



Excerpt from ***Christ Our Pascha***

Humankind – the Crown of Creation

Every human being that comes into the world is called to grow in likeness to God – to achieve *divinization* [also known as deification, the process of theosis]: “God has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become partakers of the divine nature (2 Pt 1:4). This partaking in God’s nature constitutes human happiness. Likeness to God can be attained by us only by free choice and assent, and by cooperation with God’s grace. “Our likeness to God requires our cooperation. When the intellect begins to perceive the Holy Spirit with full consciousness, we should realize that grace is beginning to paint the divine likeness over the divine image in us.” (#124)