

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Divine Providence and the Problem of Evil

Circle the group to which you have been assigned:

**Group 1**

**Group 2**

**Group 3**

**Group 4**

Find paragraphs 302–314 in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and answer your group's questions.

### Group 1

1. The “goodness and perfection” of Creation is discussed in paragraph 302. If God created everything good, why aren’t things “perfect”?
  2. Paraphrase paragraph 302. What does *Divine Providence* mean?
  3. Read paragraph 302. What does *Divine Providence* NOT mean?
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### Group 2

4. According to paragraph 304, what does the Holy Spirit often do in Sacred Scripture?
5. Read paragraphs 304–306. Who or what are “secondary causes”? Why are they a sign of God’s “greatness and goodness” and not “weakness”?



6. Read paragraphs 306–308. Identify three specific actions that you or people you know have done recently that could be considered “secondary causes.”

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### Group 3

7. Paraphrase the question at the beginning of paragraph 309, and explain where we can find the answer to that question.
8. Paraphrase the question at the beginning of paragraph 310.
9. How does the rest of paragraph 310 answer this question? What are some ways you can help creation move toward perfection?

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### Group 4

10. What does paragraph 311 say about God and the “cause of moral evil”<sup>1</sup>?
11. What are the two reasons evil is *permitted*, according to paragraph 311?



12. Read paragraph 312. If the Passion and death of Jesus Christ brought about our redemption, does that mean that the rejection and murder of God's only Son was a *good* thing? Why or why not?

**Final Reflection Question:** Do you think the saying “everything happens for a reason” reflects the Church's teaching expressed in these paragraphs from the *Catechism*? Explain.

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**Endnote Cited in a Quotation from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Second Edition**

1. Cf. St. Augustine, *De libero arbitrio*, 1, 1, 2: J. P. Migne, ed., *Patrologia Graeca* (Paris, 1857–1866) 32, 1223; St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* I–II, 79, 1.

