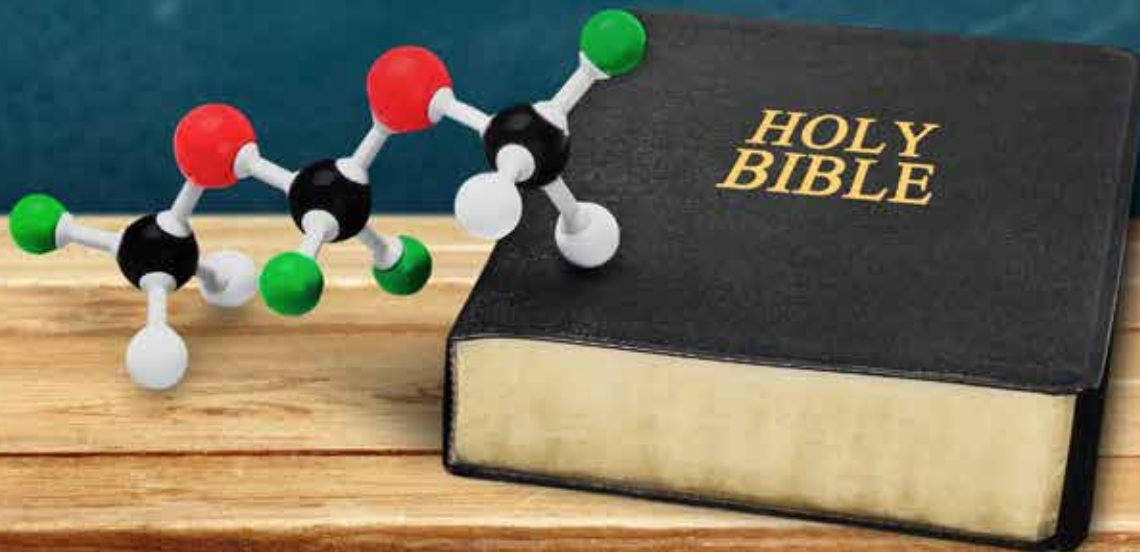


Scientists Speak of Their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion



Institute for Theological Encounter
with Science and Technology

Our Sunday Visitor

Bringing Your Catholic Faith to Life

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Scientists Speak of Their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion



**Institute for Theological Encounter
with Science and Technology**

www.faithscience.org

Our Sunday Visitor

Bringing Your Catholic Faith to Life

www.osv.org

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“Scientists Speak of Their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion”

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“Scientists Speak of Their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion”

Acknowledgements

First of all, the Board of Directors and Staff of the Institute for Theological Encounter with Science and Technology (ITEST) want to thank the *Our Sunday Visitor Institute* for generously providing the funding for this guidebook and videos. Without their support this project would not have been possible.

Special thanks to Archbishop Robert J. Carlson of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis for his encouragement and support of the project, “Scientists Speak of their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion,” by submitting a letter of recommendation to the *Our Sunday Visitor Institute*.

This project, which serves as a model for all parishes locally and nationally, could not have been successfully accomplished without the collaboration and cooperation of the five “pioneer parishes” whose staffs bravely embarked on this venture seldom attempted in parishes in the past. Special thanks to the pastors of these parishes: Ascension Parish in Chesterfield, Chris Foeldi, Facilitator; St. Anselm’s Parish, Creve Coeur, Linda Borchardt, Facilitator; St. Joseph’s Parish, Imperial, Bill Biermann, Facilitator; St. Cletus Parish, St. Charles, MO, Father Jim Benz, Pastor and Facilitator and St. Peter’s Parish Kirkwood, Linda Doyle, Facilitator.

To whom do we owe the most gratitude? -- the presenters/panelists, of course, without whom this project would never have been possible. All of those generous men and woman in science and related fields who sacrificed time and energy at some cost, made this program a winner in the eyes of those who participated. Because of their testimony, listeners witnessed “live” the heartfelt and convincing demonstration of Christian belief from believing scientists. (*See Participants on backside of this page.*)

A special mention goes to Lu Cortese, Director of St Joseph Evangelization Network, St. Joseph Radio and her staff in St. Charles, MO and Orange, California, for their unremitting dedication to the ministry of evangelization in all areas of the Church. They videotaped each presentation; edited and mixed the tape and provided DVDs to each parish not only for archival purposes but for future use in planning similar events in science and faith on the parish level. St. Joseph Radio is the official distributor of the DVDs from the five parishes and may be reached at www.saintjosephradio.net

To Dr. Ralph Olliges, Executive Secretary of the ITEST Board of Directors, who more than anyone else provided valuable assistance, to me from the very onset of this project. Among other things, his attention to detail more than complemented my perspective of “the big picture.”

