



Magis Center & Credible Catholic

Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., PH.D.

Co-Founder and President, Magis Center



Father Spitzer's UNIVERSE



Fr. Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D.—Theologian, Philosopher, Physicist



Fr. Spitzer's
UNIVERSE

The Magis Center
magiscenter.com



Visit Our Websites!

MagisCenter.com

CredibleCatholic.com

PurposefulUniverse.com

Observations

The PEW Survey from 2016 tells us that 40.2% of millennials and young adults have abandoned their faith and become “nones.” This will grow to 50% in 9 years if left unabated. There are 4 challenges to address this trend toward disbelief among young Catholics.

The 4 Challenges

Science discounts Faith.

No Soul— we are just atoms.

Why is there Suffering ?

No Evidence of Jesus.



Going, Going, Gone

The Dynamics of Disaffiliation
in Young Catholics

<https://catholicresearch.smp.org>

The 7 Essentials

In order to slow attrition, the Magis Center has developed the 7 Essential Modules—a series of seven PowerPoint slide-decks with professional voiceover, embedded videos, graphics, discussion questions, and quizzes. These Modules are science-based and focus on questions of faith, meaning, and transcendence. The Modules make a compelling case for Catholic faith in today's world using contemporary apologetics.

1.0
Evidence of a
Soul from
Medical Studies

2.0
Evidence of
God's Existence
from Science

3.0
Proof of God's
Existence from
Philosophy

4.0
Proof of Jesus'
Resurrection &
Divinity

5.0
Why be
Catholic?

6.0
True
Happiness

7.0
Why Would an
All-Loving God
Allow Suffering?

PowerPoint Design

The Modules are designed to be supplementary material that enhances pre-existing curriculum. The presentations are easy to follow and flexible to use.

The Modules are **FLEXIBLE** and **EASY TO USE**.

- You **don't** need to be a scientist or philosopher to use the Modules; they are made up of 14-16 total hours of curriculum (embedded videos, discussion questions, quizzes, etc.).
- **The 12+ version (middle school and adults)** curriculum contains more visuals and less text on each slide and uses age-appropriate speech/word choice
- **The 15+ version (high school and adults)** curriculum contains more text on each slide and uses advanced concepts with matching speech/word choice
- **Spanish Module Set** (voiceover and text; no sub-titles!). Access the Spanish Module from the Credible Catholic website (under *programs* or *access free teaching resources* from the homepage).



Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., PH.D.



What Young People Need To Maintain Their Faith



The Challenge

- 2012, 2014, AND 2015 Pew Surveys indicate that 42% of young people will abandon faith in God before they are 25 years old.*
- CARA 2017 Study indicates that median age of those abandoning their faith is 13!**
- The Catholic Church is losing membership faster than any other Church in the US.***
- Half the young people who become unbelievers do so because of a lack of rational and scientific evidence. ****

Citations on next slide



Citations

*See Pew Foundation 2015 “Millennials increasingly are driving growth of ‘nones’”

www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/05/12/millennials-increasingly-are-driving-growth-of-nones/

**See Robert J. McCarty 2017 “Going, Going, Gone: The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics,” p. 26.

https://read.nxtbook.com/ncea/momentum/2018_fall/going_going_gone_the_dynamics.html.

***Pew Survey: America’s Changing Religious Landscape: Net Gains and Losses by Religious Tradition: Unaffiliated Make Big Gains, Catholics Suffer Major Losses

<https://www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/chapter-2-religious-switching-and-intermarriage/#net-gains-and-losses-by-religious-tradition-unaffiliated-make-big-gains-catholics-suffer-major-losses>

****Michael Lipka “Why America’s ‘nones’ left religion behind”

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/08/24/why-americas-nones-left-religion-behind/>



The Solution

7 key fact areas will convince **97%** of young people to refrain from unbelief
(Beta Tests available):

1. The facts about scientists.
2. The peer-reviewed medical evidence of a transphysical soul.
3. Scientific evidence for creation by a superintellect.
4. Answers to questions about 'the bible and science,' evolution, Galileo, and aliens.
5. Credible contemporary scientific and historical evidence for Jesus and His resurrection.
6. Contemporary scientifically validated miracles showing the truth of the Catholic Church.
7. Reasons for why an all-loving God would allow suffering.

