

The Catholic Faith and Science



Archdiocese of Los Angeles | October 17, 2022

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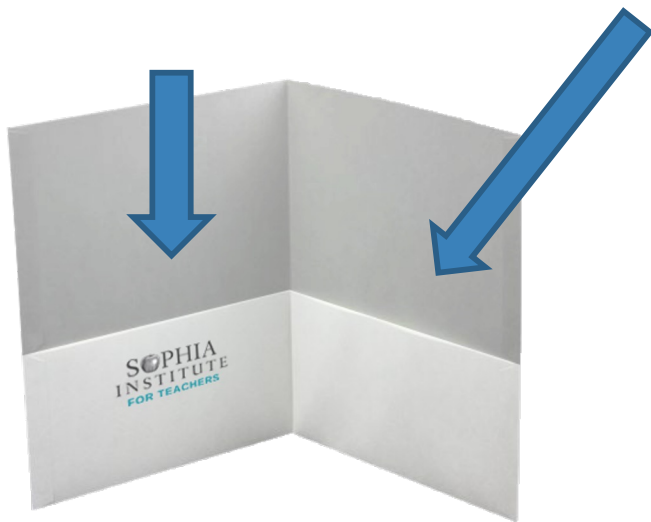
Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J., Ph. D.

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In Your Folders

Left Side

- ✓ Copy of handouts for the day

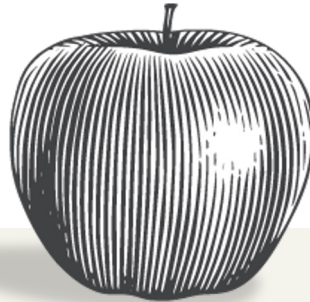


Right Side

- ✓ Agenda for the day
- ✓ Evaluation

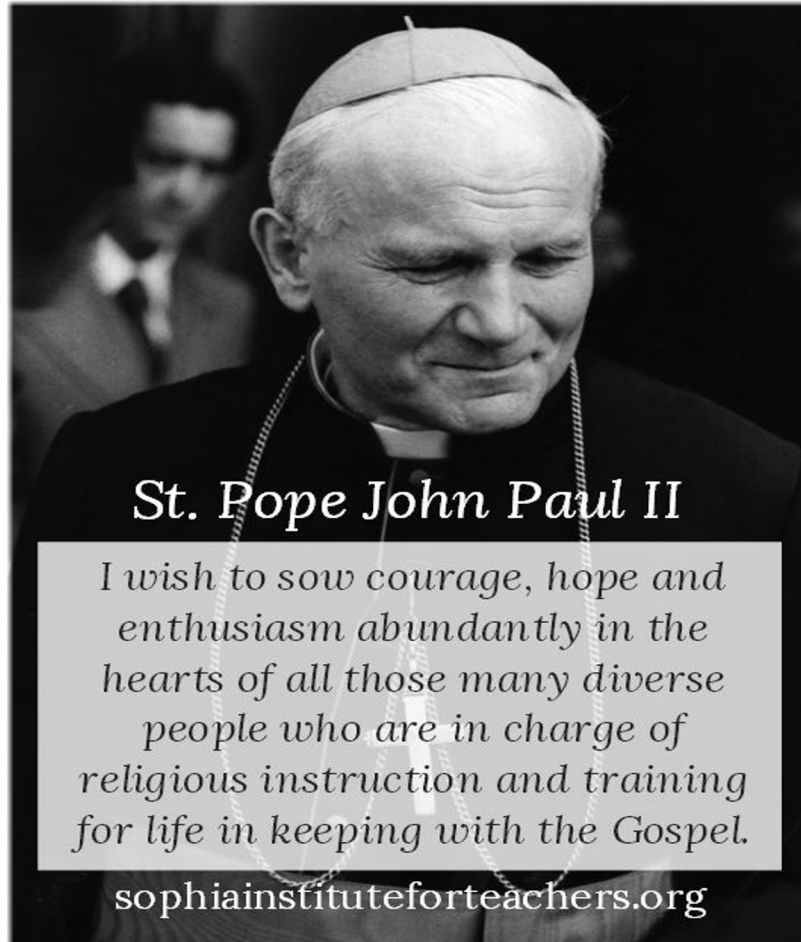
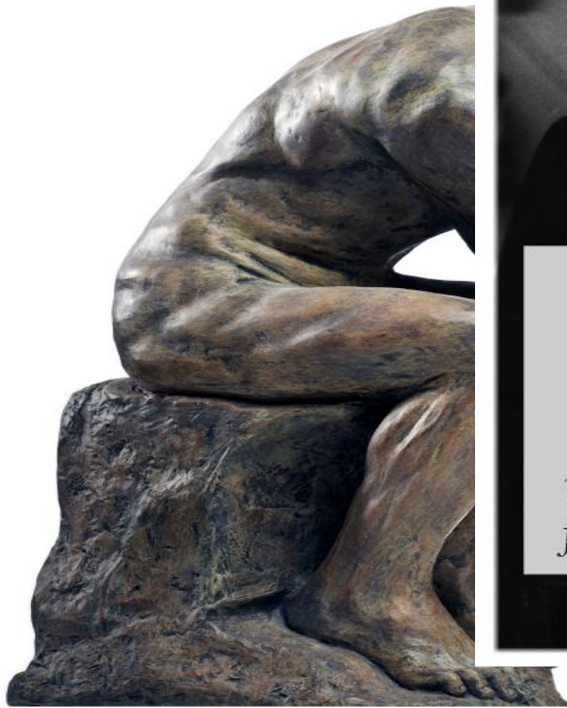
Our Mission

