



# Human Search for God/Revelation and Faith/Creation

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Segments 1, 2 and 3



# Prayer

"You are great, O Lord and greatly to be praised; great is Your power and Your wisdom is without measure...You encourage us to delight in Your praise, for You have made us for Yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in You."

Amen.

# For Tonight

- Human Search for God
- Revelation and Faith
- Creation






“My Soul Longs For You,  
O God” Ps. 42.2

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Universal Desire for God (CCC #27)

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer on a grassy hill at sunset. The person's hands are clasped together in front of their face. The background shows a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the scene, with trees and grass visible in the distance.

“My Soul Longs For You, O  
God” Ps. 42.2

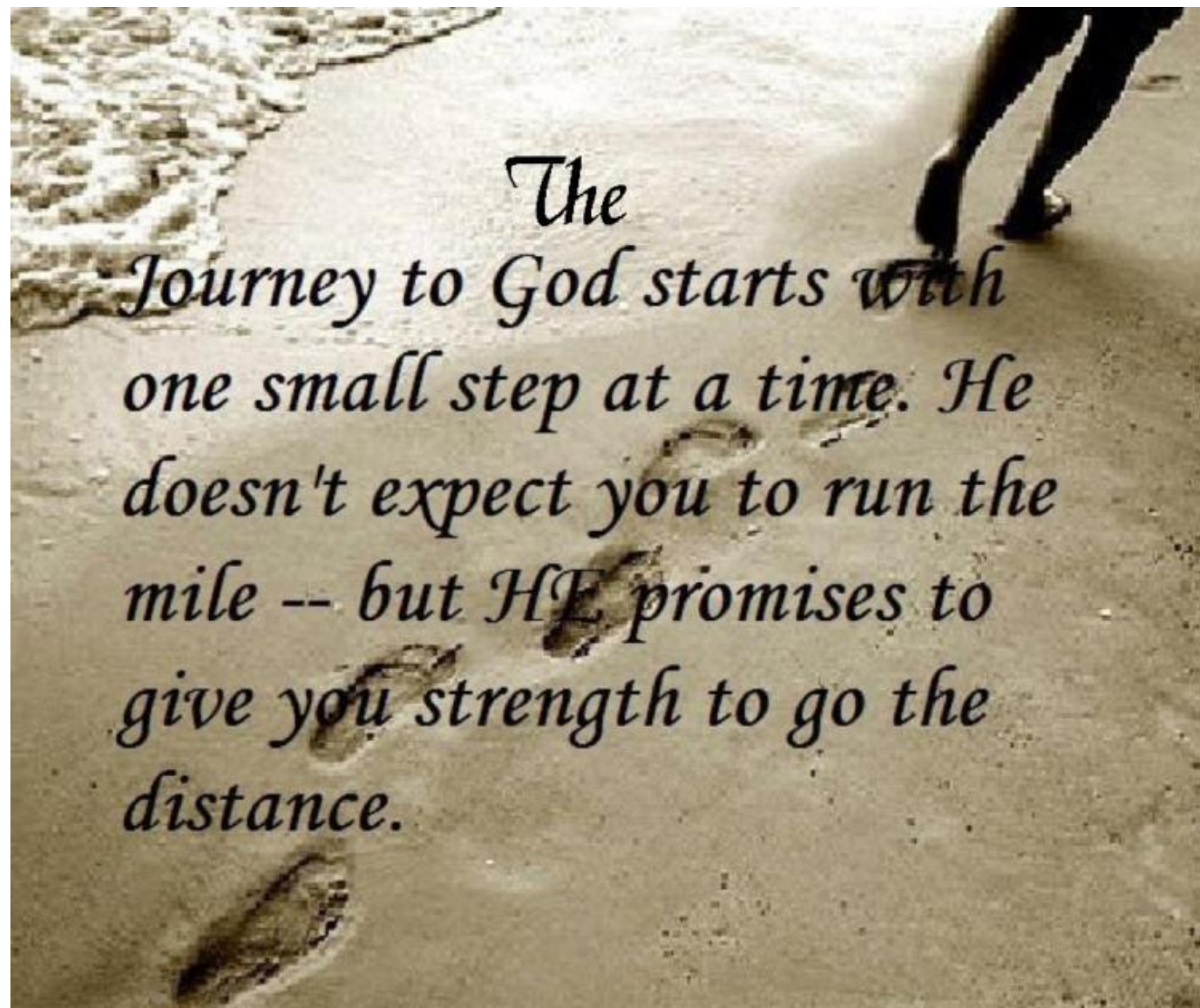
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- To be human is to search for God.