Go to 'CredibleCatholic.com,' click on 'endorsements,' to view testimonies from diocesan leadership, teachers, parents, and students



The Facts About Scientists

- 51% of scientists are declared theists or believe in a higher spiritual power. *
- 41% of scientists are either agnostics or atheists (about 20% agnostics and 21% atheists).*
- Young scientists are more inclined to be theistic (66%) than older scientists. *
- 76% of physicians are either religious practitioners (51%) or spiritual (24%) (12% agnostic and 11% atheists). **
- 73% of physicians believe in miracles past and present.***

Citations on next slide



Citations

*See Pew Research Foundation 2009 “Religion and Science in the United States: Scientists and Belief” in

<https://www.pewforum.org/2009/11/05/scientists-and-belief/>

** Kristin Robinson et. al, “Religious and Spiritual Beliefs of Physicians”

National Library of Medicine <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27071796/>

***HCD Research and Finkelstein Institute

https://www.worldhealth.net/news/science_or_miracle_holiday_season_survey/



Peer Reviewed Medical Evidence of a Soul

A. Peer-reviewed medical studies of near-death experiences (e.g. Parnia 2014 *resuscitation*, Van Lommel, 2001 *The Lancet*).

- 18% of adults and 85% of children report soul leaving their bodies with cognition, vision, hearing, memories, and transphysical movement.
 - About 50% of those adults and about 100% of those children go to heavenly domain.
 - Several hundred cases report unusual veridical data 100% accurately—validated by independent researchers after the fact (Holden studies + Parnia + Van Lommel).
-



Peer Reviewed Medical Evidence of a Soul

- 81% of blind people see (most of them for the first time) when they are clinically dead and report veridical data. (Kring studies + Van Lommel + Greyson).
 - No death anxiety (subconscious) after NDE.
 - Verified reports of encounters with deceased relatives (U. Virginia Med School + Greyson + Kelly).
-



Evidence of a Transphysical Soul from Terminal Lucidity

B. 1 hour before death severely brain damaged individuals have clear cognition and memory.

- Severe Alzheimer's, dementia, mental disabilities from birth, brain trauma, etc. (Studies of M. Nahm, B. Greyson, J. Bering, and R. Tanzi).

C. Significant cognition in hydrocephalic patients.

- Hydrocephalic patients have less than 5% of brain tissue smashed into the upper part of the cranium by fluids in the cranial cavity.
 - Out of 600 hydrocephalic patients 30 had significant IQ, and some had genius level IQ. (J. Lorber 1983 + M. Nahm 2012).
 - J. Lorber asks, "is your brain really necessary?"
-



Evidence from Science for Creation

- A. The Borde-Vilenkin-Guth Proof of a beginning of all universal and multiverse systems with an expansion rate greater than zero.
 - Applies to our universe, a hypothetical multiverse, a hypothetical string universe, and bouncing universes.
 - B. Evidence of Entropy shows that all physical systems eventually run down. Therefore, no physical system can last an infinite amount of time without being *dead*.
 - Applies to our universe and other hypothetical physical systems, such as multiverse.
 - When BVG and entropy are combined, there is an almost inevitable conclusion of a beginning of physical reality itself (Vilenkin Conclusion).
 - A beginning implies a creation beyond the physical domain.
-



Evidence from Science for Creation Continued

C. Fine-tuning of universal conditions and constants implies transcendent intelligence.

- Low entropy at the Big Bang (Roger Penrose).
 - Necessary for development of life odds of this occurring: same as monkey typing Shakespeare.
- The weak force constant relative to gravitational constant at the Big Bang.
 - If constant values are off by only one part in 10^{50} than either universe is crushed or continuously exploding—both options exceedingly bad for life forms.
- Problems with multiverse.
- Hoyle Conclusion.