To Jesuit Father Daniel White, Pastor of Saint Francis Xavier, the College Church, in St. Louis for his support of this project by writing the letter of invitation to the pastors in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Special thanks to William Herberholt, of Graphic Masters, who designed the cover; formatted and set up the guidebook, making sure that the nuts and bolts fit properly and for his artistic eye.

Thanks too to Scott Wagner who skillfully edited, provided titles, music bed and produced the video clips selected from the parish video recordings.

Thanks to Ron Lavalley, ITEST member from Mesa, Arizona, who created the important Speaker/Panelist Outlines, setting a direction for Parish Adult Formation Coordinators.

To Dr. Thomas Sheahen, physicist and Director of ITEST, who has capably and ably led ITEST for the past ten years by providing guidance, i.e., by selecting timely and “neuralgic” topics in faith and science for the ITEST yearly conferences and by using his wealth of experience in science to keep ITEST up to date on the experiments occurring in laboratories around the world.

We dedicate this work to our founder, the late Jesuit Father Robert Brungs, whose vision for ITEST was based on a secure knowledge and understanding of the intersection and complementarity of faith and science.

Marianne Postiglione, RSM

Associate Director: ITEST



“Scientists Speak of Their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion”

Participants

Participating Parishes and Speakers/Panelists

~ *Ascension Parish, Chesterfield, MO April 18, 2018* ~

Pastor - **Father Thomas Molini**

Chris Foeldi – Adult Formation Director & Facilitator

Panelists:

Father Michael Lampe, *Nuclear Engineer and Parish Priest*;

Dr. David Keys, *Physicist and Theologian*; **Dr. Michael Boland, MD**, *Neurosurgeon*.

~ *St. Joseph Parish, Imperial, MO – April 19, 2018* ~

Pastor – **Father Daniel Shaughnessy**

Dr. William Biermann – Adult Formation Director & Facilitator

Panelists:

Dr. David Stansfield, MD, *Physician*; **Dr. Marsha Mertens, MD**, *Physician*;

Dr. David Glastetter, *Civil Engineer, Amateur Astronomer*; **Dr. William Biermann**, *Amateur Astronomer*.

~ *St. Anselm Parish, Creve Coeur, MO - May 1, 2018* ~

Pastor – **Father Michael Brunner, OSB**

Mrs. Linda Borchardt – Adult Formation Director & Facilitator

Panelists:

Dr. Michael Keller, MD, *Radiologist*; **Dr. Margie Hunter**, *Chemist*;

Dr. Howard Canada, *Computer Specialist*.

~ *St. Cletus Parish, St. Charles, MO – June 5, 2018* ~

Pastor - **Father James Benz**

Marianne Postiglione, RSM – Facilitator

Panelists:

Dr. William Weisrock, *Microbiologist*; **Mr. James Baumann**, *Engineer*;

Mrs. Karen Sepe, *Nurse Practitioner*.

~ *St. Peter's Parish, Kirkwood, MO - August 30, 2018* ~

Pastor - **Father John M. Costello**

Linda Doyle – Adult Formation Director & Facilitator

Panelists:

Mary Lou Fitzsimmons MSN, *Nurse*; **Ann Kammiem, PR, CHT**, *Physical Therapist*;

Sarah McCaffrey, PhD Student, *Nurse Practitioner*; **Laurie Russell, PhD**, *Associate Professor of Biology*;

Christopher Swingle, DO, *Nuclear Medicine*.

