

Benediction and sermon
by Fr. Collentine, 7:00
and 7:30, tonight.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
April 10, 1935

Gaps for Thur., April 11:
9:30-10:00 (none);
11:30-12:00; 3:00-3:30.

An Objection.

Mr. X of Arizona, read a Bulletin some weeks ago urging greater lay activity in the spread of the Gospel of Christ. Among other observations, he made the following:

"All too often I have seen articles in Catholic magazines signed by priests, which take much too broad a view of some time-honored arguments. Let me very respectfully cite only one, but a very weighty one--an article on Evolution and Catholic Morals in The Sunday Visitor by Doctor John O'Brien of the Newman Foundation at the University of Illinois. Father O'Brien says that science has practically proved that man has descended from the ape; that the Deluge was a local flood on the Euphrates river, that Catholic theologians are now agreed that the genealogy between Adam and Moses has left out many names. This I would call a very 'liberal' view on the doctrine of biblical inspiration.

"As to the flood, there is evidence on every hand out here in the mountains that there was such a flood, and science has not proved that there was not one such as described in the Bible. The Gospels are true. No Christian disputes that. Yet the Deluge is mentioned by Jesus in His prophecy concerning the end of the world and the destruction of Jerusalem, in the Gospel of St. Matthew. Furthermore, if the genealogy of Christ was not as reported in the Old Testament, it would not have been so reported in the Gospels.

"If priests admit that there are errors in the Bible, how can they blame laymen for saying, 'When do we begin to believe?' 'What is true and what false?' The Holy Ghost knows all things and would allow no error in His work for just this reason. Then why do theologians say that a partly-proved surmise is correct and the inspired writing of the Holy Spirit in error?

"If I am wrong, Father, I wish you would put me right, either in the Bulletin or in a private letter."

Father O'Brien's Answer.

"Mr. X hasn't quite got the gist of my article on Evolution, which was designed simply to show that even if we accepted, without minimizing, the statements of the overwhelming majority of scientists concerning the evolutionary origin of the body of man, that, far from dispensing with a creator, evolution presents a more sublime and majestic manifestation of God's creative power. Then too I nowhere state that any sentence or utterance of the Bible is wrong or inaccurate but simply that the Bible must be interpreted in accordance with the sound principles of Exegesis laid down by Pope Leo XIII. His Holiness states most clearly that the Bible is not to be viewed as a textbook of science or as containing a revelation concerning scientific matters, since these are 'in no wise profitable unto salvation.'

"I think that Mr. X is inclined to weaken his case and to bring the Bible into disrepute by seeking to make it yield a pronouncement concerning the territorial universality of the Flood, which is contradicted by the facts presented by the geologists of the world.

"I think it would not be out of place to point out to Mr. X that biblical exegesis is a science which demands careful training and it would behoove him to familiarize himself with the conclusions of the great biblical scholars of the Church before he speaks with such absolute finality as to what the Bible does or does not say.

"Canon Dorlodot and your own great Father Zahm have said these things with perhaps greater clearness than myself."

MASS, for Joe Sullivan, 7:15, Dillon, tomorrow morning, request of Notre Dame Club of Greater Cincinnati; Masses (already said) for brother of Armand Kellogg and father of Roger and Jerry Sullivan, request of Architects' Club.

PRAYERS: Ill, Charley Bodierne; uncle of Don Martin; father of Cyril Stroker; mother and grandfather of R. Fitzgerald; friend of Phil and Bill Bayer. Five special ints.