

Chapter Six – Man and Woman in the Beginning

Adam and Eve were created in friendship with God and in harmony with creation.

Theirs was a state of original justice and holiness.

To be made in the image of God means being capable of self-knowledge and of entering into communion with other persons through self-giving. Our souls are created directly by God.

Scripture was figurative language to describe the Fall. Through the fall of Adam and Eve, the harmony of creation was destroyed. Original sin is a loss of the original holiness and righteousness with which our first parents were created. Original sin is contracted, not committed. Because of the unity of the human race, everyone is affected by the sin of our first parents. Original sin underlies all other sins and causes our natural powers of knowing and loving to be ruined. No matter how sinful we become, the desire for God never dies.

Reflection:

- What are the consequences of believing that every human person is created in the image and likeness of God?
- What effect does sin have on us as individuals? On our relationship with others? On culture? On our world?