

Catholic Tri-Parish Community

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ST. PETER - Colman
STS. SIMON & JUDE - Flandreau
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL - Elkton
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One of the great pushes today to undermine even a basic belief in God, much less faith or religion, is to claim that religion is superseded by “science” – religion, Sacred Scripture, and all that is just superstition that “science” has disproven. One area where this seems to be especially advocated is evolution. It’s difficult to follow the “reasoning” but somehow or other the belief seems to be that evolution disproves the creation accounts given in Scripture and thus disproves the existence of a Creator and thus of God. Sadly people today, especially young people, are frequently exposed to these sorts of claims and it is often “scientists” who try to make them. And since “science” has been enshrined with an unquestionable aura of sanctity in our times, many people find themselves saying – well there must be something to it, it’s scientifically proven after all; and we certainly don’t want to look stupid or be an outsider by going against “science.” It seems necessary, then, or at least prudent, to take up this question, in particular: has evolution disproved the creation accounts given in Scripture and thus the existence of God?

First some background will be helpful, starting with the definition of science. For centuries the word science meant something like: an organized, logical, methodical system of thought or reasoning, leading to a conclusion which has a degree of certitude. So in other words, science means taking some sort of raw material (or observations), reasoning (or thinking) about them, using logic, and reaching a conclusion. A classical definition of science, for example, was: certain knowledge through causes; *certain* knowledge here means there was a certitude about it; it wasn’t just a guess or an expression of what I want to believe, but real logic and reasoning went into the conclusion, given the information at hand. Theology, then, is considered a science, using Revelation (Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition) as its raw (or starting) material. St Thomas Aquinas was a prime example of this exercise of reasoning; Aquinas did not just state off-the-cuff opinions (well, I think this or I believe that); he used rigorous logic and reasoning to reach conclusions, taking Revelation as his source material. Historically, philosophy has also been considered a science, using the observable world as its raw material. Aristotle (one of the ancient Greek philosophers who lived about 3 or 4 hundred years before Christ), for example, was able to reason out that there was only one God, based simply on what he observed in the material world.

Today the word “science,” for most people, has come to refer to only the physical sciences – biology, chemistry, physics, and so on. This is unfortunate, however, since true theology and philosophy are real sciences – rigorous systems of thought using valid raw material. Nonetheless, in what follows if I use the word “science” alone, it will mean the physical sciences, the meaning that is popular today. I also want to mention from the outset that there is certainly nothing wrong with the physical sciences or in pursuing true knowledge of the material world. In fact, there can be no real conflict between Revelation and the truths of the material world since both come from God. There is a tendency, however, to think of the physical sciences as infallible, which they are not. When I was in college, I was giving a presentation to a group of professors and I said something about the “Central Dogma of Molecular Biology;” one of the professors said: well, that might not be quite as central or as dogmatic as was once thought. “Dogmas” of the physical science are not true dogmas; they do change over time. The only infallible, absolutely certain, knowledge that man has are the definitive teachings of the Church. This is the only area that our Lord guaranteed would be

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**16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JULY 18, 2021**

Liturgy Schedule			Location	Mass Intention
Mon., July 19	5:30 PM	Mass	Flandreau	Brice/Sarah Meyer
Tues., July 20	5:30 PM	Mass	Flandreau	Hinricher Family
Wed., July 21	9:00 AM	Mass/Exposition/Adoration	Elkton	† Dale/Maxine Lynn
Thur., July 22	9:00 AM	Mass/Exposition/Adoration	Colman	Personal Intention
Fri., July 23	9:00 AM	Mass/Exposition/Adoration	Flandreau	† Rich Burns
Sat., July 24	5:00 PM	Mass	Elkton	All Parishioners
Sun., July 25	8:30 AM 10:30 AM	Mass Mass	Colman Flandreau	† Michael Heinricy † Helen Rueschenberg
CONFESSIONS : - Elkton & Colman 1/2 hour prior to weekend Mass - Flandreau after Sunday Mass ROSARY: - prayed 1/2 hour prior to each weekend Mass.				

