



**April 15, 2026**

**Welcome!**

**Please grab a snack and take this  
time to check in with the people  
at your table.**

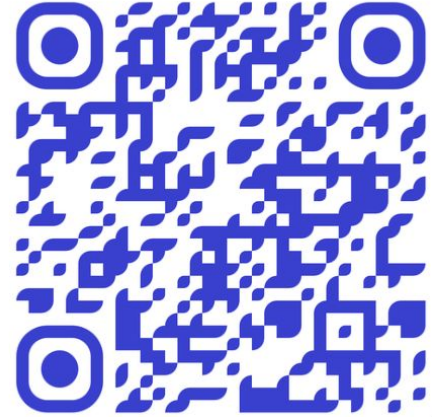
**How was their week/day?**

**How are they doing?**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Sacrament Meetings: Sunday, April 19th**
  - **SPY1/OCIC1- 12:30-2:00pm**
  - **SPY2/OCIC2- 2:30-4:00pm**
    - **Service Project**
- **Sacrament Mass-We need EMHC**
- **Sacrament Mass Pew Sign Ups**
- **2026-27 Catechists**
- **Summer Programs-Register Today!**
  - **Mission Outpost Summer Summit-(Totus Tuus)**
    - **June 7-12**
  - **VBS-Vacation Bible School**
    - **July 13-17**



# LIVING CATHOLIC

Faith & Reason





**Let us Pray:**

**Hebrews**

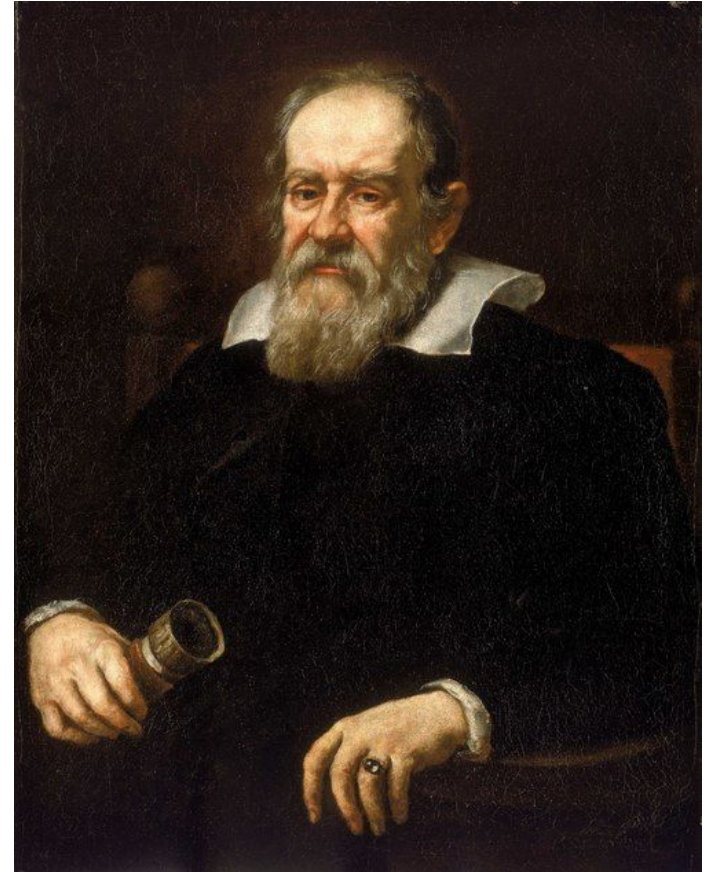
**11:1-3**

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.”

Read 3x

# The Galileo Affair

- Galileo was born Feb. 15, 1564.
- He built a telescope and made groundbreaking observations.
- He argued for Copernicus's sun-centered cosmology.
- In 1616, the Holy Office declared Galileo "formally heretical [and] erroneous in the faith."
- The Congregation of the Index decreed that the sun-centered theory is "false and contrary to Holy Scripture."



# Scripture verses which seem to presuppose an earth-centered cosmology:

Psalm 93:1 “He has established the world; it shall never be moved.”

Joshua 10:13 “And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies.”

Ecclesiastes 1:5 “The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hurries to the place where it rises.”