To renew and rebuild Catholic culture through service to Catholic education. We strive to provide materials and programs that are at once enlightening to the mind and ennobling to the heart; faithful and complete, as well as useful and practical.



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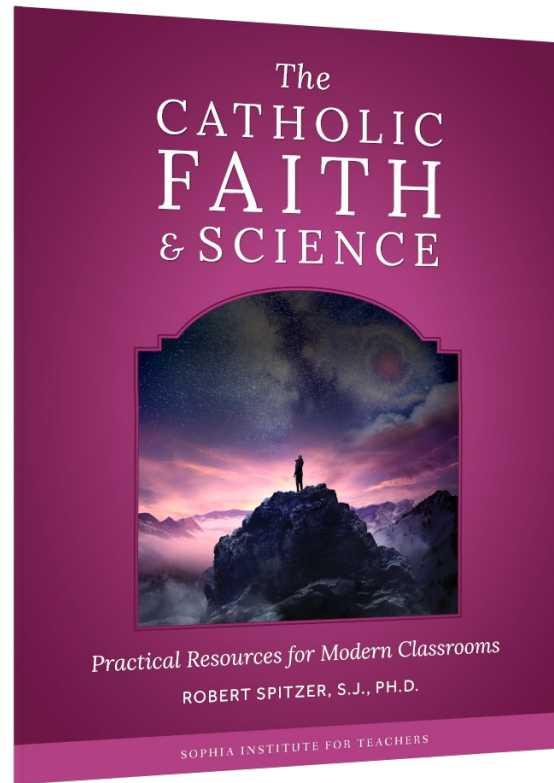


St. Pope John Paul II

I wish to sow courage, hope and enthusiasm abundantly in the hearts of all those many diverse people who are in charge of religious instruction and training for life in keeping with the Gospel.

sophiainstituteforteachers.org





A walk through the guide.

Opening Discussion



1. Why do you think there are more atheists and religiously-unaffiliated people than ever? Has science disproved God? Are there other reasons?
2. Can there be evidence for God's existence? If so, what kind(s)?
3. Why do you think some believe faith and science are opposed?

Evidence for God?

- ✓ In this video we'll hear about the work of scientists, including Alexander Vilenkin, Alan Guth, and Arvind Borde.
- ✓ **Dr. Vilenkin:** Leonard Jane Holmes Bernstein Professor of Evolutionary Science and Director of the Institute of Cosmology at Tufts University.
- ✓ **Dr. Guth:** Victor Weisskopf Professor of Physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- ✓ **Dr. Borde:** Senior Professor of Mathematics and Physics, Long Island University



Or is the material Universe?

