



# FAITH VS. SCIENCE

GRANT AASEN

# CLASSES AND STRUCTURE

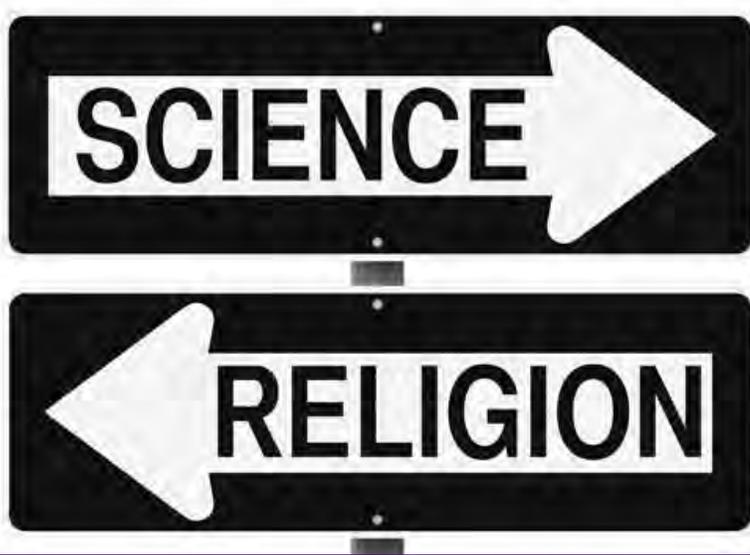
- Feb. 21 **Faith in the Public Square** – Can you legitimately vote for a pro-choice candidate? Where does the Church stand on Abortion, the Death Penalty, Assisted Suicide and can we support Public Officials who do?
- Feb. 28 **Faith and Secular Society** – The current moral landscape in society demands that we support same-sex marriage. How should we reconcile Church teachings on Homosexuality and gender with the Gospel message?
- Mar. 14 **The Last Things - Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell** - Could I go to Hell? What does the Church teach on the existence of Hell and if people do go there?
- Mar. 21 **Living in a Pagan Society** – Can I send my children to public school? How do we live in a world that rejects our Catholic faith?

# INTRODUCTION

# OVERVIEW

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- Popular Perceptions of Faith vs. Science and where they come from?
- How should we understand the Sciences?
- What does the Church teach and what has it done?
- How should we handle Evolution, Creation, & Global Warming?



- Faith and Science are irreconcilable.
- The Church represses the study of science for fear that it will be contradicted.
- Faith and the Church are anti-human progress. They are archaic ways of thinking.
- Faith is irrational and science is all things that align with reason.

“There are not one hundred people in the United States who hate The Catholic Church, but there are millions who hate what they wrongly perceive the Catholic Church to be.” –

