

Maryknoll, Oct., 2023

Humans Evolving into a New Understanding of Creation

1. Transcending the Old Understanding

- Humans as masters of Creation – influence of the Agricultural Revolution.
- The fall from innocence – the theory of Original Sin.
- Flawed humans in a flawed creation.
- Redeeming the flaw: rationality and ensoulment (Classical Greek times).
- Jesus as the new Adam – the 2000 year bench mark
- The human in a vale of tears awaiting salvation in another world.

2. Embracing the Evolutionary Perspective (Teilhard de Chardin; John Haught, Ilia Delio).

- In an evolving creation, there is no idyllic past
- Evolution is an open-ended process of Growth – Change – Complexity!
- Evolutionary context is God's context, an unceasing process of becoming.
- Evolution reveals God's time-scales, transcending our human constructs.
- Our evolutionary goal is to thrive, and not merely to survive.

3. Humans as Evolutionary Becomings (*not merely beings!*)

- Our God given story of 7,000,000 years.
- Human creativity back to 3.300,000 years.
- Human becoming as Earthlings
- Humans as horticulturalists
- Humans as non-violent co-operators.
- After the Agricultural Revolution – objectifying the land
 - Creating Imperialism
 - Divine projections
 - Redeeming the flawed creation.

4. Embracing the New Understanding

- We are divinely-graced Earthlings.
- Everything in the human body comes from the cosmic-planetary body.
- We evolve through mutual belonging.
- We are creation becoming more aware of itself.
- We are energy beings inhabiting a body.
- We flourish when we learn to collaborate with the Great Spirit.