“My Soul  
Longs For  
You, O God”  
Ps. 42.2

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Your faith  
journey that  
brings you to  
the RCIA.



“My Soul Longs For  
You, O God” Ps. 42.2

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- The dignity of every human being rests on the fact that we not only seek God but we are invited to enter into a personal relationship with God





“My Soul Longs For You, O  
God” Ps. 42.2

Truth and Happiness

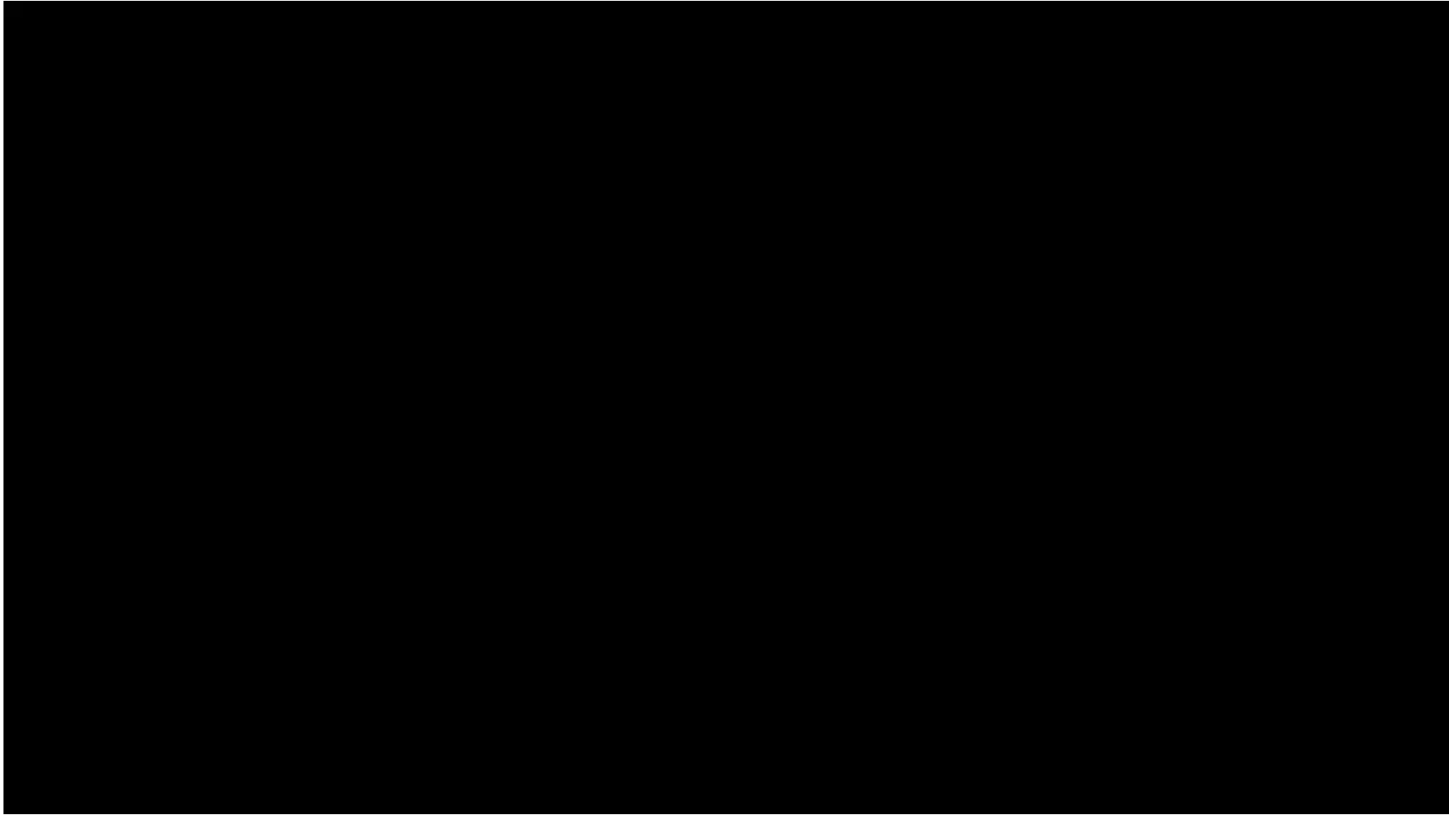


# Bishop Hying

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Why Does God Matter?







