest example is the Cross, where God brought salvation out of suffering (CCC 309–314).

What is the meaning of the flood and God's covenant with Noah?

The flood is both judgment and renewal. Human wickedness leads to destruction, but God saves Noah and his family.

Afterward, He establishes a covenant with Noah and all creatures, symbolized by the rainbow (Gen 9:12–17).

This covenant prefigures the greater covenant in Christ.





What does the Tower of Babel teach us?

- The people sought to build a tower “to the heavens” to make a name for themselves (Gen 11:4). This prideful unity without God led to division. God scattered them by confusing their language.
- Babel reveals the dangers of sin and pride, but it foreshadows Pentecost, when the Spirit unites all nations in Christ.

How is Revelation transmitted to us?

Through **Sacred Scripture** and **Sacred Tradition**, guarded and authentically interpreted by the **Magisterium** (the teaching office of the Church). Together they form one sacred deposit of faith (CCC 80–83).





Why should I trust Revelation?

Revelation is confirmed by signs:

- **Miracles** (e.g., healings, the Resurrection).
- **Prophecies fulfilled** in Christ.
- The **endurance of the Church** through history

Once we know God exists,
what can we say about His
nature?

- **Eternal** (without beginning or end).
- **Immutable** (unchanging perfection).
- **Omnipotent** (all-powerful).
- **Omniscient** (all-knowing).
- **Omnipresent** (present everywhere).
- **All-good and all-loving** (CCC 218–221).





How does God relate to the world?

- God is transcendent (above creation) yet immanent (present and active within creation).
- He sustains all things in existence (CCC 300).
- Without God's continual support, the universe would vanish.
- Providence

What if someone says, “Truth is relative”?

If truth were relative, the statement “truth is relative” would itself be meaningless.

Christianity affirms objective truth revealed by God in Christ.



Sources

- ✓ Catechism of the Catholic Church
- ✓ “The Faith Explained”, by Leo Trese

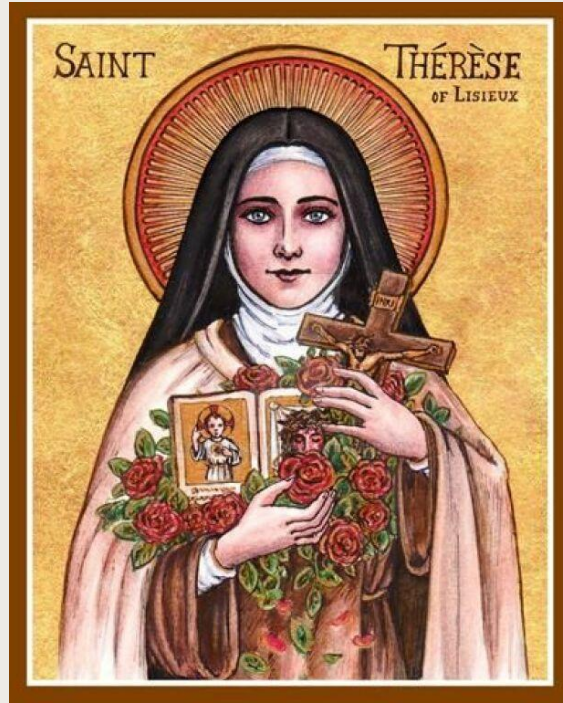


Small Group Discussion Questions



- **Human Longing for God:** How do you experience the natural desire for God in your own life? In what ways does this desire reveal itself in everyday decisions or longings?
- **Faith and Reason:** Genesis shows both trust (Noah, Abel) and failure (Adam and Eve, Cain). How do reason and faith work together in recognizing and responding to God's revelation today?
- **God's Providence:** The flood and the covenant with Noah show God's judgment and mercy. How does recognizing God's providence change the way we respond to challenges or difficulties in life?
- **Scripture and Tradition:** How can Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition guide us in making moral or spiritual decisions today? Can you give an example of a situation where both are important?
- **Hope in Salvation:** Genesis 3:15 introduces the promise of a Savior. How does knowing that God has been working to redeem humanity since the beginning influence your personal faith or hope for the future?

Saint Therese of Lisieux







Small Group Discussion

- 1) ??
- 2) ??
- 3) ??
- 4) ??

Closing Prayer

