

The month of May begins  
at the Communion rail  
Wednesday morning.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
April 29, 1935

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Evolution of the Body of Man.

Father O'Brien's answer in the Bulletin of April 10 to the objection of Mr. X of Arizona, brings from Father B, C.S.C., the following letter calling attention to the common teaching of theologians and to the decree of the Biblical Commission on the evolution of the body of man:

"I was very sorry to see Father O'Brien cite Canon Dorlodot and Father Zahm in favor of his evolutionary contentions in replying to Mr. X from Arizona. Certainly Father O'Brien ought to know that serious scholars maintain that Dorlodot has completely missed the point in attributing to the Fathers, and especially to St. Augustine, the theory of transformism.

"Father Hornsby, S.J., in the Ecclesiastical Review of January, 1924, cites specific texts to show that Dorlodot has misinterpreted St. Augustine. Following Hornsby's lead, I have investigated the original texts in Augustine, and am inclined to agree utterly with father Hornsby.

"As to Father Zahm: we all know the sequel of his book. Nor is this action of Rome antiquated. Recall the Decree of the Biblical Commission, June 30, 1909. Messenger's work Evolution and Theology, moreover, does not banish the binding force of the Decree; the decree has not been withdrawn so far as I can learn. Certainly it would seem it should not be withdrawn in view of the slim evidence there exists today in favor of the evolution of the body of man.

"Father O'Brien says that Dorlodot and 'your own great Father Zahm have said these things with perhaps greater clearness than myself.' But can't error be expressed just as clearly as truth?"

The "sequel" to which, evidently, Father B refers is this, that once Father Zahm learned from a sure source that the Holy See was opposed to further diffusion of his work, "Evolution and Dogma," he desired "that the work be withdrawn from circulation." Subsequently his book was actually withdrawn.

The Decree of the Biblical Commission of June 30, 1909, declared clearly that the peculiar creation of the first man and the formation of the first woman from the first man cannot be called into doubt.

The vast majority of modern theologians are agreed that this Decree forbids all teaching of the evolution of the human body from a pre-human ancestor.

The Blocking Halfback.

A blocking halfback has to pin down his ears, swallow his desire for personal glory and take a scientific cut at a strong and stubborn adversary. If the blocking halfback is sufficiently skillful he may move the troublesome opponent out of the way of the ball carrier.

Learning how to fight sin is a lot like learning how to become a good blocking halfback. You try hard time and time again, and fail. You have to pick yourself up and try harder next time.

Many fellows never succeed in becoming great backs because, knowing the hardships and difficulties of learning the science of blocking, they lose heart, go through the formalities of practice only half-heartedly. Many a man never becomes great morally because he can't come back after apparent defeat. He reasons: I tried and failed. What's the use of trying again? Whereas, try, try, constant trying, is the very principle of progress in the moral and spiritual life.

PRAYERS: Deceased, Mr. Wm. E. Donahue; grandfather of W.P. McCarthy; grandmother of John McGurl. Ill, father of Gene Milliff '27; mother of Cy Mathews '30, 9 sp. ints.