

RCIA SEPT 15, 2022

Faith and Reason

How are we as humans approaching god.

Encyclical popes letter to the people. John Paul II *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—in a word, to know himself—so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves

Church wants faith and reason together in falling in love with god. Approach god in a logical way.

St. Thomas Aquinas: faith covers the things that logic might not apprehend in the beginning. Faith will uphold reason. Sin darkens intellect. Clouds our reason

Baltimore Catechism older volume – Who made us? God made us. Why? To know him to love him

We want you to be confident to ask the question does god exist? How are you approaching the belief in god.

Gospel of John: Doubting Thomas

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Thomas wants to see concrete evidence that Jesus is back. Jesus comes to him later and tells him to look at his hands, look at his side which were pierced. He comes to Thomas when he gathered with all the disciples

God is going to reveal himself to us in communion with other people – in the Church

We believe that god made all things. Supernatural. God wants us to dwell with him forever in heaven.

Other evidence catholic church is not against science.

Galileo – said earth was not the center of the universe which is what the Catholic Church taught. He said the sun was center. The church reacted strongly against as they thought in a poetic way that god is above earth. Galileo – said what the church was teaching was wrong so they stopped funding his research and pushed him away. (exiled him to a mansion)

Founder of modern genetics was a catholic. Many Catholic scientists – Big Bang Theory

God has created us as individuals to know him, love him. He created us to use faith and reason to see him and know him.

Important questions: Does god exist? Is God greater than me? Does God love me?

Miracles evidence of God and his love for us. Inexplicable

St Thomas Aquinas – there has to be a creator because nothing can come from nothing, cause-effect. All goes back to 1 cause.

Book of Genesis is true but its not a manual. It is a literary story that has to be understood as when it was written.