Original Sin

and God's Unfailing Gift of Mercy

It is magnificent that God has revealed to us that He is one God in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. He has also revealed that He is love. Out of His perfectly generous love, God created man and woman, not because He needed us. Rather, God created man and woman for the sake of their (and our) happiness, to share in His divine life. Our heavenly Father's plan has always been to draw each of us into a loving relationship with Him; a relationship that begins here on earth and continues to grow.

God created man and woman in His image, giving us a soul capable of reasoning, choosing good over evil, and able to enter into a relationship with other persons. Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden in a state of perfect harmony: with God, with each other, and with creation. Our first parents were also created in His likeness, being united with God through grace. Sanctifying grace in the soul is a share in God's life.

God, in His infinite love, also gave humanity freedom. And it was precisely in this freedom that the test of trust and obedience was placed. Our story is not just about creation and life, but also about the reality of our harmful choices – sin – and its consequences. Through pride and disobedience, Adam and Eve turned away from God, committing the Original Sin. Through the deceit of the devil, Adam and Eve let their trust in their Creator die in their hearts and disobeyed His command. They chose their own will over God's, and in doing so, they lost the sanctifying grace that had united their souls with God. Separating themselves from God, fear entered the human heart, humanity became subject to ignorance, suffering, and death, and the harmony of human nature was wounded, but not destroyed. The human person remained capable of good yet inclined to sin, being prone to selfishness and easily tempted to turn away from God.

Even in the face of this great tragedy, God did not abandon His children to death. From the very moment of the Fall, God promised a Savior. The Father's promise of a Savior, from "the woman" in Genesis 3:15, points to the coming of the Messiah, who would crush the power of sin and death. Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, entered our human history, took on our nature, and restored what was lost. Through His Passion, death, and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, sin and death and opened the way for humanity to receive God's life once more.

We participate in this restoration today through our daily prayer relationship with God and receiving the Sacraments through the Catholic Church. Baptism cleanses us of Original Sin and restores us to a life of friendship with God by restoring sanctifying grace to the soul. Receiving the Holy Eucharist – Jesus Himself – every Sunday and the Sacrament of Reconciliation frequently, the Holy Spirit strengthens us through the power of His grace, and our cooperation with it, to resist temptation, guide our hearts back to the love of Christ, heal the wounds of sin, and renew our relationship with Him.

Knowledge of the effects of the Original Sin reminds us of our human weakness, but it also reveals God's mercy. Though we inherited the effects of sin, we are not left in despair. God pursues us, heals us, and calls us back into communion. Let us turn to Him with humility, gratitude, and trust, remembering that in Christ, even the greatest sins can be forgiven and the deepest wounds can be healed.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever" (Psalm 107:1). Indeed, from the Garden of Eden to our own hearts today, God's mercy never fails.

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