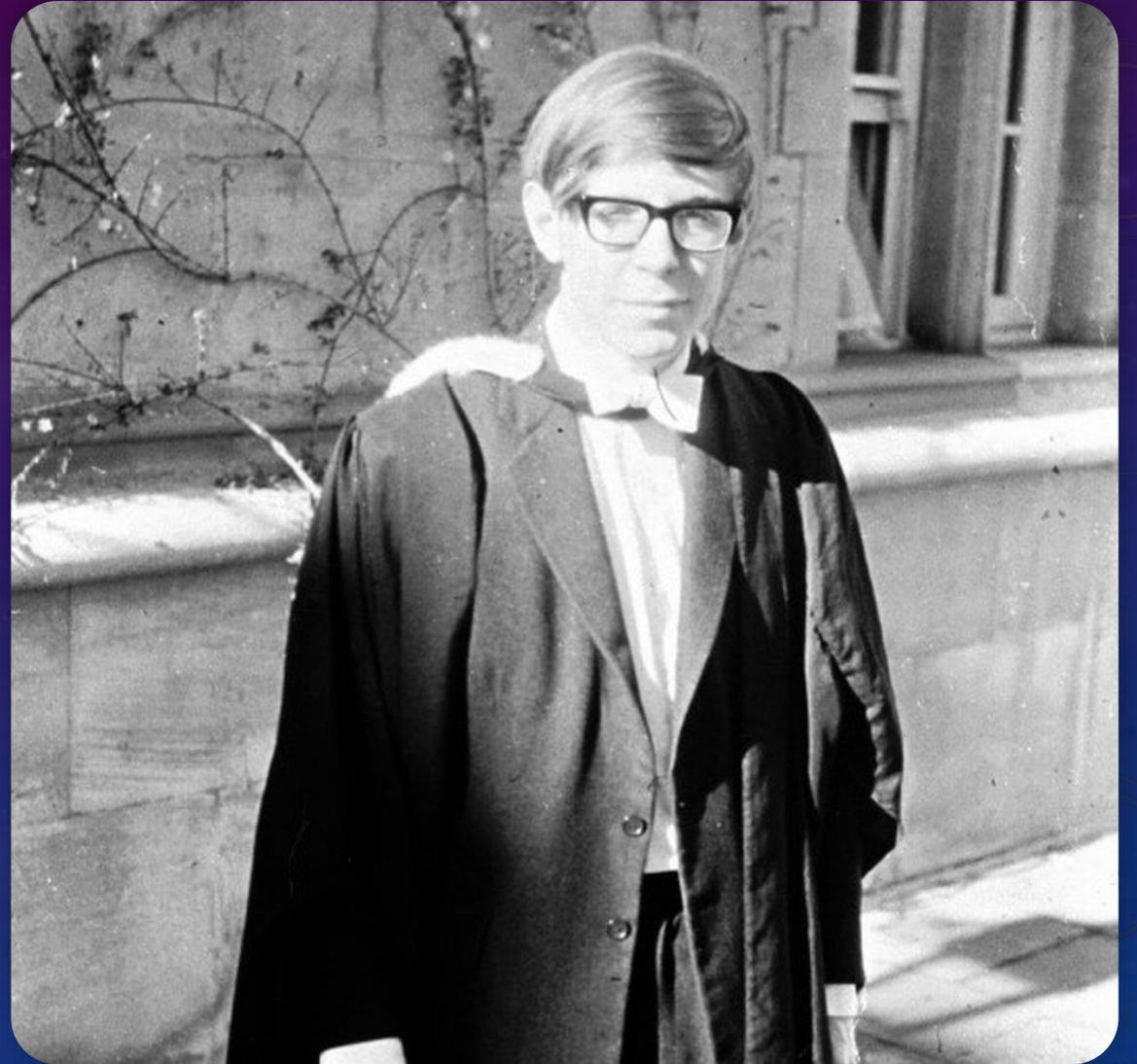
Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen



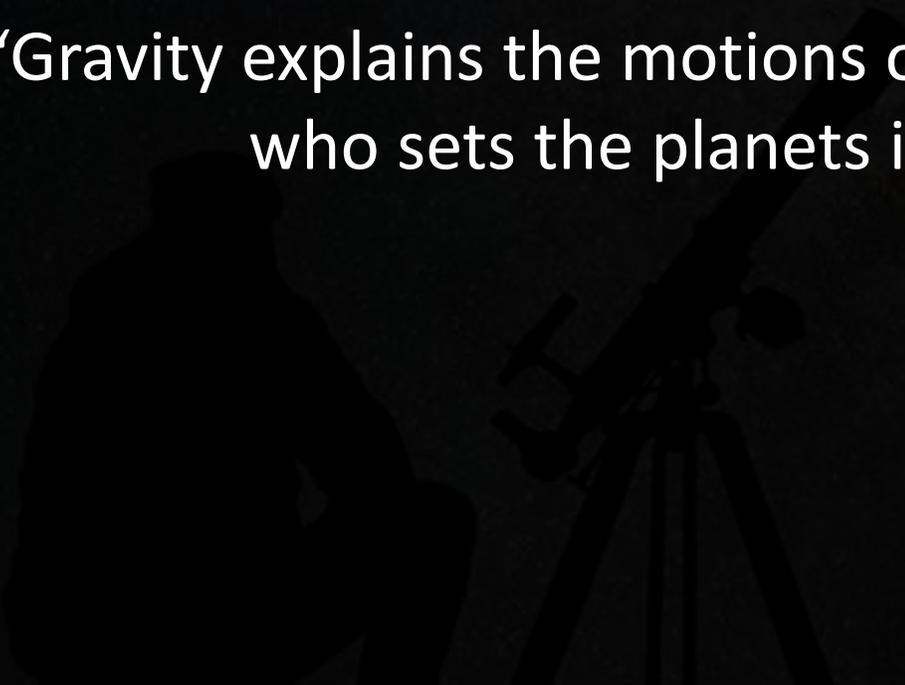
# WHERE DOES THIS COME FROM?

