

Section 54:
Spirituality of the Heart
and God's Creation in Evolution.
(Hans Kwakman msc)

"The whole material universe is an expression of God's love, of His immeasurable goodness to us" (LS 84). The universe with its vast variety of creatures comes from God's loving heart. God is love and everything that is created, from the very beginning, billions of years ago, to the present moment - the furthest distant galaxy and our planet Earth; the smallest insect and every individual human being - everything is a gift of God's creative love. Every creature owes every moment of his or her existence to God and God allows every creature to develop according to natural laws, his or her own.

Pope Francis writes: *"God is intimately present to each being, without impinging on the autonomy of his creature, and this gives rise to the rightful autonomy of earthly affairs. His divine presence, which ensures the subsistence and growth of each being, continues the work of creation" (LS 80).* That is why we can meet God in all things. God fills the universe completely with His presence and the universe develops in God. *"We can discover the mystery of God's presence in every leaf, mountain path, dewdrop, or the face of a poor person,"* declares the Pope (LS 233).

All the beauty that we experience in nature and in art, but also every expression of love and forgiveness, fidelity and solidarity, peace and justice, shows us the beauty and attractiveness of God. *"The Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge,"* states the Pope (LS 80)

The Pope continues: *"Nature is nothing other than a certain kind of art, namely God's art, impressed upon things, whereby those things are moved to a determinate end" (LS 80).* He compares God's Spirit to a mysterious shipbuilder, who is able to give timber the strength to take the shape of a

ship itself (LS 80). Where the natural sciences speak of evolution, we see with the eyes of faith the driving force of God's Spirit at work.

REFLECTION

*"The Church clearly teaches that
the scientific evolution theory,
when properly understood,
is fully compatible
with faith in God as the creator.*

The Catechism states:

*"The question on the origins of the world and of humankind
is the subject of many scientific studies.*

*Our knowledge of the age
and the dimensions of the cosmos,
as well as of the development of life forms
and the appearance of humankind
they have highly enriched.*

*These discoveries invite us
to even more admiration
for the greatness of the Creator."
(The Catechism of the Catholic Church, 283)*

*But the question of the meaning
of the origin of creation;
whether the universe is governed
by chance or by God.*

*The question why there is evil and so on...,
these are not questions that science
can answer anyway.*

*Science can tell us
HOW things come to exist in the universe,
but not WHY."*

*(David Cloutier,. Reading, Praying, Living
Pope Francis's Laudato Si .
Liturgical Press. Kindle Edition).*