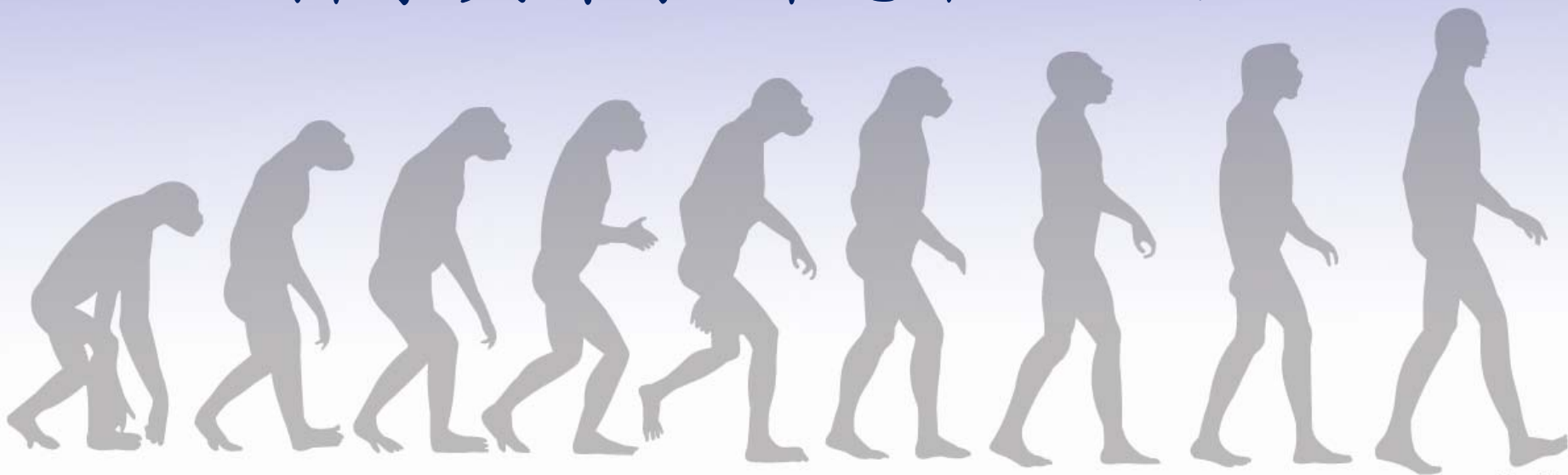


# 進化論與基督信仰：天主 觀

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# Introduction

## ➤ 進化論以前：

- 按照創世紀第一章記載的方式天主創造了一切
- 天主在第六天特別創造了人類，叫他管理世界
- 一切創造物都沒有改變
- 人類是特別的創造物

# Introduction

## ➤ 進化論後：

- 所有的生物包括人類都是由較早期、較原始的形式演變而來；生物演化是通過自然選擇而來。



➤ 「一些新發現讓我們認識到演化論不只是個假說」

➤ “...new knowledge has led to the recognition of the theory of evolution as more than a hypothesis.”



貞福若望保祿二世

# Concept of God

- Belief in a personal God is basis of our Faith
- Need a concept of God that can integrate the random and creative forces of evolution with a God who is creator and sustainer of the universe and who is constantly present to the universe.
- How the contingency, pain, suffering and death of evolutionary process can be reconciled with omniscient, omnipotent and loving God



# Concept of God

- “God as Trinity is a God of mutual relations, a God who is communion in love, a God who is friendship beyond all comprehension...”

(Denis Edwards (1999), God of Evolution, p.15)



