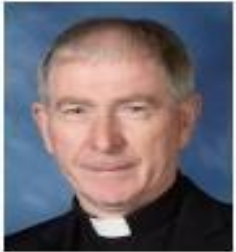


Father Martin's Pen

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Evolution versus Intelligent Design.

More than once you will have come across the debate in education over Evolution versus Intelligent Design. Evolution has been the popular theory but recently Intelligent Design has gained a lot of support.

Back in the year 2000 the London Sunday Times newspaper ran an article with the title, Man, the utterly exceptional Beast by a Kenan Malik. In a word he suggests that scientists are increasingly seeing the human being as just another animal. A Rob Foley observed that “apes have become more angelic through the course of the 20th century, while humans have become more apeish.” Malik continues “virtually every scientist today accepts that the natural world can be understood using physics, chemistry and biology.

Are humans just that human, or is there something else such as a soul? Malik points out that human beings are transcendent not in a religious sense but in a human way. What defines human beings is our subjectivity, our capacity for conscious, rational dialogue and inquiry.

The tools of natural science are insufficient to measure human boundaries. How can a scientist measure human consciousness. Indeed by suggesting that science can measure human capability, the human being is reduced to being an Object of study. Yet human beings are subjects within their own lives. There is an awareness of self.

Both evolution and intelligent design are inadequate to explain human origins. Intelligent design is not science because it cannot be proved, therefore it cannot be taught with certainty.

What the Catholic Church says about all of this is that God can and could have used a whole variety of secondary causes to bring about the existence of the world. The strong emphasis of the church is that at some point there was an “ontological leap.” Humans are more than evolved apes. They have soul or a spiritual self which ties them to God the Creator.

A science that views human life in naturalistic or mechanistic terms is pessimistic beyond words. What would Beethoven say if we conclude that his 5th. Symphony is only the product of an evolved ape? Surely he would turn in his grave!!!

We live in a world that is the product of Divine love. No other explanation will suffice.

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