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G. AULETTA - M. LECLERC - R.A. MARTÍNEZ (eds.)

# BIOLOGICAL EVOLUTION: FACTS AND THEORIES

A Critical Appraisal 150 Years  
After  
"The Origin of Species"

*With an Address of Cardinal Levada*

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ADDRESS BY HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL WILLIAM LEVADA  
 PREFECT OF THE CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH  
 (March the 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009)

\* *Eminences,  
 Excellences,  
 Most reverend Prelates,  
 Illustrious Professors,  
 Respectable Ladies and Gentlemen,  
 Dear Students,*

I would like to cordially welcome the illustrious participants to this important international academic event on “Biological Evolution: Facts and Theories”, wishing a profitable time of study and reflection. The event takes place in this ancient Pontifical University of Rome, which is the University of the Society of Jesus, with the collaboration of the University of Notre Dame and under the High Patronage of the Pontifical Council for Culture.

The field of investigation of the Conference arouse lively interest since it is related to the reflection on the ultimate origin of beings, on their cause and end, on the meaning of the history of mankind as well as of the entire universe. These reflections coincide with the human most profound questions, addressed by philosophy and especially metaphysics since centuries, and – in the light of Jesus Christ Revelation – engaging the intelligibility of faith and the related theological science.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, over which I am honored to preside, does follow with interest this prestigious Meeting of Scientists representing different disciplines, which may provide a favorable occasion for a new and qualified exchange about the theory of biological evolution free from any reduction to an ideological system claiming to become the key of interpretation of the whole of reality.