# God Revealed

# What do you seek?

- The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples; and he looked at Jesus as he walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!”
- The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned, and saw them following, and said to them, “What do you seek?”
  - And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying; and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. (John 1:35–39)

- Humans have a irrepressible search for God
  - Our desire to know something of our Creator seems programmed in us
- Ways of coming to know God
  - Realize God in the order and beauty of the world; origin of the universe
  - The human person questions himself and discerns the existence of God
- Our search is in response to God's calling to us
  - Stands to reason that God would want to reveal Himself to us
  - Also, God wants us to be confident in the truth of His revelation

**Revelation**

**Faith**



# Revelation

- Let's answer these questions about revelation
  - What is revelation?
  - Why would God reveal Himself to us?
  - How does God reveal Himself to us?
  - When and where has God revealed Himself?



# What is Revelation?

- The love and knowledge of God that we cannot possibly arrive at by our own power (**CCC 50**)
- Two types of revelation
  - Universal: Available to all people (the deposit of faith)
  - Private: Personal encounter (not part of the deposit of faith) (**CCC 67**)
- Deposit of faith revealed gradually
  - Several experiences of God, each new one building on the prior
  - Manifested in words and deeds intrinsically bound together
  - Handed down generation to generation in writing and tradition

# Why does God reveal Himself?

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- The most important question we can ask
- Answer: Because God loves you
  - We are made in God's image...we are children of God
  - He desires us to be capable of responding to Him **(CCC 52)**
  - He wants us to share in His divine nature **(CCC 51)**





A person in a dark jacket is seen from behind, looking out over a calm lake. The sky is filled with large, dramatic clouds, some of which are illuminated by the warm light of a setting or rising sun. In the distance, there are rugged mountains with patches of snow. The water in the lake reflects the colors of the sky and the surrounding landscape. A large, light-colored circular graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

# Why does God reveal Himself?

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## ➤ Your faith journey in RCIA

- An invitation to understand and accept the revelation of God in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit
- Come to know and love God far beyond our own natural human capacity

# How does God Reveal Himself?

- Universally, God has revealed Himself through
  - Events
  - People/prophets
  - Words
  - Miracles
- Privately, God reveals Himself through
  - Prayer...informing our mind and heart of His desires for us
  - Through our senses of sight, sound, smell, touch and taste
  - Our personal miracles in response to our needs