Parish who will hold the event in the 2018-2019 season

All Saints Parish, Mesa, Arizona

Ron LaVallee, Facilitator and Author of *Outlines in Appendix C*



“*Scientists Speak of Their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion*”

Foreword

Scientists Speak of their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion Believing Scientists in the Church

History, Evolution and Development

The seed for this project, sown in the last few decades of ITEST’s existence, matured this year with careful cultivation and the generous support from *Our Sunday Visitor Institute*. “***Scientists Speak of Their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion***,” represents the brainchild of the late Father Robert Brungs, SJ, Founder and Director of ITEST. This project offers Catholic scientists, engineers, physicians, technologists, medical specialists and others in the field, a platform to speak to their fellow parishioners about their profession in relation to their faith. Contrary to the off’ prevailing view that scientists, in order to be “credible”, must be atheists, or at least agnostics, the believing scientists (radiologists, physicians, nurses, neuro-surgeons, chemists, computer specialists, theologians and others) who participated in the pilot study in the Archdiocese of St. Louis skillfully demonstrated that their Catholic faith and their science nourished and fed each other. (*See Video Clips in User Document F*)

How did the ITEST staff promote this pilot study in the Archdiocese of St. Louis? Starting with social media and with the cooperation of the Office of Communications, ITEST invited all pastors to offer one of these events in their parishes. A first-class letter of invitation to each pastor followed quickly accompanied by a simple response form. (*See User Documents G and H*). Originally 14 parishes responded favorably and five parishes carried through. These five became the pilot study parishes and models for other parishes in the country.

The staff of ITEST stressed that the goal of the project is to surface the scientists and others in the field *from the parish itself*, not to import them from afar. The personal witness of a fellow parishioner is far more relatable and convincing than a lecture delivered by some “expert” or official authority. In those parishes where the pastor became actively involved, whether by encouraging the adult formation director/ or coordinator of parish events, or promoting the event from the pulpit, the topic drew a respectable audience.

Given a choice of a title for the event, some opted for “Supper and Spirituality” whereas others chose “Supper, Spirituality and Science; still others chose “Science and Faith.” Also, the coordinators used their creativity and experience in generating interest among the parishioners of all ages. (*See User Document B for Sample Church bulletin inserts*)

The outcome of these “Evenings” with faith and science should result in a desire from the panelists and the participants to take the messages heard and discussed and spread the good news that science and faith are not in conflict, but are complementary paths to the one “Truth.” They are not enemies but friends.

Supplementing the live presentations, the Video Clips (*User Document F*) have multiple uses. The **Bonus** Interview conducted by St. Joseph Radio’s, Jim Deken with Radiologist Dr. Steve Keller, and Chemist Margie Hunter, would serve well as a kick-off to the discussion “Is there a conflict between faith and science?” Here two reputable scientists speak convincingly of their faith and how it nurtures their science. Other videos, for example Father Michael Lampe’s presentation on the beauty of *Genesis One* as an ancient poem and not a scientific treatise, would be an excellent opportunity for middle and high school students who are experiencing doubts about their faith to see that “science alone may not have all the answers”; and indeed, as we know in faith, it does not.

“Faith and science are complementary paths to the one Truth. They are not in conflict.”

“Be not afraid...”

“Christians in science and technology are the presence of Christ in science and technology.”

Robert Brungs, SJ 1998

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“Scientists Speak of Their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion”

Event Set Up - Seven Easy Steps

How to set up your own event:

STEP ONE: Assess the situation in your parish. Who are the scientists, technologists, computer specialists, engineers, physicians, surgeons and so on in your congregation?

*Skip the next step if you already know who the scientists are.
Make sure to meet with them to give them more information.*

How Do I Find The Scientists, Technologists And So On?

STEP TWO: Through word of mouth, short messages in the parish bulletin, parish Facebook and examination of the parish registration list. (*See User document B for bulletin inserts*)

Remember to keep any promo short and “punchy” use color or graphics to emphasize it.

Also hint about what’s coming up in this bulletin. A “Save the Date” notice for the congregation about “Supper, Science and Spirituality” would peak their interest.

Repeat information for the parish with **little teases** in the weekly bulletin. Such as, “Can a scientist be a faithful Christian? “Come to our Supper and Spirituality on **DATE** to hear scientists from our parish tell us about their science and their Christian belief.”

When parishioners in science tentatively ask about stepping up to be a part of the event, encourage them. Stress that the compatibility between faith and science needs to be communicated to other Catholics – not by some imported speaker from afar, but by a fellow parishioner. That closer connection is far more meaningful. Emphasize that their own experience, while unique, is applicable to others.

STEP THREE: Meet with the scientists (suggested number 3) who respond to discuss the topic and what each individual can contribute to a panel of scientists, “Scientists Speak of Their Faith:” Each presentation should be no longer than 15 minutes.

For preparation of panelist’ phase: Think about answering a few of these questions which are likely to come from the audience.