Evidence for an Intelligent Creator



Take a few minutes to answer the questions on
Handout C: The Kalam Cosmological Argument
with a partner.

The Kalam Cosmological Argument

1. Entropy: isolated systems will always move from order to disorder and eventually use up all their energy.
2. If the universe had always existed, all the energy would have been used up by now. There is still energy in the universe, therefore the universe had to have a beginning in the finite past.
3. Because it proves that the cause of the universe must be outside the space-time universe
4. The Kalam argument uses scientific observations as its first and second premises, then uses reason to come to the logical conclusion.

The Kalam Cosmological Argument



5. (Extra credit!): Aquinas and the Kalam argument both concludes the need for a first cause, or first mover. The Kalam argument differs from Aquinas' arguments in its basic premises, but comes to the same conclusion.

Proof for God?



The idea is not that these things PROVE that God is the Blessed Trinity but that they show it's REASONABLE to believe in an intelligent Creator.



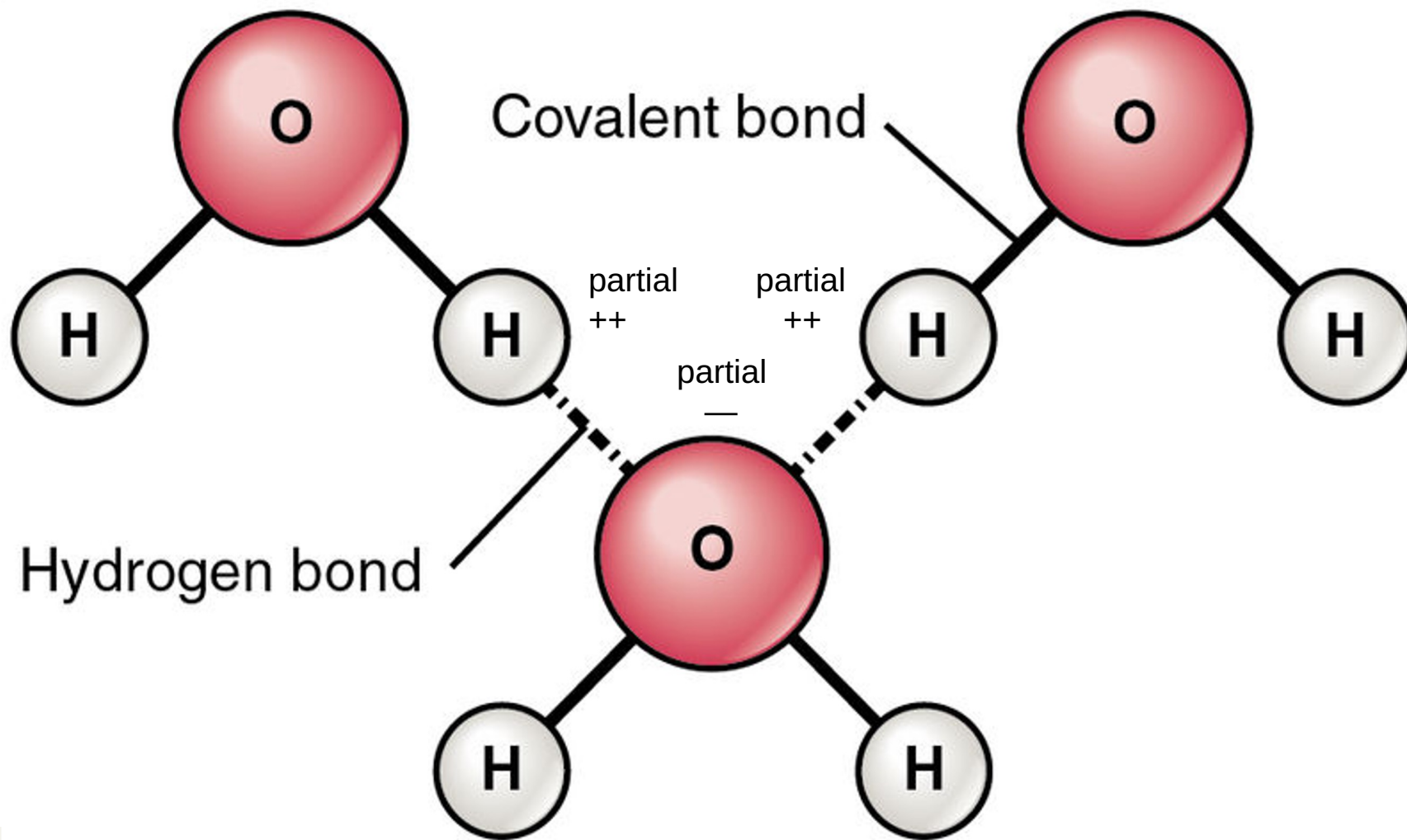




Wonders of Nature

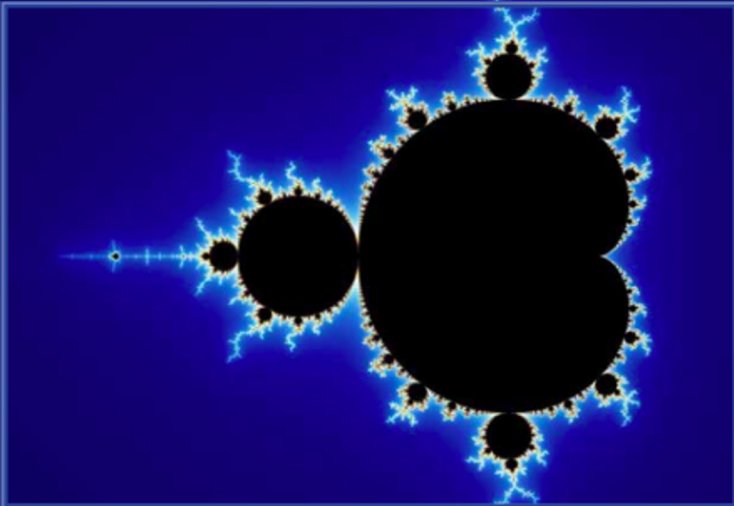


- ✓ Take a some time to reflect on the two images found on **Handout F** using the questions on the back as a guide.
- ✓ The purpose of this type of activity is to evoke wonder.
- ✓ We will have several more of these coming in a free e-lesson format.

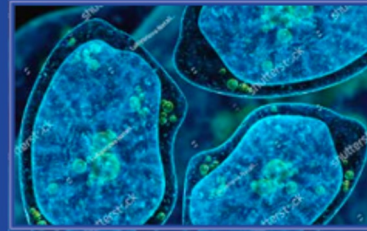




Wonders of Nature: Fractals



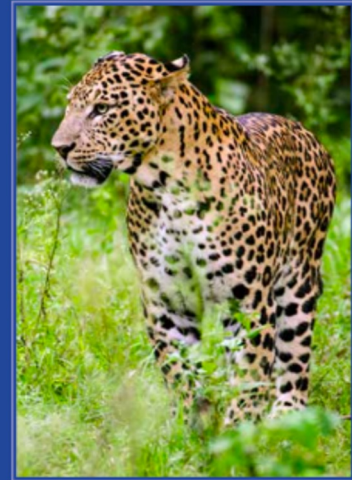
Wonders of Nature: Biodiversity



Three amoebas. Image courtesy Shutterstock.



Monkfish. Image courtesy SUBnormal Team.



Male Indian leopard. Image courtesy Srikanth Sekar.



Purple Orchid Flower. Image Courtesy Lawanga Ranwala



115m

10m

**HOW CAN
TREES BE
SO TALL?**



Today's Presenter



Fr. Spitzer is the President of the Magis Center of Reason and Faith and the Spitzer Center. The Magis Center produces documentaries, books, high school programs, college courses, adult-education programs, and social media materials to show the close connection between faith and reason in contemporary physics, philosophy, and historical study of the New Testament.

