

15 June 2014

**TRINITY SUNDAY**

**Open Letter**

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Pope Francis,  
His Holiness, Pope Francis, PP.  
00120 Via del Pellegrino  
Citta del Vaticano

Subject: recognizing and eradicating cultural causes of internecine violence

Dear Holy Father,

You are to be commended for bringing together in prayer the leaders of the Families of the Children of Abraham. The natural appeal for peace must settle seriously in the hearts of the Children of Abraham if there is to be an end to internecine violence that roots in cultic history and diseases the religious psyche of global people.

Please consider the physical/ metaphysical agency of evolving consciousness and its potential for enlightening religious sensitivity consistent with the teaching and example of Jesus, the Christ. Thank you for your attention.

In Jesus's Name, Respectfully,



Sylvester L. Steffen

Attachment: **EPIGENETICS, the New Metaphysics**

**EPIGENETICS**, the New Metaphysics (coding life/ consciousness)

**Subtitle:** The Suppressive/ Repressive Theological Cult of Guilt-and-Fear

To the reader unfamiliar with Scholastic Philosophy, the word “Metaphysics” may have little meaning. Metaphysics is a specific area of Scholastic Philosophy generally applying to human consciousness and natural life consciousness. Until several decades ago, DNA (DeoxyriboNucleic Acid) was unknown as to its genetic role in the evolution of organic life and consciousness. “Genes” are molecular complexes composing linked sequences of DNA. DNA, in all life, in every cell, is made up of the very same nucleic acids structurally arranged on the genetic helix and actively responsive in turning gene functions on and off; physical and cultural factors affect gene-expressions and the physical/ psychical activation and suppression of genes.

“Epigenetics” is a field of biological science that deals specifically with agencies (tags) that act upon genes and trigger physical/ psychical responses in the formation, activation and suppression of gene expressions on body/ consciousness in live entities, human and other. The disposition of nucleic acids (designated by the letters C, T, G and A) on the genetic helix characterizes species-distinctness and -differentiation. From simplest life-forms to the most complex, DNA sequencing specifies (species-specific) differentiation. In DNA, life remembers (re-members) sustainable accomplishments from the past. All present life, including human, are natural expressions, “sacred remembrances”, Sacraments, derived from and brought forward from previous life. In common with all life, we too are re-membered by nature from prior life.

The truism applies that as psychological development (evolution) supposes physical development so faith development supposes the evolution of consciousness. In the course of human evolution, cultic fixation in guilt-and-fear culture is with cumulatively damaging effects on psychical development. Global violence of the present time is no “accident”; it is radically expressive of violent cultural insult engrained by repetition over time. Future sustainability requires global humanity to dispense with repressive cultic insults.

**New vs. Old Metaphysics:** As an eleven-year student preparing for the Catholic Priesthood, my studies included a two-year course (1954-1956) in Scholastic Philosophy. Text books and class lectures were in Latin. Along with History of Philosophy studies included were the text books COSMOLOGIA, LOGICA, METAPHYSICA GENERALIS, THEOLOGIA NATURALIS and PSYCHOLOGIA, all authored by Rev. Gerard Esser, S.V.D. The underlying rationality of the course supposed Aristotelian thought as presented in the SUMMA writings of Thomas Aquinas. The worldview of Aristotelian Thomism presumed an ontological dualism separating spirituality from materiality, soul from body. A “metaphysics” that cleaves mind/ body continuity, and alienates the evolution of consciousness from physical evolution makes no sense today in light of genetic science and the evidence of physical/ psychical evolution. **[Web search: The Evolution of Symbiosis]**

So then, how are we to understand epigenetics in straight forward terms? One way is to think of epigenetics as the on/off switch of genes responsive to positive/ negative nurture, and the qualifying of personality for better and for worse based on epigenetic agency. The mindfulness of consciousness can respond to nurture in positive ways even though negatively exposed. When we experience personal putdown from our earliest years we are compromised in our ability to respond positively. Religious indoctrination, parenting and family dynamics profoundly qualify a child's personality and his/ her potentials of later-life self-expression.

**"Religious" Tags of Cultured Guilt and Fear:** Ignorance, arrogance and obsession drive cultural violence. Fixation in medieval belief is fixation in institutional absolutism, as in the mode of Roman (Caesarist) imperialism. Cultured irreligion and incivility are marker tags that pervert the evolution of consciousness; these have been long in place under the dominion theology culture of Roman Imperialism. The life and teaching of Jesus, the Christ, are antithetical to ignorance, arrogance and obsession. Word communication (faith) is antithetical to ignorance; enlightened consciousness (hope) is antithetical to arrogance; and conscionable love is antithetical to self-obsession (narcissism).

The Christian Gospel is about Word, Light and Love. Imperial hierarchy, as it persists systemically in Roman Catholicism, is antithetical to the life and teaching of Jesus. Imperial hierarchy imposes on global cultures the epigenetic tags of guilt and fear from earliest childhood with damaging consequences to personal self-expression. Hierarchy is culpably complicit when they stand fixated in belief against the way of natural evolution, and closed to considering faith's essential dependency on cultural evolution. Fixation in ignorance, arrogance, and obsession to dominate, is religiously antithetical to the way of Divinity; this antithesis is an epigenetic tag that frustrates personal authenticity and heavily burdens global sensitivities.

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Sylvester L. Steffen

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