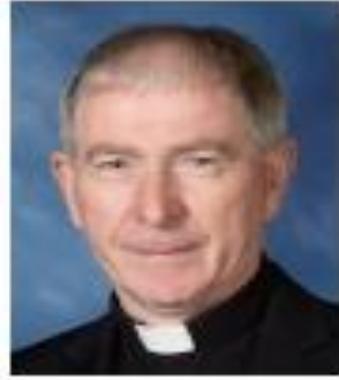


Father Martin's Pen

January 13, 2019



Andromeda.

It is many years ago since I read the book *The Andromeda Strain* by Michael Crichton.

It was about a microorganism that supposedly originated from the Andromeda galaxy, arrived on earth and caused the blood of humans to clot ending in death.

Andromeda is the name of an Ethiopian princess of Greek mythology. She was chained to a rock as a sacrifice to a sea monster, but was saved by Perseus, who married her and they lived happily ever after!!

In the sky her galaxy is represented as a woman with outstretched arms which are chained at the wrist.

What has caught my attention now is that the Andromeda galaxy is heading towards our Milky Way galaxy at a speed of 250,000 miles per hour.

Andromeda has about a trillion stars while our Milky Way has only 400 billion. Down the road there will be a collision above all collisions, two galaxies smashing into each other.

With the help of the Space Telescope Hubble this is predicted to be in our future. Thank God it is going to happen in about 4 billion years' time, so you don't have to run for the hills yet!

The more we know about the universe, the more humbled we need to be. The Milky Way is estimated to be 120 million light years across and Andromeda perhaps twice that.

Light travels at 186,000 miles per second, so the math would be 186,000 multiplied by the number of seconds in a year, multiplied further by 120 million. It's a big number.

When we think we are in control of our world, we may need to think again. The better we are at science, the more faith we should have.

Is it all a matter of evolution or does the order of creation point us towards a Creator, a Divinity that watches over us all?

St. Thomas the Apostle has the right answer, "my Lord and my God."

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