MINISTERS OF SERVICE

ELKTON ~ SAT., JULY 24

Lector: Beth Frederiksen

Altar Servers: Rose McMahon, Jalyn Frerichs

COLMAN ~ SUN., JULY 24

Lector: Paula Heinricy

Altar Servers: Kaylee Voelker, Anna Zwart

FLANDREAU ~ SUN., JULY 25

Lector: Tom Luze

Altar Servers: Matthew Drietz

Josie/Nora Hamilton

Sacristan: Libby Heinemann

Intention of the Holy Father for July:

We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

Daily Readings for the Week

July 19: Exodus 14:5-18; Exodus 15:1-6; Matthew 12:38-42

July 20: Exodus 14:21-15:1; Exodus 15:8-17; Matt 12:46-50

July 21: Exodus 16:1-5,9-15; Ps 78:18-28; Matthew 13:1-9

July 22: Song of Songs 3:1-4; Ps 63:2-9; John 20:1-2,11-18

July 23: Exodus 20:1-17; Ps 19:8-11; Matthew 13:18-23

July 24: Exodus 24:3-8; Ps 50:1-6,14-15; Matthew 13:24-30

July 25: 2 Kings 4:42-44; Ps 145:10-11,15-18; Ephesians 4:1-6;
John 6:1-15

Summer Bible Study for Youth in grades 7-12

with the Lumen Christi missionaries. Groups meet 1-2 times a week either in person or over Zoom.

Find out more at www.sfcatholic.org/lumenchristi

Christ said, "I am the Truth";
he did not say "I am the custom."

-- St. Toribio

Catholic Community Foundation Events

For more information or to register visit ccfesd.org
or call 605-988-3765.

1. **"Taste the Goodness"** benefitting the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House, **August 14**, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. outdoors in downtown Sioux Falls.
2. **"Bishop's Cup"** benefitting Broom Tree Retreat & Conference Center, **August 23rd** at Minnehaha Country Club and The Country Club of Sioux Falls.



Colman: \$575
Elkton: \$2498
Flandreau: \$9844
Thank you!

STS. SIMON & JUDE

For the upcoming Fall CCD year: We are looking for a high school CCD teacher and a Confirmation teacher. Call Laura 530-9428 or Marietta 864-3182 for more information or to volunteer.



Parish Picnic:

Sunday, August 1st - 6:00pm
Join us in welcoming
the Lumen Christi team.
Brats and hamburgers provided.
Please bring a side dish to share.

Summer Camp **LUMEN CHRISTI (*Light of Christ*)** *(formally Totus Tuus)*

August 1-5

August 1-4: 6:30 - 8:30 PM

For students entering grades 7-12

August 2-5: 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

For students entering grades 1-6

Registration forms can be found in the back of church. Even if you may have conflicts during the week, come on the days that you are able to come.

Parish Help Needed to provide:

- **Evening Meals:** Parish members to provide an evening meal in their home for the Lumen Christi team of four on Tuesday or Thursday or a noon meal on Sunday
- **Noon Lunches** at CCD center or a monetary donation to cover noon meals for the Lumen Christi team on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Contact Laura 530-9428 or Marietta 864-3182.

Women of Sts. Simon and Jude, please join us for a Catholic Daughters kickoff potluck and meeting on Monday, August 2nd in the church basement. Meal to start at 6pm; meeting to follow.

Right to Life Float: If you would like to ride on the float or walk beside and hand out treats at the July 29th Flandreau parade, please call Tom Klosterman at 605-692-6592.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Blessed Imelda Lambertini Catholic Formation Camp

July 27 - 30 from 5:30pm to 8:00pm

For grades **Pre-K through 5th**. A light supper will be provided for the children. Cost is free. Registration forms are at the back of the church or call Sharon Landsman at 605-592-0627.

Harvest Festival (Aug 20 & 21) food stand worker sign-up sheets are in the back of church. This is a parish fundraising event and help from ALL is needed and greatly appreciated.

ST. PETER

Need CCD Teachers - Looking for someone to teach our Confirmation class and can also use additional teachers and substitutes. Contact Marcie at 605-530-2219.

Breadbasket Food Donations can be left in the entrance of the church under the table. They would appreciate donations of groceries such as corn, pinto/black beans, tomatoes, peanut butter, soups, bags/boxes of uncooked noodles, ramen, hamburger helper, noodle meals, and anything that is on the healthier side. Thank You!

