

Kerygma Series #1: Created Homily Outline

The 4 dimensions of the Gospel Message (Kerygma):

1) Created, 2) Captured, 3) Rescued, 4) Response

Created: Why is there something rather than nothing?

1. Why is there something rather than nothing?

Three possible answers from humanity:

- **Most ancient religions:** *strife* among the gods.
- **Greek philosophy (Aristotle):** *intelligent* but *impersonal* Supreme Being
- **“Scientism” (not science):** completely *random*.
- **Conclusion:** creation is not good, made by impersonal Supreme Being or is meaningless. (Important note: science cannot answer this question because it is a metaphysical question, that, it’s beyond the scope of what the hard sciences can discover or measure.) Aristotle gets us the closest.

The *Catechism* affirms that this is an important place to start:

282 Catechesis on creation is of major importance. It concerns the very foundations of human and Christian life: for it makes explicit the response of the Christian faith to the basic question that men of all times have asked themselves: “Where do we come from?” “Where are we going?” “What is our origin?” “What is our end?” “Where does everything that exists come from and where is it going?” The two questions, the first about the origin and the second about the end, are inseparable. They are decisive for the meaning and orientation of our life and actions.

2. Why did God create the world?

The Answer from Christian Revelation: created good, out of nothing by the all-powerful, all-good and all-loving God

Why did He create anything? The *Catechism* offers this answer:

293 Scripture and Tradition never cease to teach and celebrate this fundamental truth: “The world was made for the glory of God.” St. Bonaventure explains that God created all things “not to increase his glory, but to show it forth and to communicate it”, for God has no other reason for creating than his love and goodness: “Creatures came into existence when the key of love opened his hand.”

Why are we here? Because God loves us and wants us to exist and He wants us to share in His glory. That's a part of the story that modern people desperately need to understand.

3. We are made in the image and likeness of God

Human beings are made for love.

- 1) We are created to live in a relationship of love with God.
- 2) We are created to live in a relationship of love with others.
- 3) Being created male or female is good and integral to loving. Man and woman are created *equal* in dignity and *complementary* in mission.

But that can be difficult to fathom and so God the Son became man to show us...

4. In His Incarnation, God reveals His love to us and who we are.

“In reality it is only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of man truly becomes clear.” (Vatican II, *Gaudium et Spes*, 22)

Key takeaways to ponder, to pray over and to share:

- There is one God, He freely chose to create, and everything He made is good.
- God is more powerful than anything we can comprehend.
- We, human beings, are the highlight of His creation, made in His image and likeness.
- We have reason and free will, which render us capable of genuine love.
- We were made for relationship (with Him and each other); our destiny is to be divinized and partake of God's nature.
- Real happiness means to *be* loved and *to* love.
- Understanding God's nature (both His immense power and intimate love for me) leads to wonder and trust.

Video to watch on YouTube:

Fr. John Riccardo “Created: Why is there something rather than nothing?”

Deeper dive in reading:

Fr. John Riccardo. *Rescued: The Unexpected and Extraordinary News of the Gospel*, Chapters 2-4.