

The Mysticism of Laudato Si' ¹³

DIVINIZATION

At the Offertory of the Eucharist, the priest puts a drop of wine into the chalice and says quietly, *'May we become sharers in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share our humanity'*. What a statement this is, to affirm that we are sharers in Christ's divinity! An outsider at the back of the church might expect a cheer from the congregation or at least a heartfelt 'Amen'. But there is no response: Mass goes steadily on. The Western Church makes little of divinization, whereas it is a rich theme in the Eastern Church.

The pope says: *'In the bread of the Eucharist, Creation is projected towards divinization'* (236).

To catch on to this, we need to think outside the box, because while God is not limited by any boundaries, we are! Do you think that humankind has reached its peak with the arrival of *homo sapiens*? When Bronowski wrote *The Ascent of Man*, why did he stop with us as we now are? Who are we to decide the cut-off point of human possibility? Does God smile at our narrowness of imagination? Is C S Lewis right in asserting that with the emergence of Jesus in the world a radically leap in human evolution took place? If some of us began sprouting wings the whole world would pay attention and say, 'Perhaps we are beginning to fly'! But could it be that through the action of Jesus our race is beginning to be transformed to the level of the divine?

With the incarnation of God in Jesus, what has begun is the development of the human to the divine dimension. When evolutionary developments happen, certain factors become favoured over others: in this instance the relevant shift is not on the levels of physique or intelligence, but on the levels of spirit and consciousness. This development enables us to 'become sharers in the divinity of Christ'. The Gospels are truly 'Good News' because they rustle with the secret that we are being changed from inside out; that our capacity for the divine is secretly being realised, that we are becoming the children of God and

are being elevated to meet God face to face—as friends. We live in a world of potential gods and goddesses, and the cosmos itself is ‘projected towards divinization’! We can learn to see everything in this light.