- Can a reputable scientist be a faithful Christian/Catholic?
- Since I’ve studied science, I’ve fallen away from practicing my faith. Science is objective; whereas faith/religion is too subjective.
- I think faith is OK for people who need a cushion of comfort; I’ll take science which gives the real hard facts of life.
- Is there such a thing as “Catholic science?”
- I subscribe to the Creationist theory that the earth was created in six days.
- Can I still be a good practicing Catholic while rejecting the theory of Evolution?
- As presented on TV, everything scientific seems to have nothing to do with religion or faith at all. Why do you think it does?
- Prominent spokesmen say religion is anti-scientific. How do you overcome that objection?
- Don’t you have to keep religious faith in a separate compartment from your scientific work?



“Scientists Speak of Their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion”

Event Set Up - Seven Easy Steps, con't.

STEP FOUR: Then **SET THE DATE**, advertise it in the bulletin, Facebook, on twitter, and other social media and the parish web site. Secular media would be interested in this topic because of the **oft’ prevailing view that science and faith are in conflict.**

Weekend before the event: Pastor announces it at the end of Mass and promotes it.

SUGGESTED INSERTS FOR PASTOR

“Even if you failed biology or chemistry in high school or college, you will really enjoy hearing these panelists talk about their science and their faith.” “Do you think there may be a conflict between faith and science? If so, come to our Supper and Spirituality” You may be surprised at the answers.”

STEP FIVE: Set up the Event – suggested “Science and Spirituality” or title of your choice.

Pizza or other light refreshments from 6:30 – 7:00 pm. This is a draw according to experience.

Program starts at 7:00 Three 15 minute presentations. Q&A following the presentations.

Facilitator encourages interplay among presenters with appropriate questions. Such as those used in preparation phase.

Audience participation is very important especially in order to motivate follow-up activities. However, try to keep the whole event within the hour and a half period (7:00 – 8:30pm). With proper preparation and planning this evening will end with participants wanting more.

STEP SIX: Evaluation

Distribute two-sided evaluation sheet to audience. (*See User Document A*) Ask them to complete it on site or direct them to the digital form on line. (Most people will do it at once; those who don’t may not ever complete it) This is a valuable form of feedback from the participants.

If your parish intends to videotape the program for later use, be sure to have the presenters sign a “gift agreement” that grants you publishing rights. For sample language, the gift agreement that ITEST uses is attached as *User Document E*

STEP SEVEN: Keep the Topic Going.

Some parishioners will respond to the evaluation survey by indicating their interest in continuing discussions along this line. They should be encouraged strongly to form a group that reads a pertinent book or views a video and meets monthly to explore other ways in which faith and science interact. Typically, one of the presenters/panelists would be the leader of that group. If there are only a few such curious individuals in a parish, then perhaps a joint enterprise with a neighboring parish would be worthwhile.

The variety of faith-science reading options ranges from 19th century authors and the early 20th century, through Vatican II. (**See User Document F**- List of Resources for suggestions.)



“Scientists Speak of Their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion”

User Document A

Evaluation Sheet

Institute for Theological Encounter with Science & Technology
Scientists Speak of their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion

***Your Parish Here
City, State***

Did you find the panelists convincing when speaking about their professional life and their Catholic faith?

Yes No

Comment: _____

What part of the evening did you like...

the most? _____

the least? _____

Did this event fulfill your expectations? Yes No

Is this something you would recommend to your friends? Yes No

Comment: _____

Was the time period suitable to the topic? Yes No

Was the evening Too long? Too short? Just right?

How did you hear about this event?

Was the publicity announcing the event effective? Yes No

Would you consider continuing this kind of discussion on science/tech and faith in the future?

Yes No

Continues on back



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User Document A, *con't.*

Has this evening convinced you that there is no conflict between science and Christian/Catholic faith?

Yes No

If so: how? If not: why not?

Comment: _____

After listening to the speakers would you feel informed enough to speak with confidence on the topic with friends, acquaintances, or parishioners who still believe that science and faith conflict?

Yes No

If not: How could you be better prepared?

Comment: _____

Would you consider forming small groups, perhaps in the homes, to discuss books on the topic or video productions on the topic?

Yes No

Some suggestions for the future:

Comment: _____

We really appreciate your input.

