

From the Pastor

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St. Paul, in his Letter to the Romans, after analyzing and explaining the complex twists and turns of salvation history, breaks out in a hymn of wonder and awe: "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!" This is the cry of a childlike, grace-filled, healthy Christian heart.

There is a story of a nun (later beatified) who shared St. Paul's appreciation for the wonderful works of God. She lived in the late 1800s and spent the last years of her life in a convent in New York. When she was an elderly nun, the first electric light bulb was installed in the common room of the convent. It was a big affair for the nuns. All the sisters gathered in the room just after sundown to watch the single light bulb turned on. Two younger sisters walked on either side of the saint, helping her along. Finally everyone was in place. A brief explanation of the electric circuit was given, and then the switch was turned on. The light bulb flickered, glowed, and then brightened, filling the whole room with a warm yellow radiance. All the sisters were delighted and impressed by this show of technological progress and they began chattering to each other at once. Finally, one of the young sisters looked at the saint, who was gazing at the light bulb with a knowing smile on her face. They asked her what she thought and, without taking her eyes off the bulb, she said "Oh the power and the wonder of our God!"

And isn't that true? Aren't all achievements of modern science and technology dependent on the truly awe-inspiring order and variety of God's creation? Didn't His command in the Book of Genesis to "fill the earth and subdue it" include the task of discovering and developing the hidden potential with which creation was filled? This nun was able to delight in the wisdom and power of God by admiring a light bulb; hers was a healthy Christian soul.

Whether our sense of wonder is rickety or robust, let's stir it up, especially during the miracle of Holy Mass, and give God pleasure by enjoying his gifts.

+Father Roger