

## So why does all this matter?

In 2009 a survey revealed that 77% of Americans identified as Christian. In 2019 that number decreased to 65%. In addition, in 2009 only 17% identified as atheist, agnostic, or none (having no religious affiliation). In 2019 this group increased to 26%. The trend is even more prevalent in Europe where a 2016 survey identified only 30% as belonging to a faith community. 59% said they never attend religious services, and 67% that they never pray.

There is a belief among many that science disproves the existence of God, and that most scientists are atheists. Neither of these statements are true. We need to answer our young peoples' questions about faith and science so that they will have the tools they need to remain strong in their faith. We want to help them know that they can use both faith and reason to find the answers to all our big questions.

To this end, the Diocese of San Diego is implementing the Faith and Science Training Program, in collaboration with Credible Catholic and Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D. Your student will be able to experience the first module of this program in their faith formation program this year.

*Pope St. John Paul II said in Fides et Ratio, "Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth"*

## Faith and Science

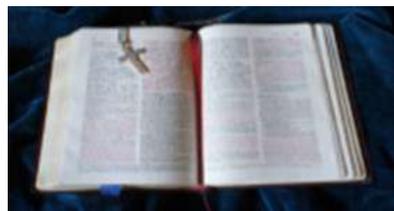


## JUST THE FACTS!

# What We Believe

## There is no conflict between faith and science.

The Catholic Church is not anti-science. We have a long history of encouraging scientists to explore God's creation. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: The things of the world and the things of faith derive from the same God. The humble and persevering investigator of the secrets of nature is being led, as it were, by the hand of God... for it is God, the conserver of all things, who made them what they are. (CCC #159)



## The Bible was never meant to be a science or a history book.

As Catholics, along with most other Christian traditions, we do not have a literal interpretation of the creation stories found in Genesis. Yes, scriptural and scientific accounts differ, but they have different objectives. Origin, an early Christian scholar, and St. Augustine both taught that Genesis was not to be taken literally as science or history, but that the authors used imagery, symbols, and metaphors to make theological points. They also agreed that Scripture always has a spiritual sense, but it does not always have a literal sense. St. Thomas Aquinas taught that God used Biblical authors to produce a work that could be understood by the people of that time. They wrote for an audience that had no knowledge of DNA, carbon dating, or genetics, no microscopes or telescopes. In the words of Galileo, **"The Bible shows us the way to go to heaven, not the way the heavens go."**

## Our all-loving God created everything according to His intelligent plan.

Genesis 1 reveals that our God is all powerful. Genesis 2 reveals that our God is all loving and wants us to have a close special relationship with Him.



The **Who** and the **Why** of creation are discovered through **Faith**.  
The **How** and the **When** of creation are discovered through **Science**.

# Just a few of our famous Catholic Scientists...

## Fr. Georges Lemaitre (1894-1966)



In 1923, Fr. Lemaitre proposed what we now refer to as the "Big Bang Theory". He said that the universe exploded into being 13.8 billion years ago. This theory was later confirmed by other scientists such as Edwin Hubble.

## Blessed Nicolas Steno (1638-1686)



Blessed Nicolas Steno is known as the father of modern Geology. He discovered that what he thought were stones in ancient layers of earth were actually sharks' teeth. His ideas made people realize the earth was much older than just a few thousand years.

## Louis Pasteur (1822-1995)



The founder microbiology, Pasteur developed the process of pasteurization and a vaccine for anthrax. He used his skills to serve others and believed that studying science brings people closer to their creator.

## Fr. Gregor Mendel (1822-1884)



Fr. Mendel, an Augustinian monk, used math, logic and science to successfully identify dominant and recessive traits in genetics. His work was not fully understood until after his death. He is now known as the father of modern genetics.

## Sister Miriam Michael Stimson (1913-2002)



Sister Miriam Michael Stimson, a Dominican nun and scientist specializing in chemistry, paved the way for other scientists to make major discoveries about DNA and ways to fight cancer.