You do not need to sign, but if you wish to sign and/or be contacted in the future, please do so below.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

***ITEST Contact: Sister Marianne Postiglione, RSM
mariannepost@archstl.org - 314-792-7221***



“Scientists Speak of Their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion”

User Document B

Sample Bulletin Inserts

Calling all Scientists (Engineers, Medical, Computer Professionals, etc) (St. Joseph’s Parish, Imperial, Missouri)

Science is a marvelous endeavor. In Grade schools, kids naturally enjoy the sense of wonder and adventure. As an adult engaged in science, you experience that same wonder. Are you interested in telling your fellow parishioners about what you do in science? How your faith plays a role?

(*Your church*) would like to create a group that explores Science and Faith. Questions such as “Can scientists be believers? Is there a conflict between faith and science? Can the two be compatible? Can science nurture my faith? Does it make sense to keep science and faith separate? What about the Big Bang?”

We would like to assemble scientists, technologists, engineers, computer specialists, from our parish to form a panel, to tell us about their field, to tell us what their faith means to them in light of their science and to address common questions. Then that small group (2 or more) will present to a larger number of interested parishioners via an informal pizza party.

Contact Name At (Phone) And Or (Email)

SKEPTICS AND FAITHFUL WANTED: (St. Anselm’s Parish – Creve Coeur, Missouri)

Have you ever thought that Science and Faith conflicted? Have you ever been challenged by a science documentary that seems to make a statement contradictory to your beliefs? We welcome your sincere questions and comments at our “Science and Faith” seminar on (DAY, DATE) in the Parish Center. Come and be fed spiritually and physically by joining us for pizza at 6:30pm , and hear from fellow parishioners in science and technology who will discuss the role of faith and science in their lives. Bring your questions as well. Join us as a family. High school and college students are welcome

Please RSVP To (Name, Email, Phone) By (Date)

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Steps to help Speakers/Panelist

Speaker Dialogue

Kickoff:

- Coordinator: Self-Introduction
- Purpose, Background and Timing
- Implementation (individual presentations plus panel discussion)
- Audience Expectations Goals

Speakers:

- Self-Introduction(s)
- Job Status and History
- Catholic Related Involvement
- Personal View of Church-Job Relationship

Coordinator: Presentation Recommendations (assuming three speakers):

- A. Limit time to 15-min (defer questions to panel period)
- B. Short summary of past-present Job-Church activities
- C. One, concrete example of a relevant experience
- D. Simple statement of personal feeling about your role

Panel Recommendations:

- E. Focus on short, direct answers (avoid rambling)
- F. Feel free to elaborate after formal meeting is finished
- Discussion, Suggestions, Agreements and Buy-In

Pre-Meeting:

- Speakers:
 - Dry-Run each presentation
 - Critiques, Positive Feedback and Recommendations
- Coordinator:
 - Recap Findings, Recommendations and Conclusions
 - Update Information on any Relevant Meeting Issues

Actual Meeting:

- All: “Knock Them Dead”



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User Document C, con't.

Execution Timeline

Preamble:

- Naming of Management Team and Responsibilities
- Definition of Target Audience (crowd size?)
- Speaker Type Presentation Date and Location (incl. layout)
- Presentation Content, Format and Duration (ref. ITEST Guidebook)

Speaker Preparation:

- Select and Contact Speaker Candidates and Determine of Interest
- Speaker Selection (including nature of selection process)
- Introductory Speaker Guidance Briefing (goals, format, expectation, guidance)
- Individual Presentation(s) Review, Critique and Recommendation Presentation
- Dry-Run

Advertising:

- Ministry Marketing Announcements
- Bulletin Supplement and Pre-Mass Audio-Visual (preparation responsibility?)
- Post-Mass Plug (priest with-or-without lay leader)

Faith-Science Presentation:

- Facility Setup (identify volunteers) Moderator and Audio-Visual Introduction
- Individual Talks (nominally of three 15-min in pre-selected order)
- Question-and-Answer Period (30-min of moderated inter-change)
- Closing Comments and Facility Clean-up

Post-Mortem:

- Quality of the Effort
- Accomplishment of Goals
- Planning for Future Continuation



“Scientists Speak of Their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion”

User Document D

Video Clips to Help You Plan an Event

“Scientists Speak of their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion”

These videos are available at: bit.ly/Fostering-Faith-Science-Videos

Introduction - POST 001: Length 6:29

Introduction: ITEST’s Mission, evolution and description of project, hints for sponsoring the program/event in your parish.

