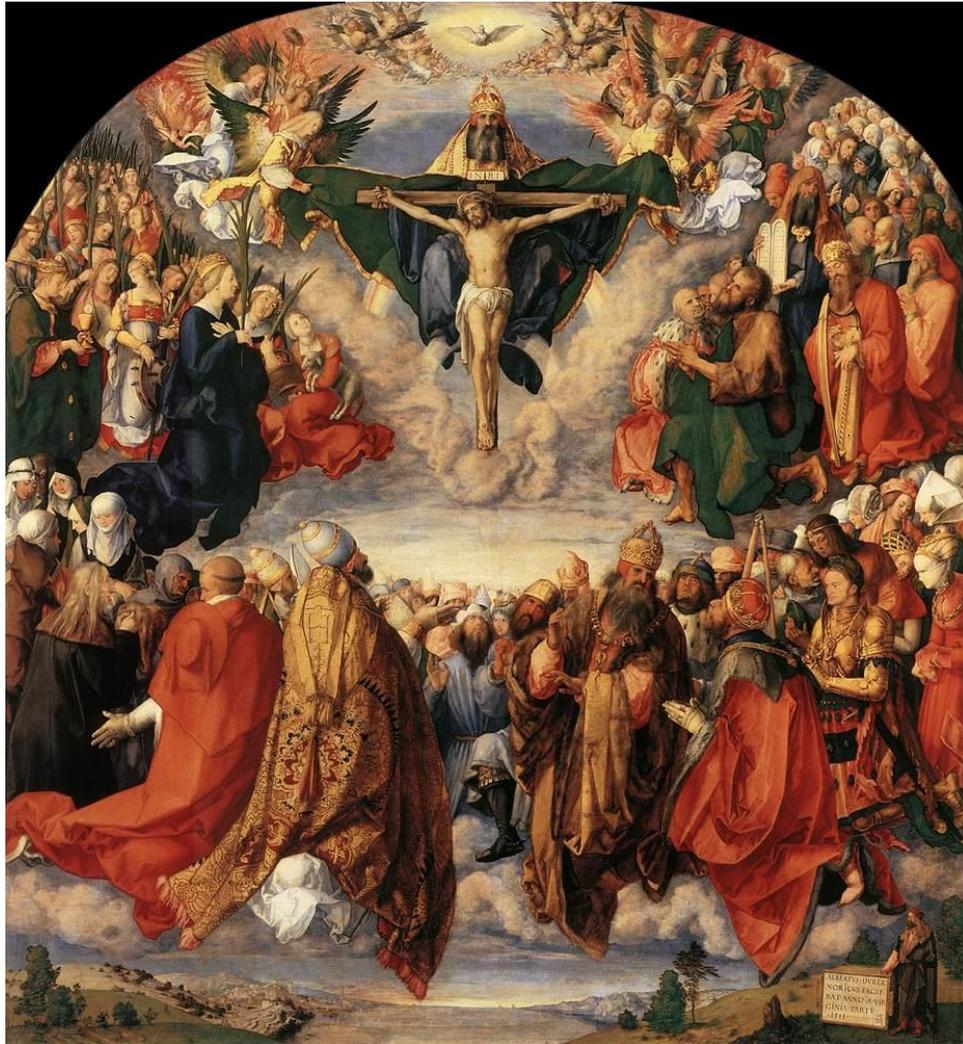


God's Nature is Love

All Creation Speaks of God's Love for Man



I. "In the Image of God"

*356 Of all visible creatures only man is "able to know and love his creator."²¹⁹ He is "the only creature on earth that God has willed for its own sake,"²²⁰ and he alone is called to share, by knowledge and love, in God's own life. It was for this end that he was created, and this is the fundamental reason for his dignity: What made you establish man in so great a dignity? Certainly the incalculable love by which you have looked on your creature in Yourself! **You are taken with love for her; for by love indeed you created her, by love you have given her a being capable of tasting Your Eternal Good.**²² CCC*

The Desire for God

27 ...*The dignity of man rests above all on the fact that he is called to communion with God. This invitation to converse with God is addressed to man as soon as he comes into being. For if man exists, it is because **God has created him through love, and through love continues to hold him in existence.** He cannot live fully according to truth unless he freely acknowledges that love and entrusts himself to his creator. CCC*

Ecclesiasticus 1:10 [Knox Bible]

and He has poured her out upon all His creation, upon all living things, upon all the souls that love him, in the measure of his gift to each.

1 John 4:16 [Knox Bible]

we have learned to recognize the love God has in our regard, to recognize it, and to make it our belief. God is love; he who dwells in love dwells in God, and God in him.

