

**Knights of Columbus October Rosary Social**  
**Are Science and Religion Compatible? Has Science Eliminated the Need for God?**

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- I. Introduction – Current atheists claim that religion is an ignorant superstition that harms society and should be repressed. Why confronting this notion is important for the evangelization of the religious “nones”.
  
- II. What Is The Relationship Between Faith and Science?
  - A. Three Viewpoints:
    1. Science has shown that faith is irrational and is opposed to science.
    2. Science and faith do not conflict because they involve completely separate realms.
    3. They do not conflict and can overlap because both science and faith express the same truth which comes from God (The Catholic viewpoint)
  - B. Define: Faith, Science, Reason, Philosophy and God
  - C. Science and the Catholic Religion Are Not In Conflict  
What is in conflict is Catholicism and Scientism (the only thing that exists is matter, energy and the laws of physics); this is not science, but a philosophic position
  - D. Catholic interpretation of the Bible relative to science
  
- III. Development of Science and its Connection to Religion
  - A. Science born in a Christian worldview and stillborn in non-Christian cultures  
Supposed repression of science by the Church is a myth – misrepresentation of the historical case of Galileo and the Church
  - B. Classical Newtonian Physics
    - Universe is eternal and static; space and time are absolute
    - Deterministic; free will, miracles, religion all thought to be ruled out
  - C. Revolution in Modern Physics Overturns Classical Model of the Universe
    - Our universe has a beginning, space and time are created with the universe
    - Physics is not deterministic, cannot predict the exact future
  
- IV. Can Science Prove or Disprove the Existence of God?
  - A. Science cannot prove or disprove the existence of a transcendent God.  
However, God provides a rational explanation for the creation of the universe and the order, beauty and intelligibility found in the universe.
  - B. Philosophic Proofs for the existence of God; Aquinas’ Five Ways
    - They are deductive proofs based on metaphysical concepts
  
- V. What is the Role and Nature of Man in the Universe?
  - A. Anthropic Coincidences – Our universe appears to be fine-tuned for life
  - B. Free will and consciousness – Scientism considers these an illusion
  - C. Man is a rational animal with an immortal soul
    - Humans are not biological computers – Man has an immaterial intellect and will
    - Materialism negates human free will and rationality

## **Recommended Books and Websites on Science and Faith:**

Stephen Barr, *Modern Physics and Ancient Faith*

(An excellent exposition on how modern science is compatible with religious faith and that it is the atheistic philosophy of scientific materialism that is opposed to faith)

Edward Feser, *The Last Superstition*

(Demonstrates the errors in the arguments of the “new atheists” and promotes a return to the classical philosophical world view of Aristotle and Aquinas)

Edward Feser, *Aquinas*

(An accessible introduction to the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas)

Christopher T. Baglow, *Faith Science and Reason*

(A high school level textbook that covers the Catholic relationship between faith, reason and science)

Robert Spitzer, *New Proofs for the Existence of God: Contributions of Contemporary Physics and Philosophy*

(The first part of the book gives a detailed explanation of modern big bang theories and how they are consistent with supernatural design. The second part provides philosophical proofs for the existence of God.)

Peter Kreeft and Ronald Tacelli, *Handbook of Catholic Apologetics: Reasoned Answers to Questions of Faith*

(The first parts of the book give an introductory description of faith and reason, arguments of the existence and nature of God, and how to view cosmology, creation and evolution.)

### **Websites:**

<http://www.thomisticinstitute.org>

<http://www.aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org>

<http://www.thomisticevolution.org/>

(These Dominican sites contain videos and articles on answers for questions on faith, reason and science by Dominican friars and scholars from a Thomistic intellectual tradition.)

<http://catholicscientists.org>

(This site from the Society of Catholic Scientists contains videos, articles and answers on many issues concerning science and religion.)

<http://edwardfeser.blogspot.com/>

(This is Edward Feser’s blog which has comments on philosophy, faith, reason and science from a Thomistic perspective.)

<http://magisreasonfaith.org/>

(This is a comprehensive center with many resources by Fr. Spitzer, S. J. on faith and science.)