# God and Creation

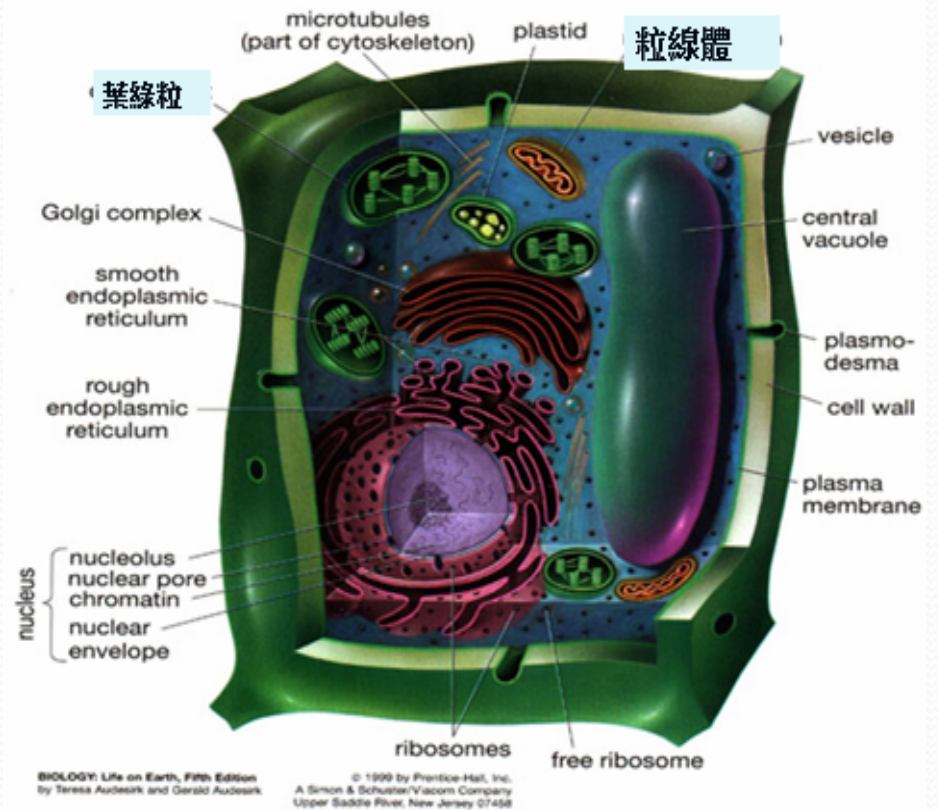
- “...creation can be understood as the self-expression of the Trinity, where by the divine persons-in-Relation makes space for what is not God within the Divine life.”

(Denis Edwards (1999), God of Evolution, p.15)





# Theologically and biologically to be is to be in communion.



<http://freecoloringpagesite.com/coloring-pics/plant-cell-coloring-5.gif>

<http://home.catholicweb.com/HolyTrinityParish/images/Church/HolyTrinityWindowLevelled.jpg>



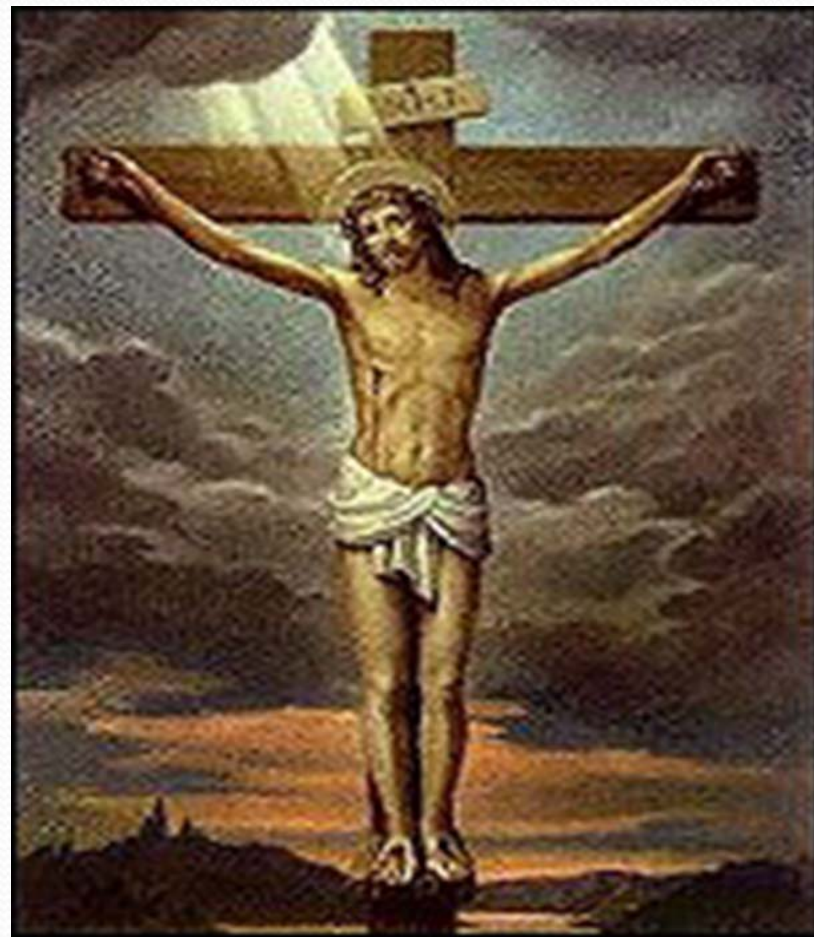
# How God interacts with creation?

- God, as a creator not as a designer, allows the creation to create itself in freedom
- God's self-limitation (God can do, but does not do out of love)
- God's choice to love the other freely demands limitations from God's part.
- God is continually involved in creation in self-restraint and persuasive manner.

