

Doctrinal Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
The Goodness of Creation

Catechist Preparation

Clarifying the Essentials

God, with infinite wisdom and goodness, created the world in a state of journeying toward its ultimate perfection.

- ◆ Just as humans have the potential to grow and mature, so too, the universe is built in such a way that its flaws can be overcome. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 310.)
- ◆ All creation moves forward and is disposed toward its Creator. (See CCC 314.)
- ◆ Ultimate perfection is yet to be attained, but in God's good time, we humans, cooperating with our Creator and his grace, will attain the fullness that our faith promises. (See CCC 294.)

God is the master of this world and of history.

- ◆ While the reality of evil and sin disfigures and wounds God's creation, a greater good is at work, as revealed in the mystery of Christ. (See CCC 280.)
- ◆ Although we cannot always see how things are working toward the divine purpose, faith assures us that God is almighty and his plan of creation, redemption, and sanctification will triumph. (See CCC 278.)

Why Is This Important?

The world is not the result of blind fate or of chance. It came about due to God's purposes of manifesting his goodness and love. The universe and humanity are therefore created with an inherent promise, a hope imbedded within all things and persons. Our destiny lies with God alone, in the glory of his goodness and love.

*Just as God's will is creation
and is called "the world," so his
intention is the salvation of (all),
and it is called "the Church."*

SAINT CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA, PAEDAGOGUS

Doctrinal Session Guide

(Approximately 60 minutes)

Have the space set with chairs, and provide a focal point with a candle and a Bible. Provide name tags and have some refreshments available.

Welcome

Greet the participants as they arrive, and take time for introductions as the session begins. Then invite everyone to pray silently for the Spirit to open their mind and heart to God's message.

Engage

Invite the group to read and reflect on the questions and the story in *Insight*. Then have them share their response to the story, and explore the For Reflection questions together. Ask the participants to share with one or two people in the group what that experience taught them about God.

Teach

Summarize or invite the group to read *Church Teaching*. Then discuss the following:

- ◆ God created everything out of nothing.
- ◆ God is the source of all that is good, upright, and true.
- ◆ God created humans in his image and likeness and gave us creation for our benefit and use.
- ◆ All creation will find its completion in God alone.

Apply

Encourage the participants to complete these statements and share their thoughts:

*From the prayer, discussion, and study for this topic,
I understand the Church's teaching to be . . .
I am challenged to live the message of this teaching by . . .*

Pray

Pray together: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.*