“Scientific Interest at an Early Age” - LAMPE 001: Length 3:29

Math and science came easily and engaged his interest and became his passion. Faith and science seemed to provide all the rational answers for him; whereas the church did not. Faith seemed to be an opinion rather than truth.

“The Word from Genesis” - LAMPE 002: Length 5:21

Genesis is an ancient poem not a scientific treatise: hence there is no conflict between scripture and science properly understood. Discusses the issue of creation in six days versus billions of years.

“Not Opposed but Complementary” - LAMPE 003: Length 5:26

Discusses evidence for the Big Bang theory of Georges Lemaître and the role of the Big Bang in theological research and Christian belief. An excellent explanation especially for the “non-scientist” of the Big Bang theory.

“My Personal Story” - LAMPE 004: Length 4:22

Falls away from practice of Faith in middle school. Gradually returns not from result of rational arguments but to fill the void that only God can fill.

“Jesus and Two Parts of the Brain” - BOLAND 001: Length 5:29

Discusses the role of the emotional brain and the rational brain in response to questions of faith and science. Jesus and his approach to the two parts of the brain in imparting his message.

“Jesus and the Five Senses” - BOLAND 002: Length 6:33

Discusses the importance of the five senses Jesus uses in his parables. Here the post resurrection story from Luke 24: 36-45 describes Jesus’ use of the five senses to convince his apostles that he is real and not a ghost. To convince the apostles Jesus takes a piece of fish and consumes it.

“Influences on My Faith” - KELLER 001: Length 7:20

Treats the reasons for returning to the practice of the Catholic Faith after hearing stories of conversions (Scott Hahn, St. Augustine, for example). Science explains the “how” but the Faith explains the “why.”

“No Freedom without God” - KELLER 002: Length 1:52

Through the Eucharist we are swept up into the Trinitarian life of freedom. With God life is not a problem to be solved but a mystery to be lived. Without God there is no freedom.

Continues on back



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User Document D, con’t.

“The Universe is Orderly” - KEYS 001: Length 3:23

Scripture cannot contradict authentic science; God has created an orderly universe; if God chose an evolutionary process to create the universe it is not a problem. God doesn't create chaos; rather God is the God of order.

“Great Catholic Scientists” - KEYS 002: Length 2:18

Describes the contributions of many early Catholic scientists who were priests or clerics: Copernicus, Albert the Great, Galileo, Georges Lemaître.

“The Church Accepts Science” - KEYS 003: Length 2:43

The Church not only passively accepts science but indeed is the innovator of many authentic scientific findings. Also discusses the question of multiverses, the bouncing universe theory, the expanding universe and how they depict the mistaken notion that there is no need for God.

“Advice to Young People Attending College” - EILERMAN 001: Length 7:06

How can young people who were raised Catholic enrich or even manage to keep practicing their faith in college when under pressure from peers, professors, the general college culture. The panelists (Lampe, Boland and Keys) give some valuable advice from their own experience as college students.

“Advice to Friends on Questions of Science and Faith” - SEILER 001: Length 9:02

Studies show that as early as middle school some young people begin to have doubts about their faith. Again the panelists (Lampe, Boland and Keys) advise a young man in his 20's how to listen and respond to his roommate when the discussion on faith and science begins to heat up. Recommendation: The Reason Series by Father Robert Spitzer, SJ of the Magis Center www.magiscenter.com

Bonus Videos

“Is There a Conflict between Faith and Science?” - Interview, Deken, Keller, Hunter 001: Length 24:33

Jim Deken of St. Joseph Radio/TV questions two scientists, Steve Keller and Chemist, Margie Hunter on the strength of their Christian faith and the meaning of faith in their lives as scientists. Given the often prevailing view that science and faith are in conflict, how can the two live together amicably?

This segment would serve well as a preparation for a parish planning to sponsor an event with scientists (engineers, nurses, physicians and so on) speaking of their faith.

“A Physician and the Marvels of the Human Body” - MERTENS 001: Length 10:00

Through the study of the human body and the beauty of its systems faith can grow and become stronger and stronger. After studying the human body it is difficult to become atheist. When one looks at what God has created in the intricacies of the human body's systems, one cannot help but believe that God is real. What a profligate Creator!

This segment would serve well junior high and high school students who need to see at that age the beauty of the human body created by God.



