

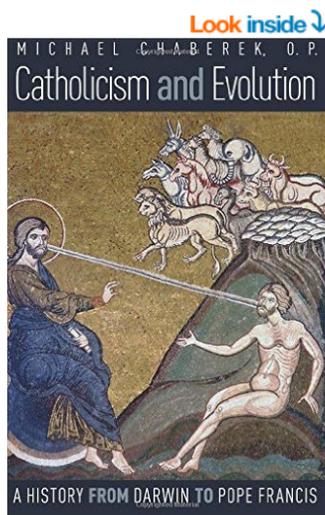
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by Michael Chaberek O.P. (Author)

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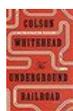
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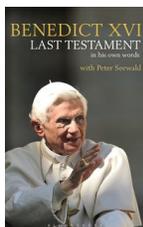
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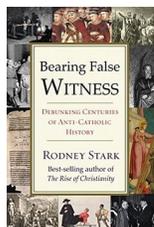
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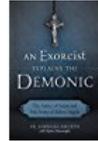
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"In *Catholicism and Evolution*, Fr. Michael Chaberek surveys perennial Catholic teaching, plumbs the depths of Catholic philosophy and historical theology, and analyzes the best scientific evidence to date. In the process, he shows that certain elements of Darwinian evolution are not only incompatible with Catholic belief, but largely lacking in evidence. He shows also that despite her clear historical teaching, the contemporary Church lacks an unambiguous statement of how Catholics should understand this question. I expect this to become the definitive book on Catholicism and evolution."--**JAY W. RICHARDS**, co-author of *The Privileged Planet*; editor of *God and Evolution*

"Darwin and his contemporaries thought the cell was a simple blob of jelly, protoplasm. Modern science has discovered the exact opposite, that astoundingly sophisticated technology undergirds life. Father Michael Chaberek probes the implications of this and other surprising developments in his erudite study of Catholicism's collision with Darwinism."--**MICHAEL BEHE**, author of *Darwin's Black Box*

"*Catholicism and Evolution* is a thorough exposition of the history of the debate over evolution, especially the theory's proponents and opponents within the Catholic Church. Fr. Chaberek carefully and completely lays out the history of the controversy so that readers can form their own opinions. This book should be on the shelves of any concerned with this subject, or indeed any who would like to fully grasp the controversy's roots in the Church."--**ANN GAUGER**, Senior Research Scientist, Biologic Institute

"Fr. Chaberek has done Catholics and all Christians a great service by describing the progression of the present controversy over creation, intelligent design, and theistic evolution from the Bible and early days of Christianity until today. His book will open eyes."--**BRUCE CHAPMAN**, Founding Fellow, Discovery Institute

#### About the Author

**FR. MICHAEL CHABEREK** O.P., S.T.D. is a member of the Polish Dominican Province, with a Doctorate in Fundamental Theology from Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. His has a special interest in the creation/evolution debate, and advocates the renewal of a Catholic theology of creation and a new science/faith synthesis based on sound scientific data and a serious approach to the Holy Scriptures in accordance with longstanding Church Tradition.

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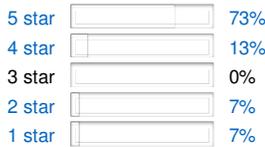


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#### A unique perspective on the creation-evolution debate

By [Dr. Peter A. Kwasniewski](#) on August 24, 2015

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Regardless of where you stand on the theory of evolution, this book is an important contribution, primarily for two reasons. First, Chaberek provides detailed accounts of fascinating debates and discussions in 19th and early 20th century Catholic circles (including the Vatican) that I have never seen in any other source -- indeed, I had no idea (though I should have known better) that there was such a keen philosophical and theological fermentation, including, rather surprisingly, some outspokenly pro-Darwinian theologians who were looked upon rather skeptically by their more traditional colleagues. (This is all well before Pius XII's *Humani Generis*.) Second, Chaberek does not side-step the extremely difficult philosophical and theological questions raised by the theory of evolution, as do some who seem to dismiss any difficulties with an airy gesture towards "primary and secondary causality" and "God's in charge of everything, including chance events." Yes, the Thomistic doctrines of causality and divine providence offer important resources for formulating a coherent view of what a theistically-driven evolutionary cosmos might look like (unlike the incoherent materialistic evolution propounded by the academy), but it does not magically eliminate all problems, particularly those connected with the genesis of the human race.

In short, this book is a goldmine of historical background, rare quotations, and worthwhile ideas to grapple with, and should definitely be read by Catholics and others who are interested in how contemporary science and the Christian tradition can be brought together (or maybe not).

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#### Excellent Examination of a Vital and Exciting Topic

By [Bruce Chapman](#) on July 7, 2015

Format: Paperback

It's hilarious that someone would give this book a bad review, because it was only put up for purchase a couple of days ago. Unhappily, Fr. Chaberek will have to get used to that kind of "critique" from ardent Darwinians who want to enlist the Catholic Church in their cause--and use the Amazon review form as a propaganda organ.

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#### A special book

A very special insightful, intelligent, profound book.  
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Serious and conscientious Catholics will find in this book (as I did reading a pre-publication version) a thoroughly researched, carefully argued analysis that is full of insights and information that the issue of Darwinism and church doctrine have skirted so far, or entirely avoided for a couple of decades. Many Christians of all denominations make the mistake of thinking that they just don't need another controversy. But creation doctrine is at the heart of much of the Church's other challenges. Pope Benedict XVI did see the problem briefly in 2005, but didn't follow through.

