

# Desire for God

*As the deer longs  
for running  
streams*



*so my soul is thirsting  
for the living God.*

**Psalm 42**



# Prayer

*"Great is the mystery of the faith!"*

**Professed in the Apostles' Creed**

**Celebrated in the Sacramental Liturgy**

(We are) **Conformed to Christ in the Holy Spirit to the glory of God the Father**

CCC 2558



My God,  
I believe, I adore,  
I trust,  
and I love Thee!

# Prayer

**This mystery, then, requires that the faithful believe in it, that they celebrate it, and that they live from it in a vital and personal relationship with the living and true God.**

*This relationship is PRAYER.*



CCC 2558



*"For me,  
prayer is a  
surging of the  
heart."*



God calls man to  
seek Him, to know  
Him, to love Him  
with all his  
strength.

CCC 1

## *Longing for God*

- **"written in the human heart" CCC 27**
- **"root of our human dignity" GS 19**
- **"natural desire for happiness" CCC 1718**
- **"seed of eternity we bear in ourselves" GS 18**
- **the virtue of hope CCC 1820**

*“...the present-day crisis of faith which is essentially a crisis of Christian hope.”*

Pope Benedict, *Spe Salvi*, 17

*“You have made us for Yourself, O God; and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee.”*

Prayer of St. Augustine of Hippo

**Desire**  **QUELCHED!**

***“Some seed fell among weeds...”***

- **forgotten / explicitly rejected**  
GS 19
- **ignorance / indifference** CCC 2128
- **cares of this world**
- **scandal / sin** CCC 29
- **false ideologies** CCC 2123



## Coming to know God

- **World**

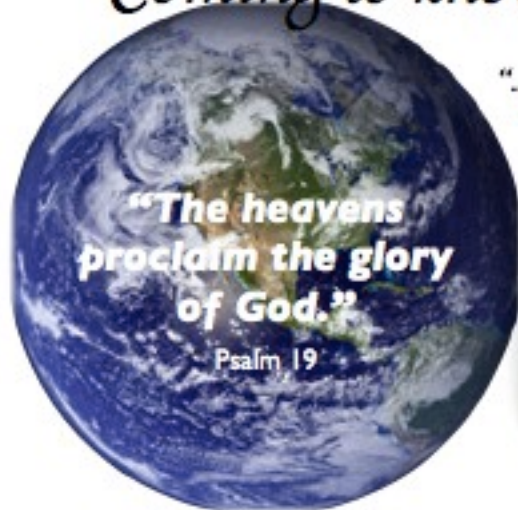
- **Self**

- **Revelation**



CCC 31-35

## Coming to know God



"... our hearts are restless until they rest in You."



## The World



- **Contingency, Movement, Perfection, Order and Beauty**

- 5 Reasons of Saint Thomas CCC 33

- **"God, who creates and conserves all things by his Word, provides men with constant evidence of Himself in created realities." CCC 54**

# Natural Religions

- **“religion”--- offering service and ceremonial rites to a superior nature that men call divine.** ST II, Q81 art. 1
- **quest for God . . . religious beliefs and behavior: in their prayers, sacrifices, rituals, meditations, meditations, and so forth. . . CCC 28**

## DECEPTION



**Limits and errors  
in religious  
behavior  
disfigure the  
image of  
God in them.**

*Romans 1:18-23*

**CCC 844**

*“I Am the  
Way, the  
Truth and  
the Life.”*

*John 14:16*



## Other Religions

- **All religions bear witness to man's search for God.** CCC 2566; Acts 17:26-27
- **Other religions search, among shadows and images for God...all that is good and true in these religions is a preparation for the Gospel.** Lumen Gentium 16; Nostra Aetate 2; Evangelium Nuntiandi 3
- **Are related in various ways to the [Church]** Lumen Gentium 16

"Faith is a private thing!..."

SPIRITUAL

VS

RELIGIOUS

## The Church

**"All men are called to belong to the new People of God" so that, in**

**Christ, "men may form one family and one People of God."**

*Ad Gentes 1;*  
CCC 804





# *A Religious Being*

***Through a sincere look within, man discerns signs of his spiritual soul and questions himself about God's existence.***



CCC 27-33

## *Search Within*

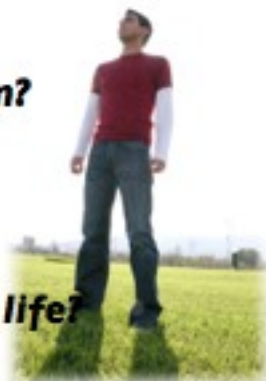
**The human person:**

- **openness to truth and beauty**
- **sense of moral goodness**
- **freedom & voice of conscience**
- **longings for the infinite**
- **longing for happiness**

CCC 44-49

## *Search for Meaning*

- **Who am I?**
- **Where have I come from?**
- **Where am I going?**
- **Why is there evil?**
- **What is there after this life?**





# Wonder and Awe

**“Without wonder, men and women would lapse into deadening routine and little by little would become incapable of a life which is genuinely personal.”**

Fides et Ratio, 4

# Revelation

**“God has revealed himself fully by sending His own Son, in whom He has established his covenant for ever.”**

CCC 73



# Revelation

- *"I desire all men to be saved..." 1 Tim 2:4*
- *The search begins with God who seeks man.*  
*CCC 30, 2566, 2567*
- *"I AM the Lord your God." Ex 20:2*
- *"This is how you are to worship..."*
- *"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."*  
*John 14:9*

## The Virtue of Faith

**"Faith is the theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that He has said and revealed to us, and that Holy Church proposes for our belief, because He is truth itself."**

CCC 1814

## Harmony

**Faith asks that its object be understood with the help of reason; and at the summit of its searching, reason acknowledges that it cannot do without what faith presents.** FR 42



# Faith and Reason

- God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth.
- Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth...

**“We preach Christ crucified,  
a scandal  
to the Jews  
and foolishness to  
the Gentiles.”**

**1 Cor. 1:23**



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