

Homily Outline for Feb 17 & 18

Introduction

“The reason we live in a scientific age, we are told, is that enlightened freethinkers shook off the suffocating dogma of Christianity after the Middle Ages and began to examine the material world as it really exists. Virtually every scientific theory that has altered our understanding of how humans fit into the cosmos – the sun-centered solar system, the age of the earth, and the evolution of species, to cite three examples – has been resisted by Christians as a threat to their faith and advanced against the grain of Christian orthodoxy. The friction between Christian theology and secular intellectual inquiry is no accident. Indeed, the two are naturally in conflict because religion relies on doctrine and faith – it other words, irrationality – for its justification; it stifles curiosity and creativity. Science and other modes of modern thought depend on fact; they cultivate a dispassionate search for truth.”

- *Christianity on Trial: Arguments Against Anti-Religious Bigotry*. By Vincent Carrol & David Shiflett

iGen'ers see religion as being **anti-science**: “You can't be scientific and religious.” “it was tenth grade. I started learning about evolution...I knew from church that I couldn't believe in both science and God, so that was it. I didn't believe in God anymore.”

People think that science refutes religion and has disproved God. – **Wednesday Evening “The Reason Series” after 6pm Mass**

Do you have to check your brain at the door when you walk into church?

1. Scientism

According to Bishop Barron the problem isn't science, but scientism: reduction of all knowledge to the scientific form of knowledge.

How to respond:

1. Scientism is logically incoherent. How do you scientifically prove that all truth is simply scientific?

2. Do you really think that art, philosophy, literature, poetry have no truth to convey?

- It is important to study and measure the physical universe and apply the scientific method to them.
- However, philosophy and, by extension, theology asks different questions than science – but it doesn't make them less rational, and certainly not less important.
 - Why am I here Why is there anything rather than nothing? What should I do? What is right and wrong? What is love? What is the nature of beauty?

3. So many people believe the great modern myth that modernity and science emerge from the obscurantism and dark ages of religion eg. Galileo Galilei.

2. Christianity offers the necessary foundation for the flourishing of science

Much of what we call modern science sprang from Christendom, a profoundly Christian culture and society. Within Christianity are some of the necessary elements for science:

- The rejection of cyclical time,
- the separation of the supernatural from the material world,
- the suppression of determinism,
- the embrace of progress and historical destiny,
- and the belief in a rational all-powerful God who acts rationally
- and takes a personal interest in human affairs

This is kind of an interesting thing – religion is the condition for the possibility of science.

I have never found a better expression than the expression 'religious' for this trust in the rational nature of reality and of its peculiar accessibility to the human mind. Where this trust is lacking science degenerates into an uninspired procedure. Let the devil care if the priests make capital of this. There is no remedy for that. - Albert Einstein

3. History

Quotes from *Bearing False Witness: Debunking Centuries of Anti-Catholic History*. By Rodney Stark

“Just as there was no Dark Ages, there was no Scientific Revolution. Rather, the notion of a Scientific Revolution was invented to discredit the medieval Church by claiming that science burst forth in full bloom (thus owing no debts to prior Scholastic scholars) only when a weakened Christianity no longer could suppress it. But, as will be seen the great scientific achievements of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were produced by a group of scholars notable for their piety, who were based in Christian universities, and whose brilliant achievements were carefully built upon an invaluable legacy of centuries of brilliant scholastic scholarship....What Copernicus added was not a leap but was the implicit next step in a long line of discovery and innovation stretching back for centuries.” Pg. 144

Announcements:

- ❖ **Sunday**—No Young Adult gathering, due to President’s day weekend
- ❖ **Tuesday**—Sister & Mom’s Prayer Group @ 11am every Tuesday in Center room 1 w/Sr. Maria Caeli
- ❖ **Wednesday**—Confession @ 5pm; Mass @ 6pm; Soup Supper @ 6:30 in Camerman Hall, followed by “The Reason Series” by Fr. Spitzer for Adults, and Youth Programs in Parish Ctr & Youth Ctr
- ❖ **Thursday**—Perpetual Adoration mtg. @ 9am in Center room 1; Senior Social @ 1pm in Center rooms 1 & 2
- ❖ **Friday**—**Funeral Mass for William Eric Scheer @ 11am**; Stations of the Cross @ 5:30pm in Church, followed by KC’s Fish Fry & “Food for Families” Food Drive in Camerman Hall
- ❖ **March 3-4**—Men’s Parish Retreat last time to sign up in Vestibule– see bulletin flyer

❖ **Parish Office closed** this week due to Facilities clean-up