# God's self-limitation in love



[http://www.morethings.com/god\\_and\\_country/jesus/birth-baby-jesus-200.gif](http://www.morethings.com/god_and_country/jesus/birth-baby-jesus-200.gif)



<http://steve-dave.typepad.com/.a/6a01347ff19468970c01538e231fd5970b-80owi>



# Purpose of Creation

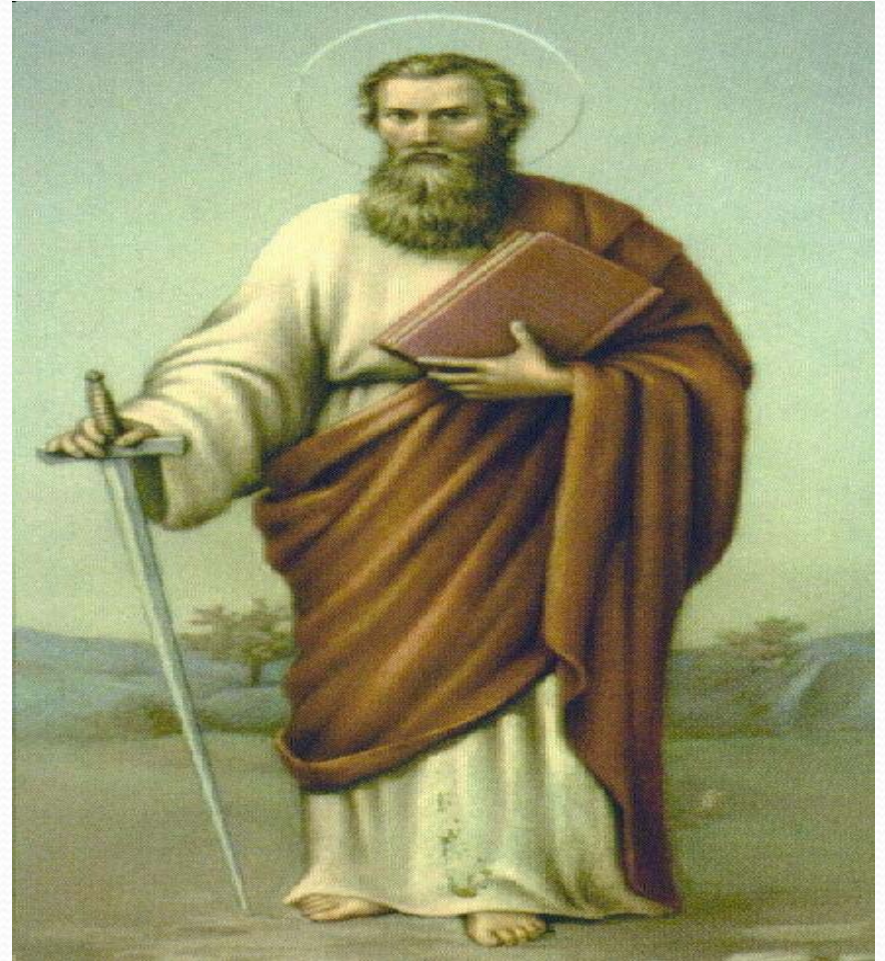
- Evolution - a blind and aimless process, things happened to be this way (Stephen J. Gould)
- In reality, it is not
  - Limitation in available possibilities
  - Certain events have taken place at different times (convergent evolution, 'convergence is the norm' – Simon Conway Morris)



# Convergent Evolution



[http://www.whoateallthepies.tv/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/0707-paul-the-octopus.jpg\\_full\\_600.jpg](http://www.whoateallthepies.tv/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/0707-paul-the-octopus.jpg_full_600.jpg)



<http://www.apostlePaul.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/letters-of-paul.jpg>



# Purpose of Creation

- “The ultimate design, meaning and purpose of evolving world is a transcendent meaning and value. It would take an unrestricted act of understanding to comprehend it.”
- “What is relatively random by methods of science would be comprehended as special and important and valuable and worth realizing for God.” (Lonergan, Insight)

# Purpose of Creation

- The purpose of universe cannot be apparent at lower levels of operation but can only be discerned at the highest level of input. Religious faith is such an awareness which renders the human consciousness with the possibility to discern the divine **purpose**. (John Haught, "The Informed Universe and the Existence of God." p.237)



# Will of God and Freedom of Creation

- Will of God : the wish the God has for creation and wills that creation will make the right choices.
- In freedom, God allows creation to choose other than what God wills.
- After every choice, God offers a new range of possibilities to choose from.

# God is the future

- God is not just be seen as cause of everything but as the future of everything.
- God is at the future, beckoning creation to actualize itself and find fulfillment.
- God's promise to "unite all things in Him in the fullness of time" is the future.



# Conclusion

- Accepting theory of evolution does not mean one has to reject one's religious faith
- Evolution has renewed our understanding of God
- God is not a designer, who has designed a perfect universe but as a creator accompanies creation towards fulfillment .