



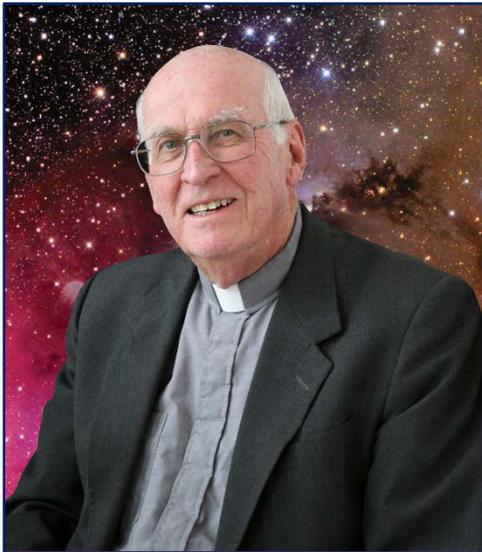
The Reverend George V. Coyne, S. J. Lecture in Astronomy and Astrophysics

will be presented by

Rev. George V. Coyne, S.J.

Le Moyne College

Former Director of the Vatican Observatory



Friday, October 24, 2014

7:00PM

Weasler Auditorium

Marquette University

“The Dance of the Fertile Universe: Chance and Destiny Embrace”

The universe is 13.7 billion years old and it contains about 100 billion galaxies, each of which contains on the average 200 billion stars of an immense variety. As these stars live and die they provide the chemicals necessary for the evolution of life. We came to be in this universe. Did we come about by chance or by necessity? There is a third element here that is very important. It is what we might call the “fertility” of the universe. By science, we see the dance of the fertile universe, a ballet with three ballerinas: chance, necessity and fertility. In this light I am going to present in broad strokes what I think is some of the best of our modern scientific understanding of the universe, and then I will ask the question at the end: Did God do it? In my attempt to answer this question I shall discuss how important it is to respect the richness of both religious faith and of scientific research.