If Catholics and other Christians want to deal realistically with the growing secularism of the West, they will have to grapple with the historic record that Fr. Chabarek presents so well. But, if the Church is seen as fuzzy on creation doctrine, it will continue to lose young people who have been told in colleges (including Catholic ones) that Darwin did it and that settles it. This is totally unnecessary.

Fr. Chabarek does not discuss the scientific merits of intelligent design, but this book is the perfect "prequel" to such a discussion. In a way, it is long overdue.

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### An Excellent Contribution to Catholic Understanding of Creation

By [Scott George McCombe](#) on December 6, 2015

Format: Paperback

Without being able to scientifically verify it, my hunch would be that that the majority of Catholics in the Western world see no conflict between a belief in Darwinian evolution and their Catholic faith. My further intuitions would be that most of these Catholics have probably never felt it necessary to even consider the issue and, unless living in the Bible-Belt, would most likely be baffled to encounter anyone who does reject the mainstream scientific consensus on the origins of life and its historical development. The Church hierarchy does not seem to be overly concerned with this debate, more commonly found amongst Evangelicals, and the few recent Papal statements on the subject have tended to emphasize the importance of accommodating the Catholic Faith to modern scientific advancement. Apart from a slight stir in 2005, caused by Cardinal Schönborn writing in defence of Intelligent Design in the New York Times, the debate on how far Catholicism and Darwinism can be reconciled seems to have been dismissed as fairly irrelevant. Certainly not one that the Church feels compelled to comment on.

This is unfortunate as the Church actually has a considerable amount to say regarding the origins of human life and, as Pius XII observed, it does not seem at all apparent how this can easily be reconciled with Darwinism. In this extremely well-researched book, Fr Michael Chaberek O.P. describes the history on how the Catholic Church has responded to the challenges raised at the traditional teachings on Creation.

While theories of evolution have around for a very long time, it was the publication of Charles Darwin's 'On the Origin of Species' which provided the literate world with a clear mechanism for how evolution could occur. Unfortunately this mechanism, scientifically doubtful at best, made God somewhat irrelevant in the creative process. If not completely irrelevant, then it certainly relegated His creative role to a distant past much further back than many in the Vatican were comfortable with. Fr Chaberek extensively explores the debate that occurred within the Church between those Catholics who sought to reconcile the Faith to Darwin and those who viewed it as a threat to established doctrine. What emerges from these pages is a fascinating insight into the inner workings of the Vatican, most especially the Holy Office, as it tried to grapple with this new concept. The investigations into individual theologians in the late 19th and early 20th century are extremely interesting to read and I imagine many Catholics, even those with familiar with this area, will find material that they have simply never encountered before. What becomes clear is that the Holy Office was extremely uncomfortable with many concepts of evolution that were being popularized. Ultimately the debate centred not on the concept of evolution per se, but on the naturalistic mechanism of Darwinism and specifically on how this relates to human origins. Is the Catholic teaching on the direct creation of Adam, and on the direct creation of Eve from Adam, de fide teaching? If so, how is it possible for this teaching to be accommodated into a system which rejects instantaneous Divine Creation? And how do doctrines such as Original Sin fit into this system? And where exactly is God in a creative process made up of random mutations and natural selection? These are serious issues, and perhaps many have forgotten just how serious they are in the rush to be scientifically respectable.

Some will accuse Fr Chaberek of writing this book to bolster a 'fundamentalist' reading of Scripture (as if that is necessarily a 'bad' approach). This is not a fair representation as Fr Chaberek is clearly of

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the opinion that the days in Genesis are not literal 24-hour measurements of time and emphasizes that the Holy Office was quite clear that Catholics are not bound to subscribe to a 'Young Earth' reading of Genesis. However, this does not mean that Genesis can be safely written off as merely symbolic. The foundations of many Catholic doctrines are based on an acknowledgment that humanity has descended from two parents who fell from grace. While some theologians are keen to throw out almost all the traditional doctrines that flow from Genesis--Teilhard de Chardin being the most prominent,--it obvious that even the Church hierarchy who accept Darwinism are uncomfortable with continuing to the logical conclusion of this acceptance. Fr Chaberek is right to point out that no Pope, not even St John Paul II, has given his total backing to Darwinian evolution.

Not a great deal has been written on the history of Catholicism and evolution. This books fills a vacuum that has been left empty for too long. It is an excellent piece of scholarly work and demonstrates extensive research and an understanding of the issues involved. His exegesis of Magisterial documents seem entirely reasonable and fair, and the book is packed references and extensive footnotes.

In recent years we have witnessed a number of scientists rejecting Darwinism and proposing Intelligent Design. As noted, at least one Cardinal of the Church has given his backing to this development, and Pope Benedict XVI seems to have expressed sympathy for it. It may be time for the Church to re-examine this issue in the light of new scientific evidence supportive of the Church's teachings on the creation of humanity. At the risk of heaping too much praise on Fr Chaberek, this would surely be one book that any bishop, priest or layperson interested in this issue should read.

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### Responsibly Framing the Debate

By [Darrin](#) on April 11, 2016

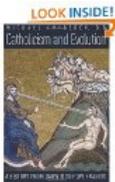
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This is an excellent book for those who are seriously interested about what the Catholic church has said and taught about evolutionism. The author approaches the topic historically, covering the magisterial responses both to Darwinism itself and to the insights of Catholic theologians on the subject. It is a valuable resource, laying the groundwork for an objective discussion of the subject that would be useful for any Christian who is concerned that evolutionism and Christianity might not be completely compatible worldviews. It is evident that a great deal of care was taken by the author to cover the subject in a complete and objective manner, without overstating or avoiding the philosophical and theological aspects of the controversy. If the intersection of faith and science interests you at all, read this book.

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