"Taking Stock of Our Situation”

Ignatius had a strong sense of God as Creator. Not just as a resonator but as ongoing creator. Precedent, all creatures and sustaining, revealing Himself in them without actually being the creatures. Ignatius was not a pantheist. He was what we called today a paninthesit. (:30) That is thinking of God as present in everything and everything in God. Along with this, Ignatius had a profound sense of being a creature among creatures and life was all about living those relationships in gratitude and reverence. If he were alive today, he would love what we’re learning about the universe. It’s enormous, expanding size, and it’s astounding age. We just don’t have a different picture of the universe today, we have a universe story. About which Ignatius Loyola did not have a clue, but he’d love for us to think and wonder and pray about what we now know. It’s a long story and it’s a big one. Now let me summarize some of the obvious components of our contemporary review of the cosmos and our place in it as human beings. It’s the story that science tells us. As human beings living on planet earth, we have experienced a progressive series of displacements inside the scenes that makes(1:52) us increasingly small and insignificant. But then recently, starting around 80 years ago, we started getting some good news, a surprising restoration of our place in the cosmos. Let me impact that now. The universe that we of the western world inherited from our pre-Christian Greek ancestors was geocentric, earth centered. Remember the Tollic Mahic model with the earth as the center, circled by moon, sun, planets, and the heavenly sphere of the stars. I’ll bet you that most of us along with the rest of the human race still simultaneously think of the universe in that way. Copernicus lived, he overlapped with Ignatius, considerably, born a little bit before. Copernicus overturned this picture with his understanding that in fact the sun is the center and earth is one of the planets, planet number 3, after Mercury and Venus. Earth is moving around the sun and our magnificent moon is no planet at all but nearly an earth centered satellite, one of some 61 moons and still counting in our solar system. From Isaac Newton flourishing in the 18th, early 18th century, came a model of the material world that explained all things missing around us as the matter of mechanics and gravity. This model seems able to explain all motion and change, microscopic and macroscopic, as a matter of mass and force; reducible 4:00 to mathematical formulae. We could think of ourselves as smaller machines within a big machine, the most sophisticated machine, yes, but explainable mechanically, nonetheless. God was still in the picture, but now distantly. With the machine model, we were moving toward the Deist 4:28 way of imagining God as an uninvolved watchmaker. Somebody who got things started but pretty much left things running on their own. There was still room for the human spirit but thanks to a way of thinking, date card taught us it seemed more like a ghost in a machine. From Darwin in the 19th century, came a theory that claimed we were, we evolved from less complicated forms of life through a process of random mutation and natural selection of the fittest. So, by mid-19th century, Copernicus had decentered us, Newton had mechanized 5:24 us, Darwin had dethroned us, and Freud would soon suggest that we were not even the sovereign rulers of our personal conscience life. These people didn’t explain everything but they stumbled into genuine truths that still inform our image of ourselves and of the universe. Well next, we learn that not only are we and our planet not the center of our solar system, but our center piece, the sun is a rather ordinary middle age star, 5 billion years old with about 5 billion years left to go. And part of an arm of spiral galaxy composed of some hundred billion other stars, and even our magnificent Milky Way galaxy is not the center of everything or of anything really, just one of us many galaxies as there are stars in our galaxy. As we got acquainted with the Adronima Galaxy, some 2 million light years away, we came to learn that this unimaginable distant entity is one of a couple dozen galaxies that distant as they are close enough to the Milky and far enough

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Quantity, we are not much. Around here, to share the food, we come together.

Has raised