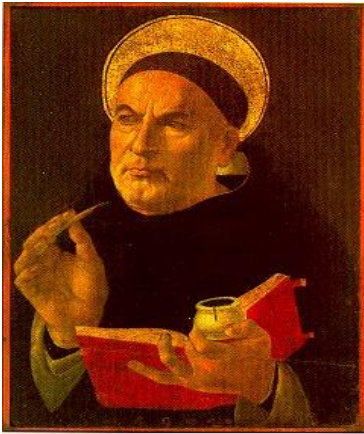


Christian Saints, Mystics, Theologians and the Sacred Book of Nature



John Chrysostom (347-470) “From the creation, learn to admire the Lord! Indeed the magnitude and beauty of creation display a God who is the artificer of the universe. He has made the mode of creation to be our best teacher.”

St. Basil (329-379) “I want creation to penetrate you with so much admiration that wherever you go, the least plant may bring you clear remembrance of the Creator. A single plant, a blade of grass, or one speck of dust is sufficient to occupy all your intelligence in beholding the art with which it has been made.”

St. Maximus the Confessor (580-662) “Creation is a bible whose letters and syllables are the particular aspects of all creatures and whose words are the more universal aspects of creation.”

St. John of Damascus (675-749) “The whole earth is a living icon of the face of God.”

St. Augustine (354-430) “Some people, to discover God, read books. But there is a great book: the very appearance of created things. Look above you! Look below you! Note it. Read it. God, whom you want to discover, never wrote that book with ink. Instead, He set before your eyes the things that He had made. Can you ask for a louder voice than that?”

St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153) “Believe one who knows: You will find something greater in woods than in the books. Trees and stones will teach you that which you can never learn from masters.”

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) “Because God in His goodness could not adequately be represented by one creature alone, he produced many and diverse creatures, that what was wanting in one representation of Divine Goodness might be supplied by another. ...The whole universe together participates in the Divine goodness more perfectly, and manifests it better than any single creature whatever.”

Thomas a Kempis (1380-1471) “If the heart were right, then every creature would be a mirror of life and a book of holy doctrine.”

St. Theresa of Avila (1515-1582) “It helped me to look at fields, or water, or flowers. In these things, I found a remembrance of the Creator. I mean that they awakened and recollected me and served as a book.”