Ephesians 3:17 [Knox Bible]

May Christ find a dwelling-place, through faith, in your hearts; may your lives be rooted in love, founded on love.

From the Book of Heven

V4 - Dec. 3, 1900 - *This morning, as I was outside of myself, I found myself with Baby Jesus in my arms; and while I delighted in looking at Him, I don't know how, from the same Baby a Second came out, and after a few instants, a Third Baby, both of Them similar to the First, though distinct among Themselves. Stupefied in looking at this, I said: "Oh, how one can touch with hand the Sacrosanct Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity, that while You are One, You are also Three.' It seemed to me that all Three of Them spoke to me, but as the word came out, it became one single voice: "Our Nature is formed of Most Pure, Most Simple, Communicative Love, and the Nature of True Love has this of Its Own: It Produces from Itself Images fully Similar to Itself in Power, in Goodness, in Beauty and in Everything it contains; and only to give more Sublime Prominence to Our Omnipotence it places the Mark of Distinction, in such a way that, melting in Love, this Nature of Ours - which is Simple, with no matter at all which might prevent Our Union - Forms Three [Persons]; and returning to melt, it Forms One. It is so True that the Nature of True Love has this Prerogative of Producing Images fully Similar to itself, or of Assuming the Image of the Beloved, that the Second Person, in Redeeming*

mankind, Assumed the Nature and the Image of man, and Communicated the Divinity to man."

V4 - Jun. 15, 1902 - As I was in my usual state, my adorable Jesus transported me outside of myself, and told me; "My daughter, all Virtues can be said to be My Qualities and My Attributes, but Love cannot be called an Attribute of Mine, but rather, My Very Nature. So, all Virtues Form My Throne and My Qualities, but Love Forms My Very Self." On hearing this, I remembered that the day before I had told a person who feared about the uncertainty of Salvation, that one who Truly Loves Jesus Christ can be sure of being saved. To me, I believe it is impossible that Our Lord would move away from Himself a soul who Loves Him with all her heart; therefore, let us think of Loving Him, and we will have our Salvation in hand. So I asked Loving Jesus whether by saying this I had spoken incorrectly, and He Added: "My beloved, you said that with reason, because Love has this of Its Own: it Forms One Object out of two, One Will out of two. So, the soul who Loves Me forms One Single thing with Me, One Single Will; how can she then be separated from Me? More so, since My Nature is Love, and wherever It finds a few Sparks of Love in the human nature, immediately It Unites them to the Eternal Love. Therefore, just as it is impossible to form two souls out of one soul, or two bodies out of one body, so is it impossible for one who Truly Loves Me to become lost."

V2 - Mar. 13, 1899 - Then, in one instant, I also saw the confessor, and Jesus, sending forth a ray of intellectual light, spoke these words: "Charity. Charity is nothing but an outpouring of the Divine Being, and this outpouring I have diffused over the whole Creation, in such a way that all Creation speaks of the Love I have for man, and all Creation teaches him how He Must Love Me - from the largest being to the Most tiny little flower in the field.

"See", it says to man, "with my sweet fragrance and by always facing the sky, I try to send an homage to my Creator. You too, let all your actions be Fragrant, Holy, Pure; do not offend my Creator with the bad odor of your actions. O please, o man", the little flower repeats to us, "don't be so senseless as to keep your eyes fixed on the earth; but rather, raise them up to Heaven. See, up there is your Destiny, your Fatherland - up there is my Creator and yours Who awaits you."

The water that flows continuously before our eyes also says to us: "See, I have come out of darkness, and I must flow and run so much until I go and bury myself in the place from which I came. You too, O man, run - but run into the Bosom of

God, From Which you Came. O please! I beg you, do not run along the wrong paths, the paths which lead to the precipice; otherwise - woe to you!"

Even the wildest animals repeat to us: "See, O man, how wild you Must be for all that is not God. See, when we see that someone is approaching us, with our roars we strike so much fear that no one dares to come close to us any more, to disturb our solitude. You too, when the stench of earthly things - that is, your violent passions - are about to make you muddy and fall into the abyss of sins, with the roars of your prayers and by withdrawing from the occasions in which you find yourself, you will be safe from any danger." And so with all the other beings - it would take too long to tell them all. With one voice they resound among themselves, and repeat to us: "See, O man, our Creator made us for Love of you, and we are all at your service. And you, don't be so ungrateful - Love, we beg you; Love, we repeat to you; Love our Creator."

After this, my lovable Jesus told me: "This is All I Want: Love God and your neighbor for Love of Me."