

The Canadian Forum on Theology and Education

Formerly

High School Forum 1979-2007

St. Jerome's University, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Thursday May 7th 2009 to Saturday May 9th 2009

EVOLUTIONARY FAITH

With

Diarmuid O'Murchu



www.cfotae.ca

All Catholics, teachers, parents, priests, trustees, administrators, have the privilege and responsibility of helping nurture tomorrow's Catholics. They cannot do this out of yesterday's faith. This is especially true for those teachers, often in the Sciences and Social Sciences, who are struggling to reconcile their religious beliefs with their academic studies.

Today, thanks to Charles Darwin and the countless evolutionary scientists and writers he inspired—in fields as diverse as astrophysics, geology, genetics, primatology, sociobiology, and brain science Catholic faith is interpreted in far broader and more this-world realistic ways than ever before. It is obvious now that God didn't stop revealing truth vital to human wellbeing back when people believed the world was flat and religious insights were recorded on animal skins. God is still communicating faithfully today, publicly, through the worldwide, self-correcting scientific enterprise. Science is revelatory and facts are God's native tongue.

From this perspective, divine grace and guidance extend back billions, not just thousands, of years. Looking at the history of the universe through sacred eyes, faith is strengthened and hearts filled with joy. When we ponder the past, we are humbled and filled with unspeakable awe and gratitude at our journey through deep time to the present moment. When we look to the immediate or distant future, we can be filled with faith, hope, and a sense of urgency to do our part in ushering in God's kingdom on Earth.

The ethics of evolution are not only consistent with the teachings of religion, they advance it. An evolutionary understanding urges us to grow in morality and to expand our circles of care and compassion—even to include those who see the world in very different ways. Our worship of God now includes doing everything to ensure a just and thriving future for planet Earth, for our children's children, and for as many species as possible

Faith in our time requires us to grow up and learn to relate with god in a new way. As co-creators with our creative God, we are invited and challenged to relate as adults to an adult God, modeled for Christians in the adult life-example of Jesus.

Diarmuid O'Murchu, a member of the Sacred Heart Missionary Order, and a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin Ireland, is a social psychologist whose entire working life has been in social ministry. As a workshop leader and group facilitator he has worked in Europe, USA, Canada, Australia, The Philippines, Thailand, India, Peru and in several African countries, facilitating programmes on [Adult Faith Development](#) His best known books include Quantum Theology (1996 - revised in 2004), Reclaiming Spirituality (1998), Evolutionary Faith (2002), Catching Up with Jesus (2005), The Transformation of Desire (2007).

Sufficient registration (not payment) by December 31st 2008 or Forum will have to be cancelled.

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www.cfotae.ca for complete package on Forum including registration information.