

God created us, loves us and invites us to do His will.

Nov. 23

God is the Creator of everything, from nothing. We call Him Creator. We can make from wood - a chair. God created everything from nothing. **“I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth”** (Apostles' Creed)
God also created a man.

“God said: Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” (Genesis 1,26)

We are similar to our God, because we can love, share, forgive, we can choose and because we have a free will and an immortal soul. God created also all things visible and invisible. **“Angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father”** (Mt 18,10)

God trusted a man with the whole world.

“let them have dominion over ...all the creatures...”

God trusted a man with the whole world. He desires that we govern the world justly and with love giving praise to the Father almighty. Our God calls us to an eternal happiness. Our eternal happiness will be our life with God forever.

“Thus we shall always be with the Lord”

God wants that we do His will. Jesus **“came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me”**

(J 6;38) **“The Lord God gave man ... order”**

(Genesis 2,16)

The first people did not do God's order. They listened to Satan and sinned. They fell against their best Father. Disobedience of the first people we call **“Original Sin”**.

God is just. He punished the first people. They lost their friendship with the Lord. From this time they missed their happiness. God still loved them, but their human nature became broken. God always forgives us our sins, when we confess our sins. And because of this God promised a humanity A Saviour, who wins against satan.

“I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel” (Genesis 3, 15)

Consider, *what we can do if we desire to prepare ourselves with the meeting with Jesus?*

Penitential Discipline

Law of the Gospel: The Church wants emphasis to be given to the evangelical law that a follower of Christ must do penance. While the heart of penance is hatred for sin as an offence against God, external forms of penance are required to deepen and encourage the internal virtue.

Fridays are day of abstinence from meat, but Catholics may substitute special acts of charity or piety on this day.

Privileged forms of Penance are recommended, especially during **Advent and Lent**. These forms are privileged because they are based on the teaching of the Gospel (fasting, almsgiving, prayer, works of mercy) or because of their conditional value among the people of the Gospel (abstinence from meat), Christian fasting, obtains its full meaning when we deprive ourselves of food in order to be open to prayer, to share more in the suffering of those who are starving and to save money to give to the poor. Fasting is a penitential discipline intended to open our hearts to God and others, a means of purification and spiritual liberation as a witness of the depth of our faith. The law of „abstinence from meat” binds those from 18 to 59 years of age. Parents and educators are reminded to their duty to introduce children gradually to the understanding and practice of penance. Adults example will be the greatest influence in this matter. Parish committees should help make Christian penance a reality in the life of their community.

REFLECTIONS

“When a farmer prepares to till the soil he must put on clothing and use tools that are suitable. So Christ, our heavenly King, came to till the soil of mankind devastated by sin. He assumed a body, and using the cross as his plowshare, cultivated the barren soul of man. He removed the thorns and thistles which are the evil spirits and pulled up the weeds of sin. Into the fire he cast the straw of wickedness. And when he had plowed the soul with the wood of the cross, he planted in it a most lovely garden of the Spirit, that could produce for its Lord and God the sweetest and most pleasant fruit of every kind.”

(St. Macarius, bp).