



God's Goodness in Creation in the words of St. Julie Billiart
FOUNDER OF THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR AND SAINT FOR OUR TIMES

God's Goodness in Creation

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GOODness is GODness, and GODness is GOODness. The more goodness radiates in and through us humans—or any other creature—the more we reflect and communicate who God is.

The universe, proclaimed GOOD by our Creator, lives and grows through three key values, discovered by Thomas Berry: Differentiation, Interiority, and Communion. Differentiation, or diversity, makes every being unique, different from all others. Interiority is the "soul" or inner wisdom of every being, which holds it together and gives it identity, makes each of us who we are, an unrepeatable self, able to enter into relationship with others. And Communion is this relationship, the interconnection or interdependence which makes us one, enables all to belong. Mysteriously we become more differentiated and more aware of our unique interiority as we enter into relationship, into Communion.

These values, which permeate the entire universe, find their origin in God. The beautiful words of St. Julie can remind us of these cosmic values of differentiation, interiority, and communion.

HOW good God is!

HOW good is God? HOW is God good? In every way, in a multitude of expressions so vast that they fill us with awe. God is so good that an entire cosmos stretching through billions of years of space-time cannot exhaust the revelation. Every creature radiates some aspect of Goodness different from all the rest. Each is unique and unrepeatable and precious in God's embrace.

How GOOD God is!

The very identity of God, the inner Mystery of the One who says, "I am who am", is

Goodness without limit. God's inner Self is Goodness so intense that it must pour out in love and mercy and grace—Goodness shared. As a good friend of mine says: "God can't help loving us—that's how God is!" And this Goodness is who God is as well. God is the only one who can penetrate into the depths of the interiority of every other being and bring healing and wholeness. God is God and we are not! Yet we are invited to live in God forever

How good GOD is!

Our God is Communion. Our desire for relationship, family, belonging reveals the Trinity-Communion in whose image we are created. This Communion is God's desire and fulfillment within the Three Persons and throughout the entire cosmos. As we respond to our good God's invitation into Communion, we are not lost or absorbed into God's immensity. Rather we become most fully who we are. Our uniqueness and our personal identity grow as we are caressed in the intimacy of God. As we come to know and love our good God and the goodness of God's creation, we come to know and love ourselves also as deeply good.

How good! God IS!

God IS! This word speaks of the present moment, the eternal NOW. In the great curve of space-time God brings to full circle, in our present moment and in each NOW of human time, the revelation of Goodness. Every creature, every one of us, has a unique experience of living, individually and together, in the very Center of God's Goodness.

In the beginning there was Good... And still is... And will be forever...

How good is the good God!