

Homily
January 27, 2008

Original Sin and the Fall

Definition

1. Act of Disobedience against God rooted in pride
2. Original sin is the privation of sanctifying grace in consequence of the sin of Adam.

Scripture

Genesis 2 & 3

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one person sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all, inasmuch as all sinned

Church Fathers

That this doctrine existed in Christian tradition before St. Augustine's time is shown by the practice of the Church in the baptism of children

St. Augustine invokes the testimony of eleven Fathers, Greek as well as Latin

Objections to Original Sin from Human Reason

1. Cannot Prove Original Sin from Human Reason
2. It suffices to show that human reason has no serious objection against this doctrine which is founded on Revelation.
3. Because of Original Sin, mankind has not lost his natural faculties: by the sin of Adam he has been deprived only of the Divine gifts to which his nature had no strict right.
 - a. the complete mastery of his passions,
 - b. exemption from death,
 - c. sanctifying grace,
 - d. the vision of God in the next life
4. Despite the fall, man remains essentially good

Effects of Original Sin

1. Loss of original righteousness
2. Pain in child bearing
3. Concupiscence⁶
4. Manual labor
5. Death and suffering