PROVIDENCE OF GOD

"GOD, BY HIS PROVIDENCE, PROTECTS AND GOVERNS ALL THAT HE ESTABLISHED, REACHING MIGHTY FROM END TO END, AND ORDERING ALL THINGS AGREEABLY" (I VATICAN COUNCIL).

DEFINITION

1. PROVIDENCE IS THE DIVINE WORLD PLAN
2. SINCE EVERYTHING IS CREATED ACCORDING TO THE MIND OF GOD, SO ALSO THE REGULATION OF ALL THINGS TO AN END, OR PURPOSE, EXISTS FROM ETERNITY IN THE MIND OF GOD. HE WILLS FROM ETERNITY TO DIRECT ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THEIR APPOINTED PURPOSE.

ANALYSIS

1. RELATION TO DIVINE GOVERNMENT
2. BY HIS PROVIDENCE GOD PLANS THE EXISTENCE AND OPERATION OF ALL CREATURES
3. BY HIS GOVERNMENT, HE PUTS THIS ETERNAL DIVINE WORLD PLAN INTO EXECUTION IN TIME.
4. THE ETERNAL WORLD PLAN AND ITS Fulfillment in time are together called DIVINE PROVIDENCE.

EXPLANATION

1. DIVINE PROVIDENCE - God TESTAMENT FILLED WITH STRESS ON DIVINE PROVIDENCE, ESPECIALLY REALMS AND BOOK OF WISDOM
2. NEW TESTAMENT - PROVIDENCE EXTENDS TO ALL CREATURES - PROVIDENCE IN EVERYTHING IN OUR LIVES - CHRIST WARNS AGAINST WORRY
   - PROVIDENCE - ALL CREATURES, RATIONAL CREATURES, SPEC. PROVIDENCE, MOST SPEC. PROVIDENCE - PREDESTINED WITH VARYING DEGREES.

FORMS

1. OBJECT AND GRADE
2. MODE AND MANNER

QUALITIES

1. INFALLIBLE CERTAINTY - nothing just happens without div. providence, or independent of it
2. IMmutability - UNCHANGEABLE, BUT PRAYER AND OUR FREE WILL ARE PART OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

OUR RESPONSE

IN FAITH: SEEING GOD'S PROVIDENCE, TEACHING US GOD'S WILL IN EVERYTHING IN OUR LIVES.
IN HOPE: TRUSTING IN GOD'S LOVING CARE TO PROVIDE THE MEANS OF FULFILLING HIS WILL.

EXPLANATION

1. God PROVIDENCE - PROVIDENCE EXTENDS TO ALL CREATURES IN EVERYTHING IN OUR LIVES - PROVIDENCE IN EVERYTHING IN OUR LIVES.