

Truth Sought in Humility Can Unite Mankind

Following is an excerpt from an address given by Pope John Paul II on June 15 during a visit to the European Center for Nuclear Research in Geneva, Switzerland.

There was a time when certain men of science were tempted to shut themselves up in an attitude imbued with "scientism." This was a philosophical choice rather than a scientific attitude, with a wish to disregard other forms of knowledge.



If such was the case, those times seem to have gone by; the majority of scientists admit that the natural sciences cover only part of reality, with their method based on experimentation and on reproduction of results, or rather they reach it only under a certain aspect. Philosophy, art, religion — religion above all which is aware of being linked with a transcendent revelation — perceive other aspects of the reality of the universe, of man above all.

Pascal spoke — in another sense, it is true — of three orders, of grandeurs in man: the grandeurs of power, the grandeurs of the intelligence, and the grandeurs of love. Each of these infinitely surpasses the other, and appeals to that other who is the Creator, Father of all mankind, as their source and their goal, for "man infinitely surpasses man."

You bring to light the grandeur and mystery of this mankind — the greatness of his power of research, of his reason, of his capacity to attain a greater truth, the power of his will in generous pursuit of a long, disinterested way. Is his mystery, and maybe the fathomless novelty of pure research on nature and matter, finally less important than the moving novelty of the attitude of man feeling himself to be very small in regard to his discoveries?

Yes, what a change has come about in scientific representation of the world, such as we inherited it from our forebears, as they received it from the generations that had gone before them in the great community of mankind. But at the same time too let me, as the believer that I am, say in all simplicity, what continuity there is in the design of God the Creator, who made man "in his image and likeness" and gave him the mission to "have dominion" of all the world that he created through love.

The author of the first book of the Bible, Genesis, goes on repeating wonderingly: "God saw that it was good, God saw everything that he had done, and saw that it was very good." (Gn. 1:4)

You yourselves, you physicists, have to deploy your energies and your capacities here through the solely scientific methods of the natural sciences. But as men you cannot fail to put those other basic, existential questions to yourselves which I have just mentioned. Philosophical wisdom and faith offer answers. I trust that you are men of research on this terrain as well, since you know that there could not be any opposition between these domains, but rather there must be a harmony and in this too you will be men open to the fullness of the truth.

I know in any case that a certain number among you are personally believers and share, for example, the convictions of the Christian faith without any disturbance to the rigor of your scientific work or the reciprocal respect which you owe to one another. More than that, does not the fundamental structure of matter reveal to all a logical order which seems to be much nearer a transcendental philosophical interpretation of natural phenomena than does a purely materialist conception?

I say to Christians, as I affirmed to students and teachers at the Catholic Institute in Paris: May you, "in your intellectual work, be able to unify existentially two orders of realities which there was for too long a tendency to contrast with one another, as if they were

antithetical: search for the truth and certitude of already knowing the source of truth." (Discourse to the Catholic Institute of Paris, June 1, 1980)

The church well maintains the specific distinction between scientific and religious knowledge and their methods. She is likewise sure of their being complementary to each other and of having a profound harmony around the one same God, the creator and redeemer of man.

The church wishes to remove all misunderstanding from this point. She respects the science of nature in its order. Natural science is not a threat in her eyes, but rather a more thoroughgoing manifestation of the creator God. She rejoices at the progress of science, and so, ladies and gentlemen, she encourages your research carried out in the spirit we have mentioned. She admits in any case that contemporary scientific culture calls for maturer faith in Christians, openness to the language of and the questions raised by scientists, a sense of the orders of knowledge and differing approaches to truth. In a word, she desires that the dialogue between science and faith may enter upon an ever more positive stage — even though it has experienced tensions in history — and be intensified at all levels.

Love of truth, sought in humility, is one of the great values capable of uniting men of today across the various cultures. Scientific culture, is not opposed to humanist culture or to mystical culture. All authentic culture is openness to the essential, and there is no truth that cannot become universal.

At Your Parish...

Holy Name

A renewal mission will be held at Holy Name of Jesus Parish Aug. 1-8. Among the speakers for the event are Father Robert Werth, "Analyzing Personal Life Goals;" Father Daniel Karl, "Who Is Jesus;" Sister Marie Susanne Hoffman, S.S.J., "Who is Church;" Father Rosario La

Delfa, "Prayer and the Word;" John and Betty Schmidt, "Christian Family Life;" Angie Gallo, "Single Parenting;" Denise Mack, "Healing Memories;" Sister Joan Sobala, "Living in God's Presence."

Registration for the event is being taken after the Sunday Masses.

St. Helen's

St. Helen's parish, 310 Hinchey Road, has scheduled its annual country fair for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 6-8.

The fair will be open from 6 to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and from 1:30 to 10 p.m. on Sunday. Dinners will be served all three nights.

St. Ambrose

A Red Cross summer blood drive will be hosted by St. Ambrose Church, 1-7 p.m., Monday, Aug. 9. Judy White, drive chairman, said the parish hopes to collect more than 140 pints of blood. Last year's drive, she said, collected 133 pints for area patients.



Living Faith

Christine Dzakowic, a seventh grader at St. Louis School, Pittsford, receives the diocesan "I Live My Faith" scouting award from Father John Reddington, St. Louis pastor. The pin is awarded to those outstanding in their devotion to their faith. She is the daughter of Ed and Linda Dzakowic of Pittsford.

St. Thomas More

More than 1000 people, parishioners past and present, associates and friends, gathered recently at St. Thomas More Church to honor Father Francis Pegnam, the founder of the parish who has retired and taken up residence in Scottsville.

The Fathers Day fete, according to Marjanne Crino

La luppa, included a tribute to the priest "for the years of service, concern and love" he had given his parishioners during his 29-year pastorate.

St. Patrick

Seneca Falls — The annual parish Summer Festival for St. Patrick's Church here will be Aug. 5, 6 and 7 behind the school on West Bayard Street.

A variety of food and beverage booths will offer specialty items throughout each evening. In addition, a spaghetti dinner will be served at 5 p.m., Thursday fish, Friday, and chicken barbeque, Saturday.

St. Andrew

A Vacation Bible School will be conducted 9-11 a.m., Aug. 9-13, at St. Andrew's Church, 923 Portland Ave. Further information is available by calling 467-9201.



St. Mary's

Bryan Granger and James Zuniga were presented the Parvuli Dei awards of the Cub Scouts at recent ceremonies conducted by Father Robert Beligotti at St. Mary's Church, Elmira.

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