



Excerpt from *Christ Our Pascha*

### *Humankind – the Crown of Creation*

In accordance with God's eternal plan, the divinization of human beings is possible. It is possible because of the Incarnation of God's Son, through which we receive the gift of becoming partakers in the nature of God (see 2 *Pt* 1:4) as *gods by grace*, and attain to eternal life. "We have not been made gods from the beginning, but at first merely human beings, then finally gods; for God has adopted this course out of his pure benevolence, that no one may impute to him invidiousness or grudgingness [i.e. envy or reluctance]." It is precisely because God has loved us that he desires for us to become like him: "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (*Mt* 5:48; see 1 *Pt* 1:16). (#127)