

AAS 33(1941) 506 Papal address to Academy of Sciences.

"On the day on which God formed man and crowned his brow with the diadem of His image and likeness, making him king of all living animals of sea, sky, and earth, on that day the Lord, omnipotent God, made Himself man's teacher. He taught him agriculture, to cultivate and guard the delightful garden in which He had placed him; He brought to him all the animals of the field and all the birds of the air to see what to call them; and he gave to each its true and suitable name; still, even in the midst of that multitude of beings placed under him, man felt sadly alone and sought ~~in vain~~ vain for a face like his own possessing a ray of that divine image that shines through the eyes of every son of Adam. From man only could come another man that could call him father and progenitor; and the helper given by God to the first man came from him and was flesh of his flesh, made as his companion, with a name from the name of man, because drawn from him. At the peak of the scale of living beings, man, endowed with a spiritual soul, was placed by God as prince and sovereign of the animal kingdom. The multiple researches whether of paleontology or of biology and morphology on other problems concerning the origin of man have as yet brought forth nothing that is positively clear and certain. Hence the only course is to leave to the future the answer to the question whether some day science, illuminated and guided by revelation, will be able to present reliable and definitive conclusions on so important an issue."