

Bible Can Accommodate Evolution

CHICAGO — A true theory of evolution "is not in contradiction to any Catholic dogma," a priest-anthropologist has declared.

However, Father J. Franklin Ewing, S.J., told a Charles Darwin centennial conference, Catholics cannot accept any evolution theory which ignores or denies God's creative activity and His direct creation of each human soul.

The Darwin centennial observance was held at the University of Chicago to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's book "The Origin of Species," in which he proposed the theory of evolution.

Father Ewing, professor of anthropology at Fordham University, New York, was joined in outlining a Christian view of evolution by the Rev. Jaroslav Pelikan, Lutheran minister and professor of historical theology in the federated theological faculty of the University of Chicago.

He recalled that 100 years ago Darwin's theory seemed to many Catholic thinkers to call into question some sections of Scripture, especially the Book of Genesis.

To those who believe that theologians were "too slow to accept the evolution of man's body," the Jesuit scientist replied that at the time of the publication of "The Origin of Species," scientific evidence for evolution was "scant indeed."

Nevertheless, he said: "From the beginning Catholic writers made it clear that a spiritualistic evolution — one which allowed of the human spirit and the fact of God the Creator — did not come into opposition with any Catholic dogma."

"The theologian says the same today," he added.

A landmark in the relationships between theology and evolutionary theory occurred in 1909 with the issuance by the Pontifical Biblical Commission of norms for the interpretation of Genesis, Father Ewing said.

He stated that the commission at that time rejected both fundamentalism — "which would make every word of the Bible literally definitive" — and modernism — "which would make of the Bible a set of beautiful religious sentiments with no particular connection with reality."

Instead, he declared, the commission "pointed out that Genesis contained elements of true history, but that the literary form was not that of a modern history book."

Likewise, he continued, Pope Pius XII's 1943 encyclical *Divino Afflante Spiritu* emphasized that the literary form of Scripture must be kept in mind in interpreting its meaning.

In his 1950 encyclical *Humani Generis*, Pope Pius laid down four principles for the study of evolution, Father Ewing said. He listed these as:

- 1) "In any discussion of evolution, the Catholic must take for granted the spiritual soul of man."
- 2) "Otherwise, such a discussion is left open by the Church."

Church Won't Lobby On Bus Issue

PORTLAND, Me. — (NC) — Bishop Daniel J. Feeney of Portland said he hopes that the Legislature will act favorably on Maine's school bus issue, but that the Church will continue not to take a direct part in the controversy.

The prelate's comments (Nov. 24) referred to the pending meeting of the state's lawmakers to consider legalizing tax-paid school bus transportation of all children, regardless of the school attended.

Gov. Clinton A. Clauson recently (Nov. 23) set January 18 as a tentative date for the special legislative session. Some 16 topics other than the school bus matter are up for the session's attention.

Bishop Feeney, spiritual leader of the state's Catholics, said: "We intend no lobby. This question is now in the hands of the civil authorities. It has never been in our hands. It was instituted by the Augusta citizens and the Church has carefully kept its hands off throughout. I hope the Legislature will act favorably on the proposed legislation."

In the meantime, the Maine (Protestant) Council of Churches announced it will back the efforts of a group known as Protestants and Other Americans United for the Separation of Church and State (POAU), which oppose bus legislation.

ately creates each human soul belongs to that group of dogmas which the Church proposes, and to deny which would make the denier a heretic. . . This is one occasion on which God has to step in with His primary power, because matter cannot produce a spiritual soul."

However, he added, the Pope's encyclical "re-echoes what Catholic theologians have been saying from the beginning: A true evolution is not in contradiction to any Catholic dogma."

Father Ewing continued: "Modern theologians would say this about the origin of man: God is the Creator of man, body and soul. Whether He used the method of evolution for the preparation of the human body or created it from unorganized matter is not of primary importance. In either case, He is the Creator."

3) "However, such a discussion is for experts in science and theology, and reasons for and against must be gravely weighed. The Catholic must be ready to submit to the judgment of the Church."

4) "People should not take it for granted that evolution is a proven fact, and should not act as if there were no theological reasons for reserve and caution in their discussions."

Commenting on these points, Father Ewing declared: The doctrine that God Himself immedi-

Cardinal Believes Council May Re-unite Orthodox

SYDNEY, Australia — (NC) — His Eminence Norman Cardinal Gilroy, Archbishop of Sydney, said that the coming ecumenical council to be convoked by His Holiness Pope John XXIII might result in "the beginning or even the consummation" of reunion of the Eastern Churches with the Catholic Church.

Cardinal Gilroy in his Advent pastoral letter asked his people to pray, particularly during Advent,

for the success of the second Vatican Council.

Tracing the history of various reunion efforts, the Cardinal said:

"The Council of Union held at Florence in the 15th century may have very special significance in view of the council which Pope John XXIII intends to convocate. The circumstances of the Holy Father's life have brought him into very close touch with the separated Eastern Churches."

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Monroe — Our Lady of Lourdes	65.00	57.00
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Mount Airy — Holy Angels	160.00	170.00
Mount Olive — St. Mary	71.00	71.61
Murphy — St. William	87.00	90.00
New Bern — St. Joseph	110.00	62.62
New Bern — St. Paul	110.00	62.62
Newton Grove — Our Lady of Guadalupe	752.00	771.00
North Wilkesboro — St. John	175.00	175.00
Oxford — St. Catherine	107.00	101.22
Oxford — St. Catherine	50.00	55.45
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Plymouth —	13.00	34.30
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