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Lesson nr. 5 – Tuesday, Oct 27, 2020. – HANDOUT # 2

Today's topic we attempt to cover – CREATION and (or: versus) EVOLUTION has become – unfortunately – a source of conflict for many.

- Please patiently stay along with me as we study the following because, as educated (and very intelligent) young people of the 21st Century, people of Catholic Faith, we are about to go into the pursuit of Secondary Education in your High School, I am convinced you need to be exposed, presented with and taught the CONTEMPORARY STAND of the very ANCIENT and Refined Church's Teaching on the most important Articles of our FAITH.
- The controversy surrounding evolution touches on our most central beliefs about ourselves and the world. Evolutionary theories have been used to answer questions about the origins of the Universe, life, humans, etc. These might be referred to as COSMOLOGICAL EVOLUTION, as BILOGICAT EVOLUTION or HUMAN EVOLUTION. One's opinion concerning one of these areas does not indicate what one believes concerning others.

A) What is the CATHOLIC position concerning belief – or unbelief – in evolution?

- The question may never be finally settled, but there are definite PARAMETERS to what is the acceptable Catholic belief regarding such question(s):
 - Existence of Immortal souls?
 - POLY – GENISM or MONO – GENESIS (do we come from multiple parents or just one couple – Adam and Eve) Narrative of the Book of Genesis and contemporary theories of Mitochondrial Eve as MCRA of mt-Eve and Y - Chromosome Adam as Y-MRCA)
 - FULGURATION (from Latin: fulgus, lightning) versus – or alongside with CREATION - Creative Action of God –

that is present on the pages of the Book of Genesis as: “Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” See Genesis chapter 2: how we understand the dust – or clay of the earth? Is it a reference to the Organic Chemistry of Carbon? What is: ‘ Ha’ Yah” – the life – giving breath of God? Etc, etc... .

- Christianity is “RADICALLY CREATIONIST” but it is NOT best described by the “crude creationism” or the fundamentalist, literal or even scientific interpretation of the Genesis Creation Narrative(s) or by the Newtonian dictatorial God who makes the Universe tick along like a Swiss Watch.
- Rather GOD acts as a PARENT toward the Universe (what about M-Theories?), nurturing, encouraging and working with it.
- Saint Augustine of Hippo (died 430 A.D) - the patron saint of our Diocese of Bridgeport in CT – we could confidently repeat that it is GOD that WILLS UNIVERSE – God will is, every moment of every day – not only THEN (the Book of Genesis) at the moment of CREATION – but EVERY DAY. The moment God STOPS wanting, willing, me and you – that’s the END☺
- Roman Catholic Cardinal, (now a Saint of the Catholic Church) Cardinal John Henry Newman, who said in 1868: “The Theory of Darwin, true or not, is not necessarily atheistic; on the contrary, it may simply be suggesting a larger idea of divine providence and skill”.
- Pope John Paul II told the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in His now famous 1996 speech that: “new scientific knowledge has led us to the conclusion that the Theory of Evolution is no longer a mere HYPOTESIS”.
- The problem – one of many – but the predominant one – is about the Scientific notion of TIME – what is TIME? How possibly there was NO TIME before God Created everything out of NOTHING?

So; what is the STAND – the TEACHING of the CATHOLIC CHURCH concerning EVOLUTION?

In 1985 a symposium took place in Rome under the title: “Christian Faith and the Theory of Evolution” and Cardinal (then) Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI) presided, and at the conclusion of the gathering, Pope John Paul II said: “ Rightly comprehended, FAITH in CREATION or a correctly understood teaching of EVOLUTION does not create obstacles; Evolution in fact presupposes creation; creation situates itself in the light of evolution as an event which extends itself through time – as a CONTINUAL CREATION – in which God becomes VISIBLE to the eyes of the believer as CREATOR of HEAVEN and EARTH”.

My friends, statements mentioned above are of great importance, not only because they give us more SYSTEMATIC and very practical way to address the DISCUSSION (not conflict – it has never been a real conflict) between CREATION and EVOLUTION.

Now, let us look through the numbers of CCC and also, please know that one of the best letters in which the Discussion mentioned above has been addressed is now famous John Paul II Encyclical Letter FIDES et RATIO – On Faith and Reason – where the Pope says so profoundly: “Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth;" Faith without reason, he argues, leads to superstition. Reason without faith, he argues, leads straight to nihilism and relativism”

- CCC 283 – please, read it
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