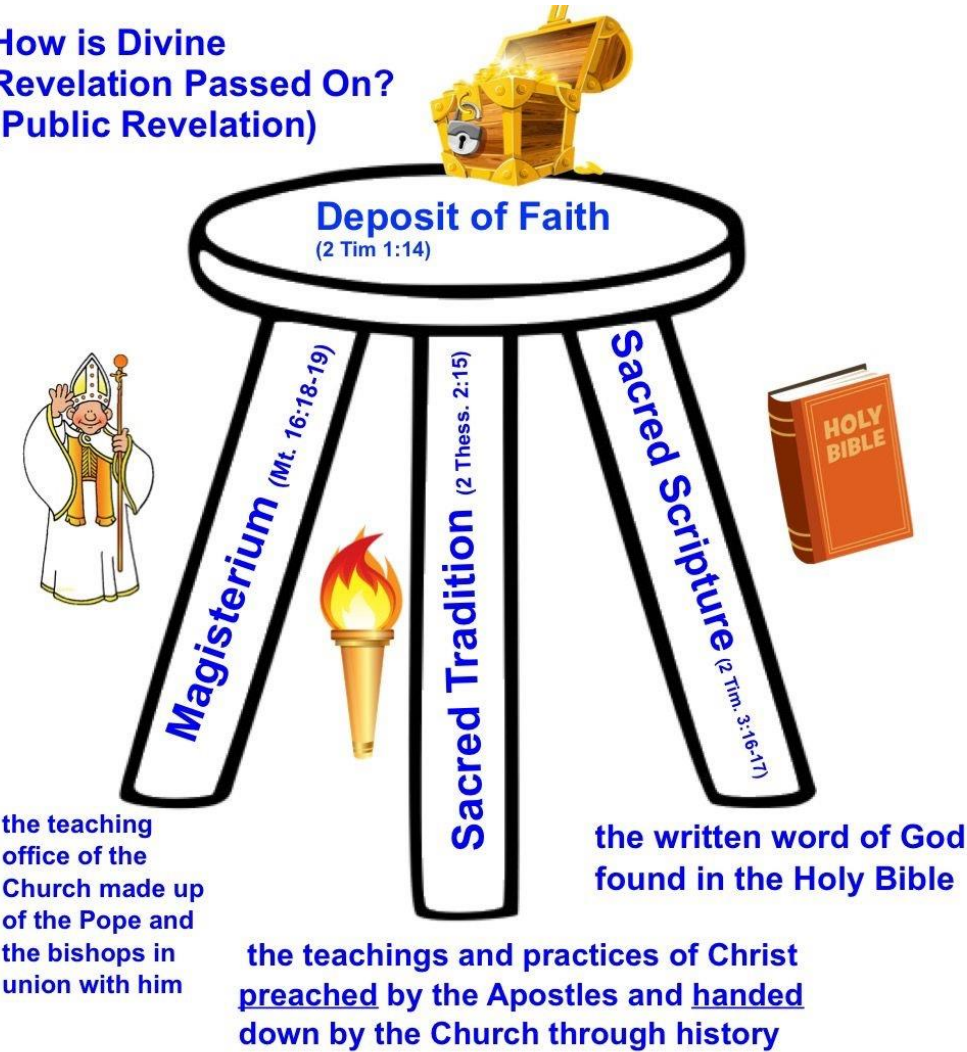




When and where does God  
reveal Himself?

- God has revealed Himself from the beginning
  - To Adam & Eve at home in the Garden of Eden
  - Noah who saved humanity from the cleansing flood
  - Abraham called to a new land and a new people
  - Moses who brought God's law to the people
  - Numerous prophets who formed Israel
  - Mary, mother of Jesus
- Jesus Christ, the complete fullness of Revelation
  - There is no further improvement of God's revelation
  - The only further revelation is on a personal level
  - Personal revelation is intended to help us live the Gospel more fully

**How is Divine  
Revelation Passed On?  
(Public Revelation)**





# Faith

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➤ Let's consider these questions:

- What is faith?
- Why is faith important?
- How do we come by faith?

*Living* by FAITH

# Revelation and Faith

Belief is something you  
conclude to be true

Faith is your actions  
based upon your belief  
without tangible or  
irrefutable evidence



A man fell off a cliff. On the way down he managed to grab a branch.

Hanging on for dear life, he appealed to God, help me, please! I'll do anything you ask.

God responded yes, I will help you. But you have to do what I say.

He responded anything just help me.

All right, let go of the branch.

The man thought about it and said is there anyone else up there?

# What is faith?

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- First, it is a personal adherence of man to God (CCC150)
  - Simply, the conviction to live one's beliefs in God
- At the same time, a free assent to the whole truth that God has revealed
  - The heritage of scripture and tradition, the "sacred deposit" of faith
- Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen





# Why is faith important?

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- Believing in Jesus Christ and the One who sent him is necessary for obtaining salvation  
**(CCC161)**
- The beginning of eternal life
  - Allows us to taste in advance the beatific vision
- Faith is certainty, for both the individual and the Church
  - Gives us confidence in the truth of God's Revelation
- Necessary to hand on God's revelations to all generations



