

The Book of Genesis teaches us still more. Thus there is a seal set upon God's special handiwork or man, for man is in the image of God (Genesis i, 26). St Thomas explains that this image of God is threefold. First, simply by the very fact of his being created, every man is in the image of God. Then there is the imaging of the re-created or redeemed who are in the grace of Christ, and finally the imaging of God in the next life, among the blessed.

That this image of God is in all men is a teaching of Genesis as of our theology. It is then incumbent on every believer to recognize the reality in every single one who shares our human nature. This is simply a recognition of what is, through God's creative power. And of course this 'mirroring' of God makes effective a one-ness of every nation tribe and tongue, of every colour of feature and cranial measurement and much else.

All who mirror God in varying degree (the variety is due to grace and moral states only) constitute a multiracial society, one in its knowledge and love of God; and we know it as the Church. The Church on earth is preparing for the Church in heaven. We can have glimpses of this glory to come:

'After this I saw a great multitude which no man could number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues. Standing before the throne and the Lamb, clothed in white robes and with palms in their hands. And they cried with a loud voice saying,

Salvation belongs to our God
Who sits upon the throne
And to the Lamb.' (Apoc. vii, 9-10.)

NOTICE

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