



**C. The creation of man and the state/condition of the first human beings in paradise (Genesis 2:1-25). Knowing God from nature.**

Man was created not by force, but by **the direct work of the Holy Trinity** (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) **who took council as to how man should be made: “in the image and likeness of God.”** This shows that God loves man in the same manner a father loves his son.

**The image of God in man** – man’s existence as a person (he is somebody not something!), is capable of self knowledge and can exist forever;

**Man’s likeness with God** – man’s vocation to attain **holiness and be loving and wise like God, god by grace**, that is, through his communion with Him in love (fulfilling His will).

Man was created after God created the world (God built first man’s “*house*” and then the man) and was placed in the midst of creation to have dominion over it according to the plan of God (“*king and priest*”).

Man is constituted of a material **body** (“**from the earth**” – so he may not fall into pride, being like other creatures but at the same time different) and of **spirit / soul** (by the breath of God who made him a living soul, His image; man’s soul is endowed with mind (reason), feeling (affection or ability to love) and free will.

Man was created **male and female** to love and help one another in their ascension to God and to multiply.

The first human beings were called Adam (“earthly”) and Eve (“life”). Adam received his name from God while Eve received her name from Adam, after he named all the other creatures.

In the beginning they were naked (being covered by the grace of God as with a garment of light), in harmony with each other and the world and were not ashamed because they were living in love and purity (not knowing evil) in the garden of Eden, a special place prepared for them on earth by God.

Their nourishment and work were the ones given to them by divine command: **to know God and all things in the world**, gifts of love from God, **to eat from the fruit of the earth with gratitude for Him** (to receive His grace), **to maintain themselves in this state so they would not fall from the love of God** (would not separate from Him =die), and **to grow until they became like God, gods by grace**.