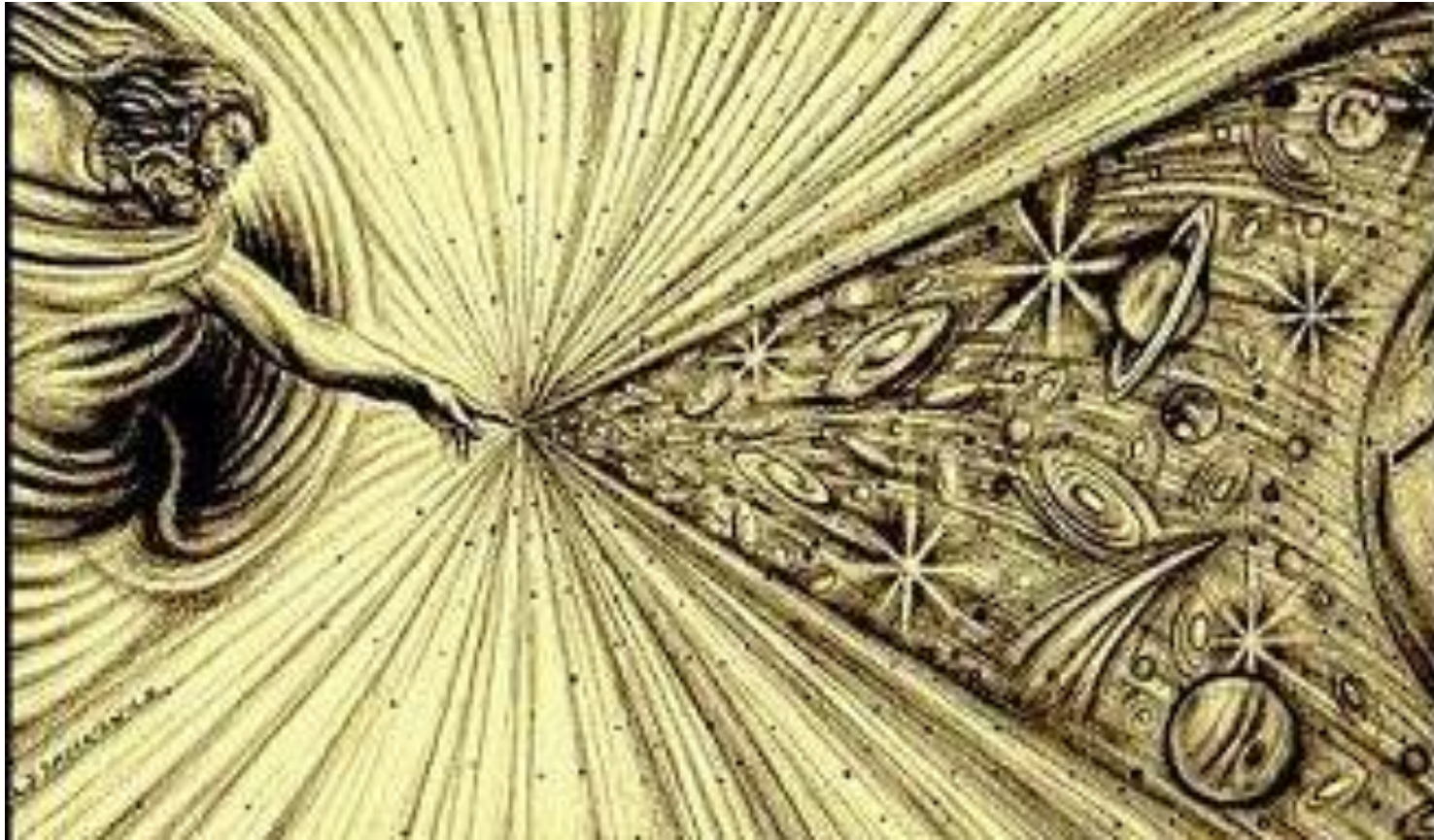
# How do we come by faith?

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- Full faith is a supernatural gift from God (CCC179)
  - Man needs the interior help of the Holy Spirit
- Faith starts as a personal, human act
  - God will not force himself on us; starts with our desire for God
  - We can lose this priceless gift if we do not guard it
- Faith seeks understanding
  - “I believe in order to understand; and I understand, the better to believe.” - St. Augustine

Check it out!





