

Chris Stein, Reflection

[February 9, 2021](#)

“God saw how good it was.”

“God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.”

God loves the world - after all it is His creation. God loves the order He established: how everything works together to create a masterpiece of beauty that not even Michaelangelo could replicate.

I remember climbing a mountain in Guatemala called Acatenango with my classmate two summers ago. Now in many ways the trip was absolute hell. I found out later that I did it with a torn ACL, we had only a few litres of water each, had to carry everything in our back pack, and about half way up it seemed like there was never enough air. Many times I thought of turning back, but I stuck with it.

And what an absolute reward. Maybe one of the most beautiful sights I will ever see. The darkness of the night allowed me to look down on the small Guatemalan towns below with little pockets of light. How small we all were in the mass of darkness. It was darkness we sadly do not get to experience here too often. And then a live volcano in the midst of it all. And climbing to the top the next day at three in the morning and looking down at dawn. It was a feeling of being in the midst of this creation and I am just so unimportant, so small, just one little piece in creation.

No one will ever convince me that when you look up at the stars, the moon or the sun, you do not see the creation of an artist.

But despite all of this beauty: In the midst of it all, this earth that seems to be so massively beyond us, the billions of miles of space, all the stars and planets, the animal kingdom, flowing streams, and all of this masterful creation,

God loves us most of all. God creates us - men and women - in His image and wants unity with us. God thinks YOU are beautiful. God wants YOU to be with Him forever. I am sure you have heard this, but maybe you have never thought about it in depth - God desires **YOU**.

So perhaps a long term challenge today: as we go into spring and summer these next few months and as this pandemic gets more in control, get outside more. Go for walks in the metroparks, drive up to Lake Erie, stand outside in your yard at night and take it all in. Take in all the beauty. Thank God for it. And after taking it all in, come to Mass here and know that this God we have just received loves you more than all of creation.