HEAVEN OF HEAVENS  
שמי השמים

WATERS ABOVE  
מים הרקיע

RAQIA "THE FIRMAMENT"  
רקיע

SUN & MOON  
ענקים

שמש ויריד  
"ארוכות המסע"

ארץ

ימים

GREAT DEEP

SHEOL "THE UNDERWORLD"  
שאול

FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH  
עמודי הארץ

CHAOS DRAGON  
"לודיעאן"



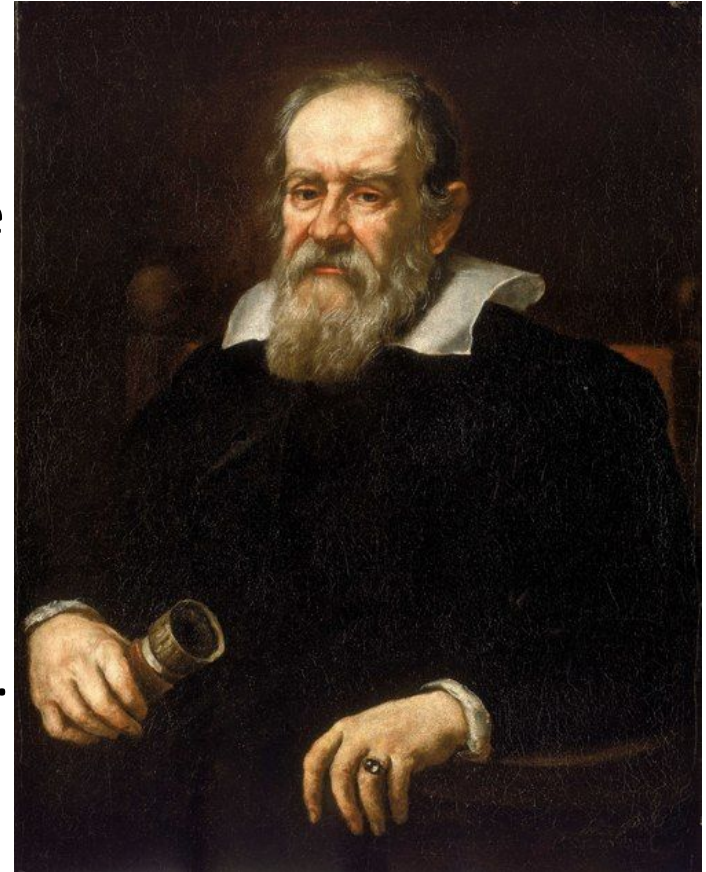


## Discussion Questions

- 1. Imagine that you are living in the 1600s and know nothing about the universe. You trust your senses. The earth stands still, and the sun, moon, and stars revolve around the earth. This is clear. Would you have a difficult time accepting the idea that the earth is revolving around the sun? Why or why not?**
- 2. What do you think about the Church's decision to declare sun-centered theories of the universe "contrary to Holy Scripture"?**

# The Galileo Affair

- In 1623, Pope Urban VIII was elected, an old friend and defender of Galileo.
- The Pope told Galileo that he could write but it had to be as a mere hypothesis.
- In 1631, Galileo wrote his book *Dialogue* which argued for the sun-centered theory, but using incorrect data.
- The Pope felt betrayed.
- In 1633, Galileo was put on trial in Rome. He was found guilty of going against the 1616 decree. He was given penance and house arrest. His book was banned.

