

On Faith and Science

Homily by Deacon Joel Seipp, Diocese of Belleville

Reflection on Genesis

When I look up into the sky I am always in awe of how expansive and bright the night sky can be on a clear summer night in the Midwest. I stare in amazement how these objects, which appear as little light flickers in the sky, can be other worlds, burning balls of gas, or of rock and water vapor. How could all of these have come into being in the universe? Why are they even present? Do they serve a particular purpose or are they just random masses going through uncontrolled processes?

From the eyes of sciences these bodies and phenomena are easily explained through scientific calculations, formulas, geological composition, physics, astrobiology etc. Scientists have even come to the firm belief and understanding that the universe was created from a single event often referred to as "The Big Bang". Since that initial cosmic event billions of years ago, everything in the universe is just expanding and changing by random, uncontrolled events - or is it?

In the eyes of the Catholic Faith, the universe was created for a purpose by God. The why, when, where and how of things is not just chance. As the faithful, we believe God was the catalyst and sole author of how the universe came to be, which continues to expand and develop into a larger more unique master piece with each passing moment. Christian believers often refer to this event as "The Creation Story or Narrative" which we find in Genesis.

In Genesis God purposefully creates the heavens and the earth and all living creations throughout the entire universe. Nothing happened without God creating it out of beauty and love. Humans were given dominion over all the created elements of the universe because that was God's plan from the beginning of time.

Big Bang or Creation Story? Both ideas and theories have a rather large following as to which is the true and proper explanation as to how, what, when, and why the universe and all objects within it came to be and continue to this day. Does it

just have to be faith's explanation or just a scientific explanation? Could it possibly be both? Anyone who says they know for sure must be lying because no living soul that we know of was present to be a witness and provide valid, unarguable proof of exactly how the universe came to be.

Scientists for many years have been debating and theorizing about a cosmic entity or structure which has been come to be named a "Black Hole". While many fantastic and believable formulas and theories have come about as to the existence and creation of these "Black Holes", science could not prove it because one had not been located and photographic evidence located to show humanity they are real. But that all changed in early April of 2019 when the world was shown an actual picture of a Black Hole from scientific equipment and constant observations. Science was proving to be correct and more tangible to the whole world because it was now proven.

God for many humans was a theory or belief in some greater being then humankind which directed and controlled all the events which took place within the universe. For many thousands of years humanity did not have any tangible proof of God's existence; other then the creation in and of itself. But that all changed when Jesus Christ arrived "on-scene" now there was physical proof of the existence of God, and many, many witnesses to the teachings, miracles and life of the Son of God. God became man and now faith in God has become evident through Jesus.