The Flat Earth Opinion Is Not an Allowable Opinion

By Richard Joseph Michael Ibranyi

To my knowledge, not one Church Father taught that the earth is flat. And the ones who taught about the shape of the earth taught that its shape is as globe. If so, then the opinion that the earth is flat is heretical.

However, for the sake of the argument, even if one Church Father taught that the earth is flat and thus flat-earth opinion is not heretical, it is nevertheless an un-allowable opinion because it is an obvious false which had been disproved by natural science, especially since Magellan circumnavigated the earth in the 16th century.

You do not need a pope to infallibly condemn the Flat Earth opinion any more than you would need a pope to condemn the belief that tanks or guns or Atomic Bombs do exist but are only illusions. Surely, tanks, guns, and Atomic Bombs did not exist in the days of the Church Fathers and no so-called pope even thought it necessary to condemn such a foolish belief. Yet, who would dare say that the opinion that tanks or guns or Atomic Bombs do not exist is an allowable opinion. Instead, it is an obvious falsehood.

Natural things are subject to natural science (such as math, chemistry, and the shape of the earth) and thus can be understood by human reason and human science. Supernatural things are subject to supernatural science and cannot always be understood by human reason and in some cases contradict human reason and human science (such as the Holy Eucharist). Supernatural things that contradict human reason and science must be believed by faith alone.

The shape of the earth is a natural thing and thus subject to natural science. And the evidence overwhelming proves that the earth is a globe and thus is not flat. Hence all who believe the earth is flat after they see the evidence that the earth is a globe are obstinate liars and thus are guilty of the mortal sin of lying.

And obstinate liars cannot be catechumens nor enter the Catholic Church as such. The Catholic Church does not allow men to enter her if they are currently committing mortal sins. And members of the Catholic Church who believe this lie are guilty of mortal sin; and they are either under minor excommunication if the flat earth opinion is not heretical or a under a major excommunication if the flat earth opinion is heretical.

Also, there would be great scandal if a so-called Catholic believed such a lie. In the eyes of non-Catholics, it could discredit the Catholic Church, the Catholic faith, and Catholics. And it would discredit the true things they do and say. A Flat Earther who rightly believes in Geocentrism or Creationism will discredit these truths, as he would be looked upon as a dishonest kook. For example, even though Solange Hertz and Robert Sungenis are apostates, they teach the truth in this regard:

Apostate Solange Hertz, *Recanting Galileo*: "In other words, like Darwinian evolution, the idea that the earth revolves around the sun, never proven, must be accepted as an article of faith, a dogma of the Other Religion imposed on thinking persons by the liberated scientific establishment. When confronted with demands for substantiation, its adepts frequently resort to *ad hominem* arguments: the geocentrist is summarily relegated to the fundamentalist snake-handling contingent, the lunatic fringe or gratuitous membership in the Flat Earth Society."

Apostate Robert Sungenis, *Galileo Was Wrong: The Church Was Right*: "The book, *Galileo Was Wrong: The Church Was Right* will, at the least, be viewed as an unusual book by the world at large. In modern times, everyone is taught from early childhood through old age that the Earth rotates on its axis and revolves around the sun. It is considered a bedrock of truth so firmly established <u>that only the insane or perhaps members of the Flat Earth Society, would doubt or question so sanctified a truth of modern man</u>... Nevertheless, since almost everyone has been convinced that the Earth revolves around the sun, anyone who even attempts to espouse the

opposite view is immediately classified in the fringe category; <u>someone, perhaps</u>, <u>who still believes in a flat Earth and spends his day donning an aluminum foil hat</u> <u>waiting for messages from outer space</u>."

Not all accusations of being a kook are true, as many believe that good Catholics are kooks, but evidence disproves their false accusations. But all who hold the Flat-Earth opinion are truly liars and kooks.

In several places, the Bible teaches that the earth is a globe. For example,

"It is he that sitteth upon the globe of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as locusts: he that stretcheth out the heavens as nothing, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in." (Isa. 40:22)

Those who circumnavigated the earth by land and sea know that the earth is not flat. They did not fall off the earth or reach an impassable boundary or make a 180-degree turn to continue on the other side of the earth. If one goes to the North Pole, he does not hit a wall but continues to the other side of the earth without having to take a 180-degree turn.

And those who circumnavigate the earth by plane do not see the earth end in an impassable boundary nor do they make a 180-degree turn to enter the other side of the earth. And if they fly high enough, as some planes can, they will see that the earth is a globe, just as do images from satellites.

What follows is a quote from Robert Sungenis' 744-page book *Flat Earth/Flat Wrong, An Historical, Biblical & Scientific Analysis*, pages 21-22:

"Equally quipping and popular is **Bill Nye**, dubbed 'the science guy,' who stated to the flat-earthers at large: 'Hey, man on the internet, why don't you drive to the edge of the Earth and take a picture? Then post it. Drive to the edge of the Earth. We'll be here.' Nye makes a good point. Despite all the bravado of flatearthers, they have no photographs of their claims. There are no photos of a flat Earth. There are no photos of the edge of the Earth. There are no photos of a giant ice wall at their 75,000-mile earthly circumference. There are no photos of a dome over a flat Earth. Yet the thousands of photos of a spherical Earth taken by NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Russian (Roscosmos), Japanese (JAXA), Indian (ISRO), Chinese (CNSA) space probes, are rejected as 'fake' by the flat-earthers. Hence the very thing flatearthers require from their opponents is the very thing they themselves lack, in *toto*. Hence almost all arguments brought forth by flat-earthers are based on what can be seen from Earth (even though, ironically, a dome cannot be seen from Earth)."

Jesus says that obstinate liars are not worthy of being taught supernatural things (that is, things regarding the Catholic faith) until they first believe natural things that they can believe in by human reason and human science:

"If I have spoken to you earthly things and you believe not, how will you believe if I shall speak to you heavenly things?" (Jn. 3:12)

For the glory of God; in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Michael, St. Joseph, Ss. Joachim and Anne, St. John the Baptist, the other angels and saints; and for the salvation of men

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