# Creation

- At the dawn of creation, God made a covenant with the first human couple and parents of the whole human race. **MARRIAGE**
- Adopted them as his son and daughter who would form His human family and would eternally share in His glory and love.
- God, revealed himself as a loving Father

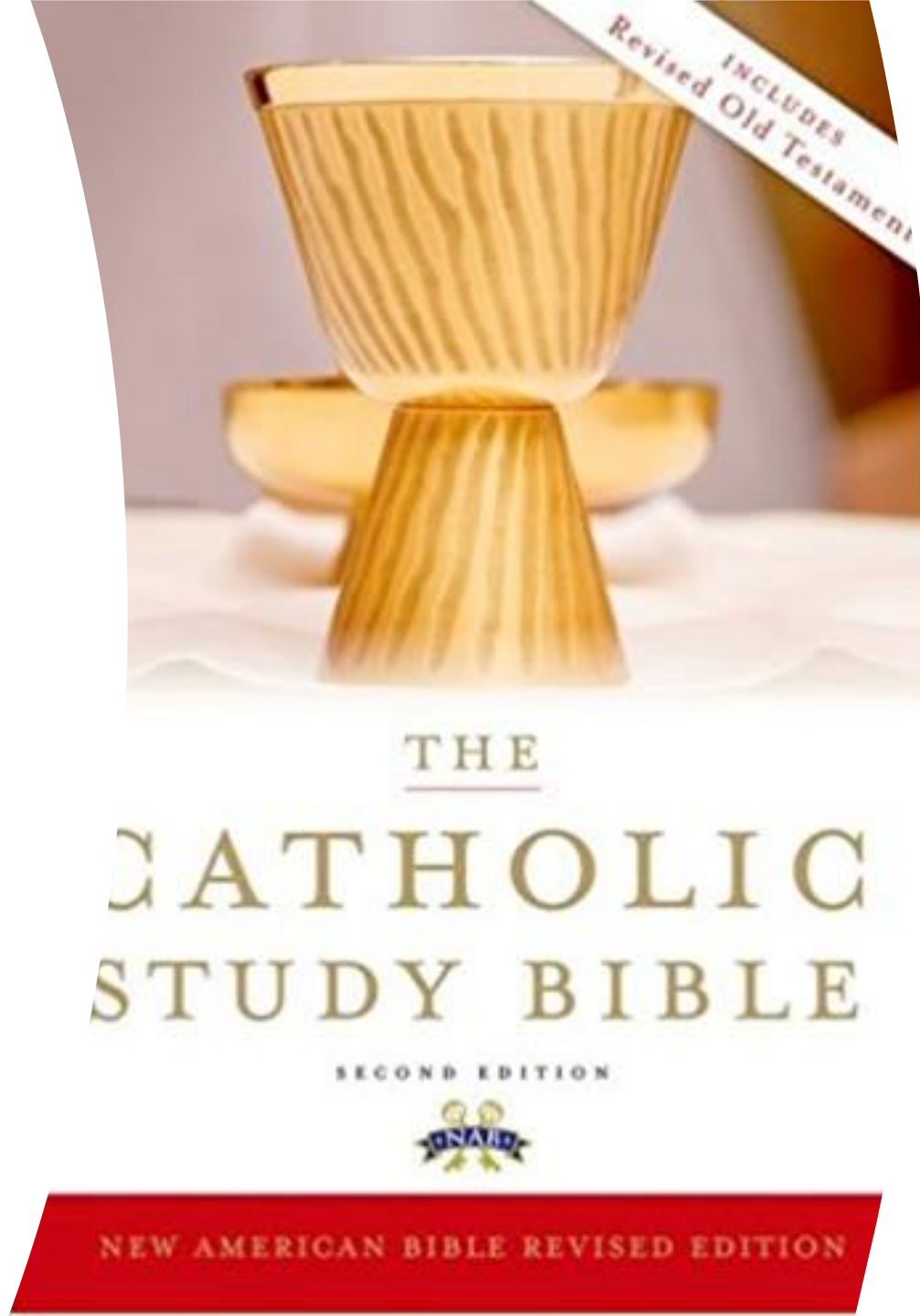


## More Bishop Don Hying

What do Catholics  
believe about creation?