Job Openings at the Diocese of Sioux Falls:

more details at www.sfcatholic.org

Interested candidates should send their resume and cover letter to Twila Roman, Director of Human Resources at troman@sfcatholic.org or at 523 North Duluth Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57104.

- **Parish Accounting Services:** The ideal candidate will be responsible for maintaining accounting principles and practices to ensure accurate and timely financial statements for parishes and other diocesan entities. Activities of the position include general ledger preparation and related reconciliations, completion of financial reporting, payroll, year-end tax filing and providing technical support for parish bookkeepers on accounting software program. The position offers the option of working remotely from a parish office located outside of the Sioux Falls area.

- **Chief Operating Officer:** Seeking an experienced, management-level professional, active in their Catholic faith to become part of Catholic Foundation. Candidates should have a bachelor's degree or higher and a minimum of five years relevant experience.

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without error; He only guaranteed correctness for the most important thing – that knowledge which is needed to reach Heaven, the very purpose of this life.

The question at hand is whether “science” has disproven “religion,” and in particular if evolution has disproven creation and thus that there is no God. The next point to consider is the scope of the physical sciences. By their very definition, they deal only with the material world and God, in His essence, is pure Spirit. Thus, the physical sciences, per se, can make no, *no*, conclusion even about the existence of God. Any scientist who puts on his science hat and proclaims, with an austere aura of authority, that there is no God is irresponsible and misrepresents himself; he betrays his own discipline, and takes advantage of his own position to mislead others into his own personal opinion or bias or preference or ignorance or acrimony or fear or arrogance or whatever it is. Now some say: ok, science per se cannot make the conclusion that God doesn’t exist but it can’t say tooth fairies don’t exist either and I also don’t believe in them. That’s clever. I’m afraid that to compare the two shows little, if any, serious thought in a number of ways, but we will consider only one here. Anyone who says that has, for *one* thing, never reckoned with the person of Jesus. That Jesus existed is confirmed even by secular (non-religious) historical sources. How, then, does one account for all of the things that He did that were well beyond human power – His command over nature, the healings He performed, His power over life and death, His capacity to read the interior of a person? These things, incidentally, were not only attested to by His enemies, but we might say *especially* by His enemies; they were not made up by our Lord’s friends. Indeed, Jesus was crucified largely on account of the signs He performed – the Jewish leaders of the day were afraid everyone would believe in Him *because* of the supernatural power He demonstrated. Belief in God, in Jesus, in His Church *is* an act of faith; but it is a *reasonable* act, not an unreasonable one.

Continuing on the topic of limits, the physical sciences per se cannot make any sort of philosophical conclusions or judgments. Science cannot even use the words “good” or “bad.” Consider a simple example; suppose a chemist said: if I mixed these chemicals together in this quantity, there would be a huge explosion and everybody in the room would likely be killed; so far he’s acting in the realm of science. But if he says: that would be bad, he’s stepped outside the realm of the physical sciences – it *would* be bad but that’s a judgment *outside* the realm of *science*. The chemist can only describe or predict the nature of material things; as soon as he says “that would be bad,” he’s making a moral statement or stating a desire or judgment; that’s not science, it’s not necessarily wrong, it’s just not science. The scope of the physical sciences is purely this: testable hypotheses about the material world. A person might look at the world and begin to reason about the nature of man, how the world came into existence, or more generally about truth/reality (notice the word reason, not just speculate, but reason); this is something good but it does not belong to the realm of the physical sciences, it’s philosophy. The realm of physical science is testable hypotheses about material things and that’s it. True science is something good; but it is imperative to know what it can and cannot say otherwise it is corrupted.

What has been presented here are some general, background considerations of “science” itself. We will have to take up particular considerations of evolution and creation next week. To finish today, there is something important about Sacred Scripture that we need to always bear in mind. The purpose of Scripture is to teach us what we need to know about and from God in order to reach our ultimate beatitude. Scripture does contain historical events but it’s not intended to be a history book; it does say things about the natural world but it’s not intended to be a science book. To hold it up as such and then ridicule it on those bases is simply ignorance of the Word of God and its purpose.

God bless you, Fr. Kuhn

**BE FAITHFUL IN SMALL THINGS
BECAUSE IT IS IN THEM THAT YOUR STRENGTH LIES**

St. Teresa of Calcutta