

Opening Prayer
To the
Blessed Trinity



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In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Side 1 -- O infinite Trinity,

We sing of your glory in this prayer
Because of Jesus, your beloved Son, you
have raised us to be your own
daughters and sons, And in our hearts,
you have made your dwelling

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the
beginning, is now and will be forever.
Amen

Side 2 -- Eternal beyond time,

The fountain of life that never dies,
All creation comes from you and also
returns
In a never-ending stream of love.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the
beginning, is now and will be forever.
Amen

All -- We give our praise to you,
O most sweet and blessed Trinity
Who always flows forth and always flows
back
In the calm sea of your own overflowing
and dynamic love.

ALL: Through Christ in the unity of the Holy
Spirit all glory and honor are yours,
Almighty Father. Amen

Wisdom 13:1-3

For all men who were ignorant of God were foolish by nature; and they were unable from the good things that are seen to know him who exists, nor did they recognize the craftsman while paying heed to his works;

but they supposed that either fire or wind or swift air, or the circle of the stars, or turbulent water, or the luminaries of heaven were the gods that rule the world.

If through delight in the beauty of these things men assumed them to be gods, let them know how much better than these is their Lord, for the author of beauty created them.

The Revised Standard Version © 1971 (Rev. 1988) by the Division of Christian Unity, Inc.

Trinitarian prayer

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever.

Through Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father

Understanding Franciscan Spirituality

St. Augustine
Original Sin
St. Anselm
Doctrine of Atonement

Dominican Tradition
Thomas Aquinas
Sin & atonement centered
Jesus as expiation for sin
work at worthiness
**Jesus – no Incarnation
needed**
Pope Leo XIII
1879 *Aeterni Patris*
Primary view
Juridical

Standard view/sequence of Creation

Creation Fall Redemption

*But what if Scripture describes an
Alternative view of events*

St. Augustine
Original Sin

St. Anselm
Doctrine of Atonement

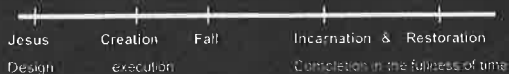
The Cappodocians
Athanasius
Basil the Great
Gregory of Nyssa
Gregory Nazianzus
pseudo-Dionysius
Victorines

Dominican Tradition
Thomas Aquinas
Sin & atonement centered
Jesus as expiation for sin
work at worthiness
Jesus – no
Pope Leo XIII
1879 *Aeterni Patris*
Primary view
Juridical – Path of Ascent

Franciscan Tradition
Francis, Bonaventure
Scotus
Love-centered
Jesus - blueprint of creation
Jesus – Yes
Eph 1:3-14 & Col 1:15-20
Alternate view
relational - Path of Descent

Franciscan View of the Creation Sequence

Beginning with the "Blue-print"
Jesus Christ
God's activity begins before time



- Jesus the Master Plan
- First born of Creation – Alpha & Omega
- Pre-existent Word- Logos
- Center, focus, reason for creation
- goal of creation
- **All things created through, for Him & have their goal/fullness in Him**

Colossians 1:15-18

He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; ¹⁶ for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-
eminent.

The Revised Standard Version, 1971 (Col 1:15). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

Francis of Assisi
vernacular theologian

Humility & Poverty of God

God as Trinity predominates his writings

God organically connected to all creation, Francis expresses this in the Canticle of the Creatures

Most high & supreme Good, You alone are good
aside – God alone is worthy, we are not, but are by pure giftedness. Reason not to get caught up in the worthiness/performance game

Two Key beliefs as foundation of Franciscan Life

- **Poverty of God** – Perfect love requires the lover to hold nothing back from the beloved! God freely, by choice empties Himself for the good of the other (self-communication -- kenosis)
- **Humility of God** – God turns toward Jesus completely (God's full self-expression in one other than Himself) and through Jesus The Father turns toward us (finite self-expression of Jesus) and all creation.

Poverty of God

" 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross". Philipians 2:5-8

The Revised Standard Version, 1971 (Php 2:5). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

Bonaventure

Trinity

- humility, poverty, givingness is an essential aspect of God's nature of Love
- *[self-communication/expression]*
- Fountain fullness – constantly outpouring, overflowing
- Fullness & emptiness
- Relationship/dance of unbounded & uncontainable love

“bonum est sui diffusivum”

goodness is diffusive by its very nature

– this is the very heart of Franciscan Theology

Incarnation

God comes down (Path of Descent)

*God bends down to embrace us in Love,
to lift up our nature and all of creation
to invite us into the Dance of the Trinity*

*If God bends down in love for us through the
Word Incarnate, then we who are “little words”
must bend down in love for one another and
for all creation if the universe is to find its
fullness in Christ*

Book of Creation: The created world is like a book in which its maker, the Trinity, shines forth, is represented and can be read at three levels of expression, namely, as a vestige, as an image, and as a similitude. The reality of the vestige is found in all creatures; the image is found only in intellectual beings or rational spirits; and the similitude is found only in those creatures which have become conformed to God. -- *Breviloquium*

Jesus Christ – Book of Life

- goal and center of all creation [universe], the plan from the very beginning
- completes and is the fullness of creation
- Lastly as a remedy for sin

Bl. John Duns Scotus
Primacy of Christ

- The Incarnation is not a divine after thought or reaction to any event, but the cornerstone of the whole plan of creation
- Everything that was, is & ever will be is based in Christ
- The relationship between divinity & humanity
God & humanity are intrinsically, organically united and all creation is centered in Jesus

Creation is based on God's absolute freedom and love, e.g God's very nature, and not a need.

Thisness [*haecceitas*]

The doctrine of thisness applied to the human person invests each individual with a unique value as one single individual wanted and loved by God, apart from any trait, attribute, accomplishment, similarity to others or any contribution to society.

Of the infinity possibilities for a "you" the specific, unique "you" is the one wanted & loved by God and called into being.

Our unique, customized, personal gift from God

Summary

1. God is absolute love, being and creativity. Creation is dependent upon God to exist.
2. God has freely chosen incarnation (taking on human form) before the human choice for sin.
3. Christmas is of primary importance to us.
4. Christ is the perfect image of who God is for creation.
5. Every creature is unique, gifted, and living in relationship.
6. Nothing humans have the ability to do has the capacity to make God do something.
7. Mercy, forgiveness and justification are God's actions.

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