Gift Agreement

Video And Electronic Gift Agreement

The undersigned hereby gives and donates to the INSTITUTE FOR THEOLOGICAL ENCOUNTER WITH SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (ITEST), hereafter called **ITEST**, all recorded verbal comments I may make and all printed materials I may submit and/or images recorded, during or relating to *Scientists Speak of their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion*, St. Louis, Missouri, in consideration of my interest in assisting the work of **ITEST**.

To carry out this gift and donation to the fullest extent possible, I give, release and quit-claim to **ITEST** all of my right, title, interest, and ownership in said property, including all copyright or right to copyright therein, with the intention to vest same irrevocably in **ITEST**. I agree that **ITEST** may edit and use said property in printed and audio/video publications and in any other way it deems appropriate.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Gift accepted by ITEST

By: _____ Date: _____

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User Document F

List of Resources: Print and Electronic

Brother Guy Consolmagno, SJ, PhD, Planetary Scientist, Vatican Observatory,
CD’s from “Now You Know Media” The Church and Galileo.

What can Galileo’s extraordinary life and profound legacy teach us today?

Galileo’s story is a touchstone in debates about science and religion, but our preconceptions inevitably color the way we see the issues. To understand who Galileo was, what he accomplished, and what you can learn from his triumphs and failures, you need a great teacher to place him in context by exploring the cosmologies, political and religious and historical events, and famous people of his generation. You also need to get a sense of the man himself: from his family background and early ambitions to the person he grew into as he became a father, rising celebrity, literary lion, and ultimately an infirm but unbroken old man.

In *Galileo: Science, Faith, and the Catholic Church*, you will explore the context and implications of the Galileo affair—the events that culminated in his condemnation by the Roman Catholic Church. You can take no better guide than Dr. Guy Consolmagno, a renowned astronomer, Jesuit brother, and popular writer.

The Galileo affair resonates with our own times. Although the debate about an earth or sun-centered universe is long past, the ways we react to new ideas hasn’t changed at all. All of the hopes, fears, and misunderstandings that surrounded Galileo and his opponents, we still face today in our encounters with science and religion.

By spending time with Galileo and his story, you will enrich your own faith and increase your understanding of science and religion. (Description from **Now You Know Media**)

More Consolmagno presentations recommended for individual listening or “kick-offs” to adult formation discussions from **www.NowYouKnowMedia.com**

Meaning: Exploring the Big Questions of the Cosmos with a Vatican Scientist; (2015)

An Introduction to the Universe: The Big Ideas of Astronomy; (2017)

Seeking the Face of God: The Lives and Discoveries of Catholic Scientists (2018)

Father Robert J. Spitzer, SJ, Director, The Magis Center Of Reason And Faith.

Physicist, Theologian and Jesuit. Dynamic speaker and lecturer

Check out his web site at www.magiscenter.com. This web site is a real treasure. Search the web site for various topics: For example a ten minute video on the topic: (Module 12) Creation according to physics and the Bible. Is there really a contradiction? Magis also has produced “The Reason Series” (What science says about God) You can view one of the CD’s free of charge from the web site. **We highly recommend any of the material produced by the MAGIS Center in California.**

Father Spitzer has pigmentosa retinitis and is nearly completely blind, but his lectures are engrossing and captivating, even when he speaks about somewhat esoteric science theories.

Continues on back



“Scientists Speak of Their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion”

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Belief in God in an Age of Science by John Polkinghorne, Yale University Press, 1998

John Polkinghorne is a major figure in today's debates over the compatibility of science and religion. Internationally known as both a theoretical physicist and a theologian, the only ordained member of the Royal Society, Polkinghorne brings unique qualifications to his inquiry into the possibilities of believing in God in an age of science. In this thought-provoking book the author focuses on the collegiality between science and theology, contending that these “intellectual cousins” are both concerned with interpreted experience and with the quest for truth and reality. He argues eloquently that scientific and theological inquiries are parallel.