Answering Vital Questions

- How can the scientific account of creation be reconciled with Genesis?
 - Does the Catholic Church permit evolution?
 - What are the theistic accounts of evolution?
 - Who are our first ancestors? Was there really an Adam and an Eve?
 - Why did the Church persecute Galileo?
 - Are there aliens, and how does this square with the Catholic Church?
-

Scientific and Historical Evidence

- A. Historical evidence from hostile sources contemporaneous with Jesus.
 - B. Scientific investigation of the Shroud of Turin.
 - The debunking of the 1988 carbon dating (Roger's 1998 and Casabianca 2019)
 - Blood Evidence: The precise parallels with gospel accounts of Jesus' unique crucifixion.
 - Image evidence—evidence of a resurrection in glory.
 - Image must be produced by light radiation (likely source—directional vacuum ultraviolet radiation).
 - Image requires 6-8 *billion* watts of light energy in a pulse of one 40-billionth of a second (J. Jackson + Empirical confirmation Di Lazzaro 2010).
 - Body must become mechanically transparent (spiritual) for 3-D imaging (Jackson 2001).
-



Scientifically Validated Miracles

A. Scientifically validated Eucharistic Miracles.

- Buenos Aires, Argentina 1996 overseen by Archbishop Bergoglio
- Heart tissue, AB+ blood type, and white blood cells embedded in ventricle wall.
- Sokolka, Poland 2008
- Heart tissue, AB+ blood type, white blood cells embedded in ventricle wall, transmutation between substance of host and substance of heart tissue finely integrated.

B. Scientifically validated Marian Miracles.

- Guadalupe Image
 - Lourdes International Medical Bureau
 - Fatima Miracle of Sun
-



Scientifically Validated Miracles

C. Scientifically validated miracles concerned with Saints.

- Strict procedure for scientific validation of miracles concerned with saints' beautification and canonization.
- Saint Pope John Paul II
- Venerable Fulton J. Sheen
- Saint Padre Pio of Pietrelcina



Magis Center Resources

- A. CredibleCatholic.com—Free Resources for students, parents, and teachers.
 - Go to CredibleCatholic.com and click on ‘access free resources’ or ‘free resources’.
 - B. **The *Master Teacher Program*** to help teachers gain confidence and knowledge to teach science-based apologetics.
 - Go to CredibleCatholic.com and click on ‘master teacher program’ (multiple options).
 - There is a charge—bulk purchases are available.
 - C. Resources for teachers and parents:
 - *Most Asked Questions* videos, teacher forum with Ph.D.'s to answer ?'s, and *Best Practices* videos for teachers.
 - Go to CredibleCatholic.com, click on ‘master teacher program,’ and click on ‘become a member.’
-



How Can Teachers Access and Learn this Knowledge?

- Join the *Master Teacher Program* and *Get Certified!*
 - Earn your *Certificate in Contemporary Apologetics*, issued by Magis Center and Catholic Distance University.
 - 11-13 hrs. that can be applied to Catechetical Credit, Continuing Education Hours, or Professional Development.





When you join the **Master Teacher Program's *Certificate in Contemporary Apologetics*** you get full access to all ***Member* benefits!**

Most Asked Questions (MAQ) Video Series

- With a simple click you'll have a library of videos designed to help guide your instruction and answer any lingering questions on contemporary apologetics your students might have

Best Practices Video Series

- See other apologists demonstrating how to teach Credible Catholic's course content in the classroom, explaining their teaching methodology, and providing direct instruction on how to incorporate course content into your lesson plans

Forum (for diocesan officials, teachers, catechists, and adult learners!)

- Join discussion groups on contemporary apologetics
- Discussion groups are moderated by experts in fields regarding apologetics

Credible Catholic Blog

- Access articles on methodological teaching practices for contemporary apologetics to use in your classrooms



If you have any questions on Credible Catholic, the Modules, or the Presenter's Guides, please contact Susan@MagisCenter.com!

To make a diocesan bulk purchase of the *Master Teacher Program* for your Catechists and Teachers please contact Janell@MagisCenter.com!

Credible Catholic's
Master Teacher Program *Certificate in Contemporary Apologetics*
Available Now at CredibleCatholic.com