Creation



- The path to salvation
  - **How do Catholics read and interpret the two creation stories of Genesis 1-3?**
  - **What is the significance of the differing interpretations?**

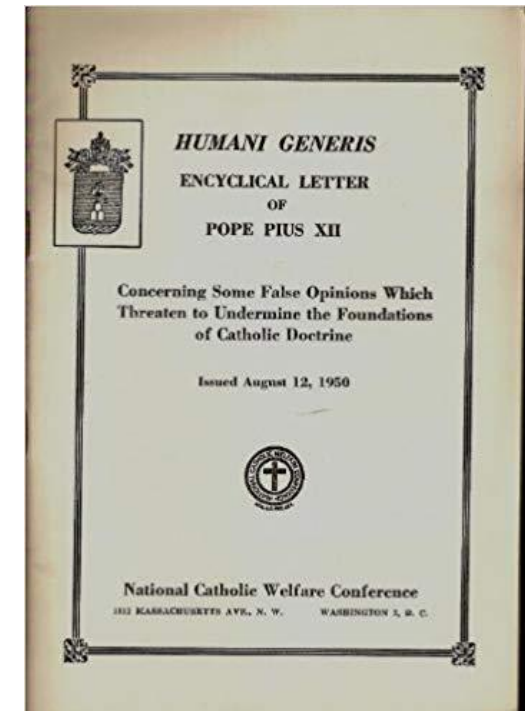
## Two Versions?

- First focuses on creating the world and summarizes the creation of man.
- Second concerned with the creation of man and summarizes the creation of the world.



# Literal

- 24 Hour Days- 7 Days- Done
- ...the first eleven chapters of Genesis, although properly speaking not conforming to the historical method used by the best Greek and Latin writers or by competent authors of our time, do nevertheless pertain to history in a true sense... (Pius XII HG 38)







# Certainties

- Danger when dealing with certainties
- For a Catholic, there can be many ways to interpret the creation stories in general based on where the evidence leads us.
  - “...but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.” (Gen 2:17).
- Later in Genesis we find that Adam lives much longer than a day. “So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died.” (Gen 5:5).

A thousand years in your sight  
are like a day that has just gone by,  
or like a watch in the night.

Psalm 90:4

...through one man **[Adam]**  
sin entered the world,  
and **death through sin,**  
and thus death spread to all men,  
because all sinned

- Romans 5:12

# Can we Interpret?

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- Read Psalm 90:4
  - The point being, Catholics can interpret what a day means in Genesis 1 based on reasoning.
- Read Romans 5:12-20
  - The point here is original sin and our Messianic understanding of it.
- Context of “Why These Stories?”
- So, we will see in RCIA how Jesus changed this

# Jewish Understanding

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- Catholic and Jewish concerned with the relationship of God with man
- Catholic would key in on the “image of God” and how he distributes grace and mercy in connection with the stories of creation
- Judaism key in on the spread of human wickedness, the refusal of humankind to accept their creaturely status.
- However
  - Catholics and Jews do not rely on a single explanation
- In all, when talking about God in Genesis we are talking about a beginning.



# The Prime Mover

- Many seen boundaries of existence before creation
- Not a Catholic- Regardless of evolutionary theories
- “In the beginning” is the starting point, before which was an empty void.
- Explaining that void is impossible, therefore we are left with the versions of creation in Genesis as in some ways unexplainable and really beautiful reflections.



# Poetic Language

- The *Catholic Study Bible* explains that there is a double emphasis by combining the stories and that is
  - “...the eternal goodness of the creator ...” and “...the moral demand on humans to obey the divine plan and come to know God.”
- Genesis shows a powerful image of one true God with dominion over all.
- God’s relationship with man/woman and how He walks with them.
- It is stressed that man is **made in His image**.

# Basic Tenants of Faith in Genesis

- One God, Creator, Good, Man Made in His Image, Man responsible for what was created, Man must be fruitful.
- Institution of marriage is inherent in the story
- He is the one true God- maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.





Why?

- What is important for Catholics is that they recognize that the stories
  - Solidify for us the goodness of the creator
  - For us to participate in the divine plan by knowing God.