The book begins with a discussion of what belief in God can mean in our times. Polkinghorne explores a new natural theology and emphasizes the importance of moral and aesthetic experience and the human intuition of value and hope. In other chapters, he compares science's struggle to understand the nature of light with Christian theology's struggle to understand the nature of Christ. He addresses the question, “Does God act in the physical world?” And he extends his ideas about the role of chaos theory, surveys the prospects for future dialogue between scientific and theological thinkers, and defends a critical realist understanding of the activities of both disciplines. Polkinghorne concludes with a consideration of the nature of mathematical truths and the links between the complementary realities of physical and mental experience

Particles of Faith: A Catholic Guide to Navigating Science by Dr. Stacy Trasancos, Ave Maria Press, October, 2016

What is the origin of life? Hasn't the Catholic Church always been hostile to science? Can a Christian accept the scientific theory of evolution? “How can you, as a Catholic, explain what the Church teaches about the relationship between science and faith?” Scientist, writer, and scholar Stacy Trasancos gives us ways we can talk about how science and our Catholic faith work together to reveal the truth of Christ through the beauty of his creation.

As a scientist who was led to Catholicism through her work, Stacy Trasancos has confronted some of the basic questions we all face. In *Particles of Faith*, she teaches us how to explain the symbiotic beauty between our curiosity expressed through science and our love of Christ and his church.

Trasancos uses her own story, as well as encyclicals such as Pope Francis's *Lumen Fidei*, the deep reflections of theologians such as St. Thomas Aquinas, and the exacting work of Catholic scientists like Rev. Georges Lemaître (who proposed the game-changing, Big Bang theory), to show how science and faith are interwoven and meant to guide us on the path to truth.

By the time you finish reading *Particles of Faith*, you'll be able to answer questions about, generate discussion on, and explain why science helps deepen your faith. (from description of the publisher, Ave Maria Press)”

Feature on “Scientists Speak of their Faith” **The St. Louis Review**, www.stlouisreview.com “ITEST emphasizes faith-science link” **page 10 July 2-8, 2018 Volume 77 Number 26.** <http://stlouisreview.com/article/2018-06-28/itest-emphasizes>

For more information: contact Sister Marianne Postiglione, RSM
mariannepost@archstl.org
Or 314-792-7221



“Scientists Speak of Their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion”

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Sample Letter of Invitation to Pastors

January 27, 2018

Dear Brother Priests/Colleagues:

This past year St. Francis Xavier, the College Church, held a series of popular parish evening events. Sponsored as a monthly series: “Supper and Spirituality” consisted of a light meal followed by the presentation of various topics on the development of spirituality.

I thought you would be interested in one of our evenings and consider holding one of them in your own parishes, especially those parishes who have scientists, engineers, physicians, technologists and others from the field within their midst. How often do we, as pastors, speak with scientists about their Christian faith? Can we identify the scientists in our parishes? What do scientists say about their life of faith and their life as scientists? Do we need to hear from them? What is the public perception of faith and science: conflict or confluence?

Our Adult Formation committee recruited three young grad students (a developmental biologist, a geneticist and a theology and health care ethics major) to talk about their science and the place of faith in their lives as practicing scientists. It was an eye opening experience. We were amazed as our young parishioners talked about science enriching their faith and their faith complementing and supporting their science. It was moment of “evangelization” for those who attended, some of whom wondered if there were indeed believing scientists in the Church.

If you want to give your parishioners a chance to enrich their own faith by participating in a similar event, please contact me by filling in the attached form. We are working with the Institute for Theological Encounter with Science and Technology (ITEST), headquartered at the Rigali Center, to launch a series of these “evenings” in parishes throughout the Archdiocese. ITEST has received a modest grant from the *Our Sunday Visitor Institute* for this project. Although the “evenings” will begin in February, 2018, we need your response as soon as possible (see Response Form).

Sincerely in Christ,

(Fr.) Daniel White, SJ
Pastor: St. Francis Xavier, the College Church

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“Scientists Speak of Their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion”

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Response Form

Parish discussion

Parish Name: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

I am interested in learning about the project:

Scientists Speak of their Faith: A Model for Parish Discussion

Yes No Not at this time, but perhaps in the future.

Yes, I am willing to send a representative to a training session at the Rigali Center to discuss details of the project..

Yes, I would like someone to contact/visit our parish.

Contact Person Or Rep: _____

Email of Contact Person Or Rep: _____

Phone number of Contact Person Or Rep: _____

Please return this form as an e-mail attachment to:

mariannepost@archstl.org

OR Mail to:

ITEST

20 Archbishop May Drive

Cardinal Rigali Center

St. Louis, MO 63119

Attn.: Sister Marianne Postiglione, RSM

Comment: _____
