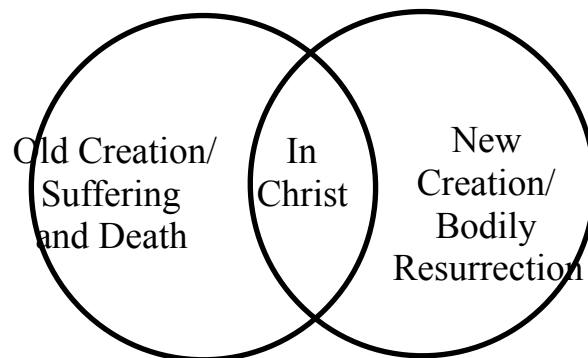


Paul and the New Creation (15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A)

Romans 8:18-23—Creation is Waiting for the Resurrection

¹⁸ I consider that the *sufferings of this present time* are not worth comparing with *the glory that is to be revealed to us*. ¹⁹ *For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God*; ²⁰ *for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope*; ²¹ *because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God*. ²² We know that the whole creation has been *groaning in travail* together until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, *groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies*. (Romans 8:18-23)

1. Old Creation = “this present time” (Rom 8:18)—a time of sufferings
2. New Creation = “the glory that is to be revealed” (Rom 8:18)
3. Creation: “creation” (Greek *ktisis*) personified as waiting (Rom 8:19)
4. Apocalypse: it was for the “revealing” (Greek *apokalypsis*) (Rom 8:19)
5. The Fall: “creation” was subjected to “futility” by Adam (cf. Genesis 3)
6. Resurrection: we wait for “redemption of our bodies” (Rom 8:23)



The Living Tradition

Catechism: *For the cosmos*, Revelation affirms the profound common destiny of the material world and man: “For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God ...” [quotes Romans 8:19-23]. *The visible universe, then, is itself destined to be transformed*, “so that the world itself, *restored to its original state*, facing no further obstacles, should be at the service of the just,” *sharing their glorification in the risen Jesus Christ*. “We know neither the moment of the consummation of the earth and of man, nor the way in which the universe will be transformed. The form of this world,

distorted by sin, is passing away, and we are taught that God is preparing a new dwelling and a new earth in which righteousness dwells, in which happiness will fill and surpass all the desires of peace arising in the hearts of men. (CCC 1046-48)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A)

1. According to Paul, how did the sin of Adam affect “creation” itself?

2. According to Paul, why is “creation” longing and groaning for the bodily resurrection of human beings?

For Further Reading

1. St. Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans* (trans. F. R. Larcher, O.P.; eds. J. Mortensen and E. Alarcón; Lander, WY: Aquinas Institute, 2012).
2. John Chrysostom, *Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistle to the Romans*, Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Volume 11 (ed. Philip Schaff; repr.; Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1994).