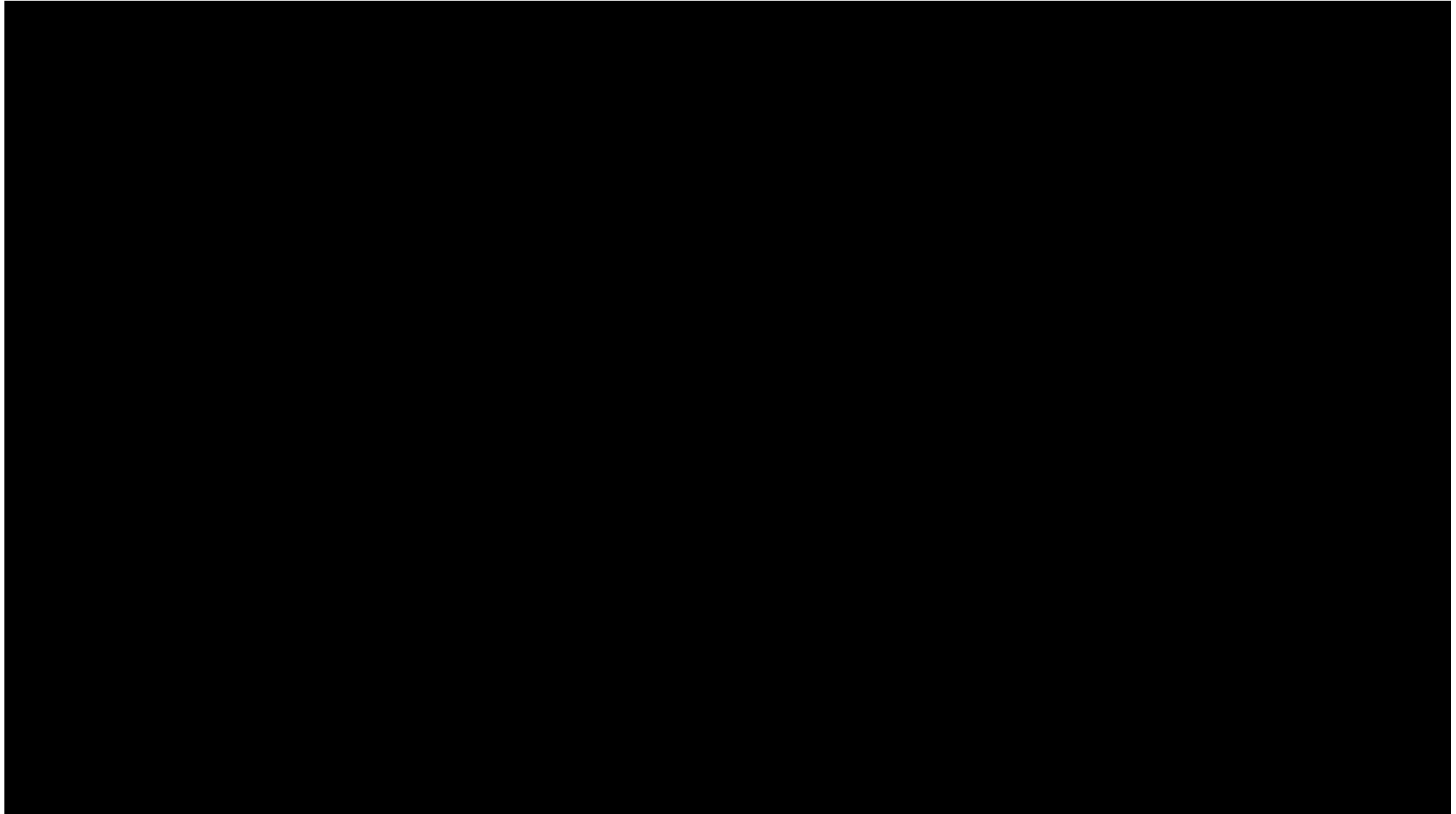
# Because

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- We are made in the Image of God and we are kind of a big deal
  
- Chris Stefanik Tells Us Why...







# *Now for the rest of the story*

- The Fall

As long as they remained in intimacy with God, they did not have to suffer and die.

They knew the **truth** and purpose of their lives, which was to love God and each other

Under the form of a serpent, Satan tempted Adam and Eve and led them to disobey God's commandment and sin against Him.

Cast out of paradise, Adam and Eve transmitted their wounded human nature deprived of God's life to all mankind, and so we are now all subject to ignorance, suffering and death, and **inclined to sin**.

**Concupiscence**



# Closing Prayer Ps 119

Your word, Lord, stands forever;  
It is firm as the heavens.

Through all generations your truth endures;  
Fixed to stand firm like the earth.

Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
A light for my path

