

Fr. Martin's Reflection – 10/03/21 Bulletin

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our readings for this weekend are a call to pause and reflect on the cause of our existence. The Book of Genesis gives us two creation stories. The first tells us how God created all the world and all the creatures in it, and then created humanity. In the second creation story, the one we hear in today's readings, God creates man and then creates all the other creatures for him, to help fulfil or complete him. All the creatures God creates are wonderful to the man, but they don't complete him, they are not his help mate – they don't touch his soul. Then God has a 'eureka,' moment and realizes that the only thing that can truly fulfil or touch the soul of humanity is humanity itself. God takes from the man a part of man and creates woman. This is a beautiful image of man and woman being of the one bone, and the one flesh, forever connected and equal, both created in the image and likeness of God. This is our beginning, our genesis story. We are equal and created in the image and likeness of God. I believe, for us to truly understand and appreciate the dignity of all human beings, we must first accept and believe that we were created by God and in the image and likeness of God. If we fail to believe this, then what gives us dignity? Our talents – what happens when they fail, or we don't possess the right talents? Our youthfulness – what happens when we grow old? Our nationality or skin color – what happens if we were born in the 'wrong' country or have the 'wrong' color of skin? Unfortunately, many in our world are discarded because they are no longer 'talented' or productive. Many are assigned tasks because of their place of birth or the color of their skin. **“God created humanity in God's image; in the image of God, God created them; male and female God created them.”** (Gn 1:27) We as Christians must always remember this, at home, at school, at work and at play, so we can always see God's fingerprint on the faces of all people.

PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE

As you know, I and 19 others leave for France today. We will be stopping off in many wonderful places where we will celebrate Mass, but no doubt the highlight will be Lourdes. I want you to know that gathered at the grotto, the intentions of all of you will be placed before our God and offered up in this wonderful and holy place of healing. I truly pray and hope that you will open your heart and allow the healing love of God to touch you, your family and all you hold dear to your heart. I ask you to please keep us in your prayers for a safe and joyful trip. See you all the weekend of October 16-17.

A PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Ever Immaculate Virgin Mother of Mercy, Health of the sick, Refuge of sinners, Comforter of the afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings; look with mercy on me. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favors; and already many sufferers have obtained the cure for their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with complete confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests. Through gratitude for your favors, I will endeavor to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory. Amen.

Fr. Martin