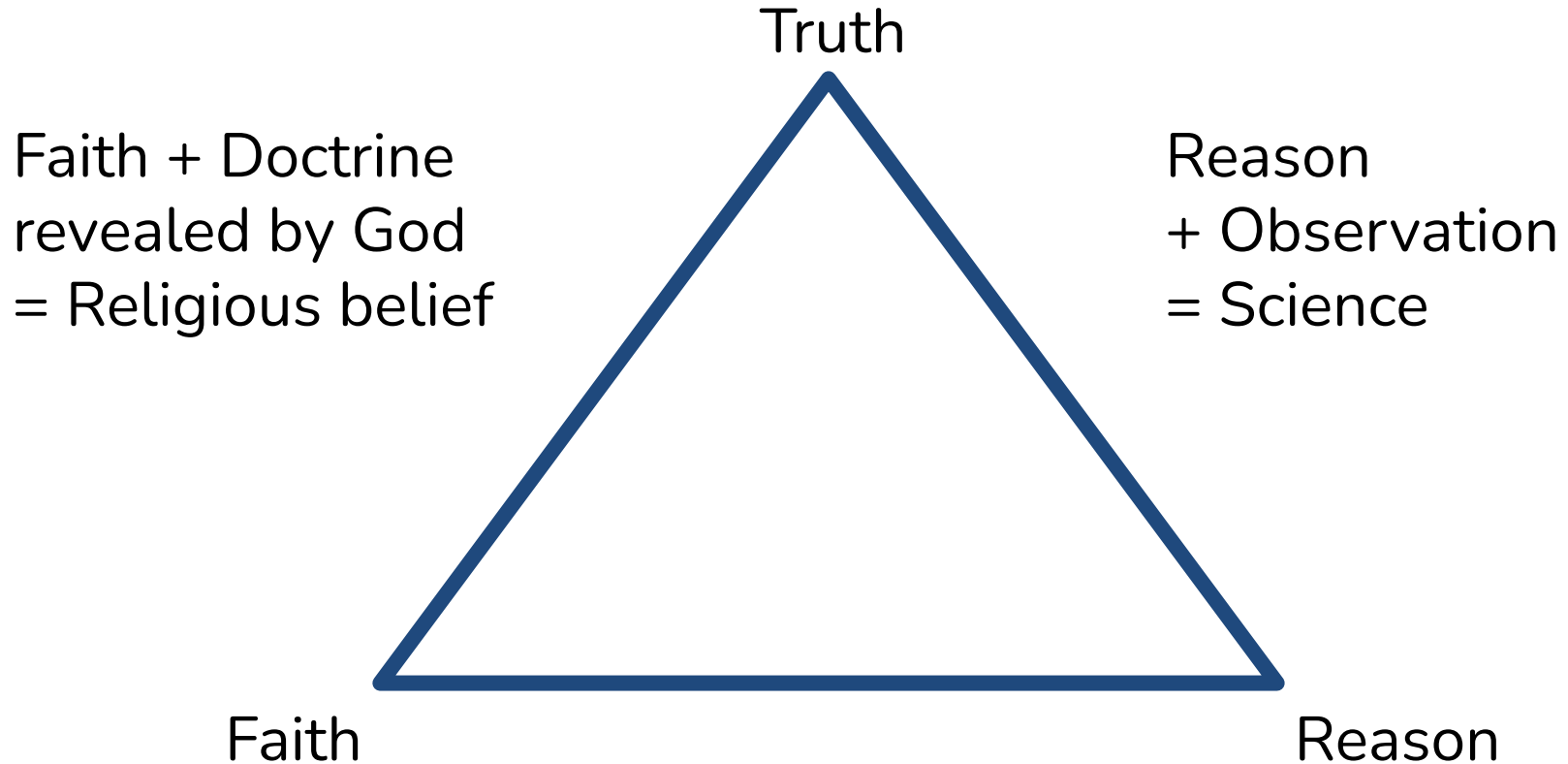


“Faith and reason are like two wings on which  
the human spirit rises to the contemplation of  
truth.”

St. Pope John Paul II, *Fides et ratio*



# Faith and reason both lead to the one truth, Jesus Christ.



# How can we use these faculties to ascend to truth?

## 1) The Faith Method

- a) Doctrine
- b) Is God the author?
- c) If, yes: Calls forth an act of divine faith
- d) The doctrine is infallible

## 2) The Scientific Method

- a) Observation
- b) Recorded (Data)
- c) In relation to a hypothesis, this Data = Evidence
- d) Accumulation of Evidence = Proof

# How can we use these faculties of faith and reason to descend into error?

The most difficult part of the Faith Method is knowing which doctrines/ideas have God as their author. We need to learn to read the Bible carefully.

The most difficult part of the Scientific Method is finding a unique observation point, and assuring that the data supports the hypothesis.

# Conclusions

1. The Galileo affair does not cause a crisis of faith because the Church never exercised its power of infallibility to resolve the issue.
2. The Church overstepped her boundaries by proclaiming that a scientific hypothesis is contrary to Holy Scripture (i.e., faith and morals).
3. Galileo lacked the scientific evidence to support the sun-centered theory and was operating more on faith in that theory.



## Discussion Questions

**3. How have I struggled to find a proper balance between operating on faith and operating on reason in my life?**

**4. The gift of infallibility was given to the Church, but can only be used in certain circumstances. In all other areas, the Church can make mistakes. How do I feel about this?**



## RESOURCES

**For more historical information about the Galileo affair, see:**

**Jerome J. Langford, *Galileo, Science and the Church*, St. Augustine's Press, 1998.**

**Other Resources:**

**St. Pope John Paul II, *Fides et ratio*, encyclical letter, 1998.**



## MEMORARE

**R**EMEMBER, O MOST gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To thee do we come. Before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer us.

AMEN.