**To be an atheist,
I would have to believe...**



**... nothing produced everything,
... non-life produced life,
... randomness produced precision,
... chaos produced order.**

**I simply do not have
that much faith.**

15 Minute Break

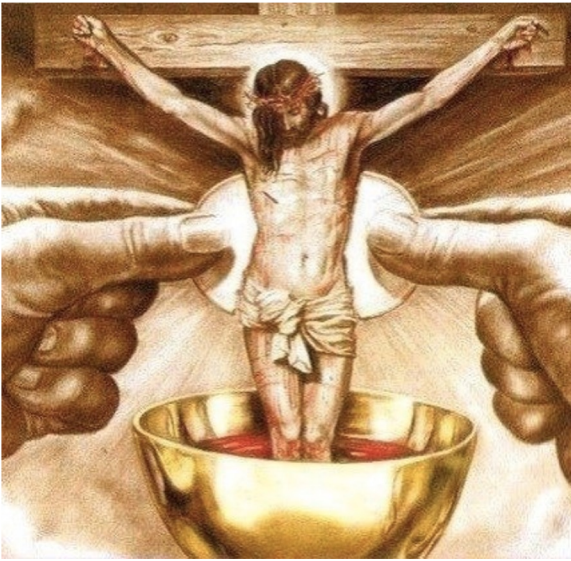


The Incredulity of St. Thomas



Take a few moments to discuss this image using the questions found on the back of **Handout A** as a guide.

The Daily Miracle



- ✓ At every Mass, when the priest says the words of consecration, the bread and wine become the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ The Church calls this miraculous process **Transubstantiation**.

Eucharistic Miracles



The act of Transubstantiation is itself miraculous, but the term Eucharistic miracle usually refers to rare external signs of Jesus' presence in the Eucharist — most notably bleeding hosts, or a consecrated host becoming a piece of cardiac (heart) muscle tissue.

Eucharistic Miracles and Science

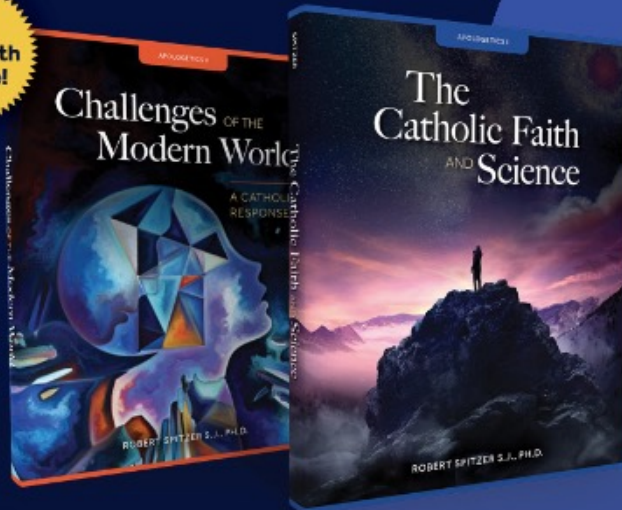
- ✓ Arrange yourselves into groups of 3-4 people.
- ✓ As a group choose one of the three Eucharistic Miracles found in your folders to focus on (Tixtla, Buenos Aires, or Sokolka).
- ✓ Read about your chosen miracle as a group.
- ✓ When you are finished, work together to create a 6-panel (or longer) comic strip on the blank paper found in your folder showing what happened when your chosen Eucharistic miracle was discovered, the steps taken in each investigation, and the results of scientific analysis.

Eucharistic Miracles and Faith



- ✓ “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe” (John 20:29).
- ✓ Our hearts must be open to belief. If we are not open, no amount of evidence can move our hearts to faith.

Team
teach with
science!



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Supreme Court and Religious Liberty - August 2022

In this lesson students will explore two recent Supreme Court cases on religious liberty in light of the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of religion and speech to all Americans.

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Did you enjoy this content? Would you like to go deeper?



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“Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth” –Pope St. John Paul II, *Fides et Ratio*