

## Saint Raymond Church

### RCIA – Creation and the Human Person

1. Can you recall a particular place/moment when you “discovered” God in His Creation? *Please share...*
  - a. Our AWE of creation will lead to our AWE of the Creator
  - b. We discover God IN Creation but this does not mean that God IS IN creation (pantheism)
  - c. Take some time to smell the roses!
2. IN THE BEGINNING... Creation is the foundation of “all God’s saving plans”, the “beginning of the history of salvation”. (CCC 280)
  - a. The Easter Vigil – the “story” begins with Creation
  - b. Understanding creation helps us answer the question – *Where do we come from?*
  - c. While we often refer to God the Father as the Creator, Creation was the work of the Trinity (Father, Son & Holy Spirit)
3. **WHY does God create?**
  - a. God wants to share His love with others; this love flows out of the Trinity and the result is Creation
  - b. The world was made for the glory of God.
  - c. *Did God “have to” create us?* God freely chose to create when God chose to love
4. **HOW does God create?**
  - a. We do not understand the stories of creation in a literal way (God spoke, it happened)
  - b. God created everything out of nothing. The world God created is GOOD and it is ORDERED.
  - c. **Religion explains how to go to heaven, not how the heavens go!** We allow science to explain the particulars of *how* creation happened. Catholics can believe in *Evolution* as long as we understand that God has set the plan in motion (and intervened in the creation of man and woman).
5. **WHEN did God create?**
  - a. *In the beginning....*
  - b. We allow science to inform us on the particulars.

## 6. WHAT did God create?

- a. What is seen...
    - i. Planets and solar systems
    - ii. Animals, plants – in abundance and with great diversity.
    - iii. The highpoint of creation is Man and Woman
      1. God’s image – we have dignity, freedom and a soul that is eternal (are people “better” than animals?)
      2. God’s likeness – the call to be people of LOVE (to be “like” God)
  - b. What is unseen...
    - i. Angels
    - ii. The human soul
7. Thoughts, questions, ideas....
8. Share insights with those at your table.

### The Canticle of the Sun by St. Francis of Assisi

Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, Who is the day through whom You give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor, Of You Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, In the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair. Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, And fair and stormy, all weather's moods, by which You cherish all that You have made.

Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water, So useful, humble, precious and pure. Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You my Lord through our Sister, Mother Earth who sustains and governs us, producing varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Praise be You my Lord through those who grant pardon for love of You and bear sickness and trial. Blessed are those who endure in peace, By You Most High, they will be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord through Sister Death, from whom no-one living can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin! Blessed are they She finds doing Your Will. No second death can do them harm.

Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks, And serve Him with great humility.