- Misunderstanding of science
- Anti-Catholic Stance
  - Gender, Abortion, Stem Cell, etc.
- Assumption that all things are objectively explainable
- Christian Fundamentalism:
  - Miracles – God of the Gaps
  - Creation
  - Characters in the Old Testament – Giants
  - Dragons of Revelation
  - Discrediting objective truths in favor of literal Biblical translation

“There is a fundamental difference between religion,  
which is based on authority, and science, which is based on  
observation and reason. **Science will win  
because it works.**” – Stephen Hawking



“Gravity explains the motions of the planets, but it cannot explain who sets the planets in motion.” - Isaac Newton



# THERE IS AN ORDER OF THE SCIENCES

- Based on subject matter and procedures
- Hierarchy of what is being studied

# ALL SCIENTIFIC ENDEAVORS OPERATE ON AN ASSUMPTION...

- That the physical world is intelligible and the intelligible structure can be apprehended and known
  - That there are causes and effects

# ARISTOTLE'S 4 CAUSES

- Material – what it is made of
- Formal – defining characteristics
- Final – purpose
- Efficient – what brought it about



“It is possible to demonstrate God’s existence, although not a priori, yet a posteriori from some work of His more surely known to us.” – St. Thomas Aquinas

# SCIENCE IS KNOWLEDGE

God, who through the Word creates all things and keeps them in existence, gives men an enduring witness to Himself in created realities. (Dei Verbum 3)

# UNITY IN TRUTH

JPII Letter to the Vatican Observatory

Yet the unity that we seek, as we have already stressed, is not identity. The Church does not propose that science should become religion or religion science...Each of these members should become not less itself but more itself in a dynamic interchange...We are asked to become one. We are not asked to become each other.

...The unprecedented opportunity we have today is for a common interactive relationship in which each discipline retains its integrity and yet is radically open to the discoveries and insights of the other.

# COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP



- Theology is not to incorporate indifferently each new philosophical or scientific theory.
  - Aristotelian natural philosophy → Christ as both God and man.



...Science can purify religion from error and superstition; religion can purify science from idolatry and false absolutes.



“I say that if there were a true demonstration that the Sun is at the center of the world and the Earth in the third heaven, and that the Sun does not circle the Earth but the Earth circles the Sun, then one would have to proceed with great care in explaining the Scriptures that appear contrary, and say that we do not understand them rather than say that what is demonstrated is false. But I will not believe that there is such a demonstration, until it is shown to me.”

– St. Robert Bellarmine in response to Galileo and the Sun standing still in Josh 10



**The only question is whether they will do this critically...** This they will do well or poorly, with the reflective depth that theological wisdom can help them attain, or with an unconsidered absolutizing of their results beyond their reasonable and proper limits.

“...I am the way, and the truth, and the life...” –John 14:6

# HISTORY

- University System
- Medical Field
- Fr. Christopher Clavius - Implementation of the Modern Gregorian Calendar
- Fr. Piazza - Catalogue of 7,000 Stars and discovery of Ceres
- Giambattista Riccioli – Mapped the Moon
- Angelo Secchi - One of the founders of Astrophysics
- Francesca Grimaldi – Diffraction
- Blessed Niels Stensen – Anatomy and Geology
- Fr. Georges Lemaitre – The Big Bang Theory using space expansion theory and Einstein's gravitational equations
- Gregor Mendel – Father of Genetics

# EVOLUTION AND CREATION

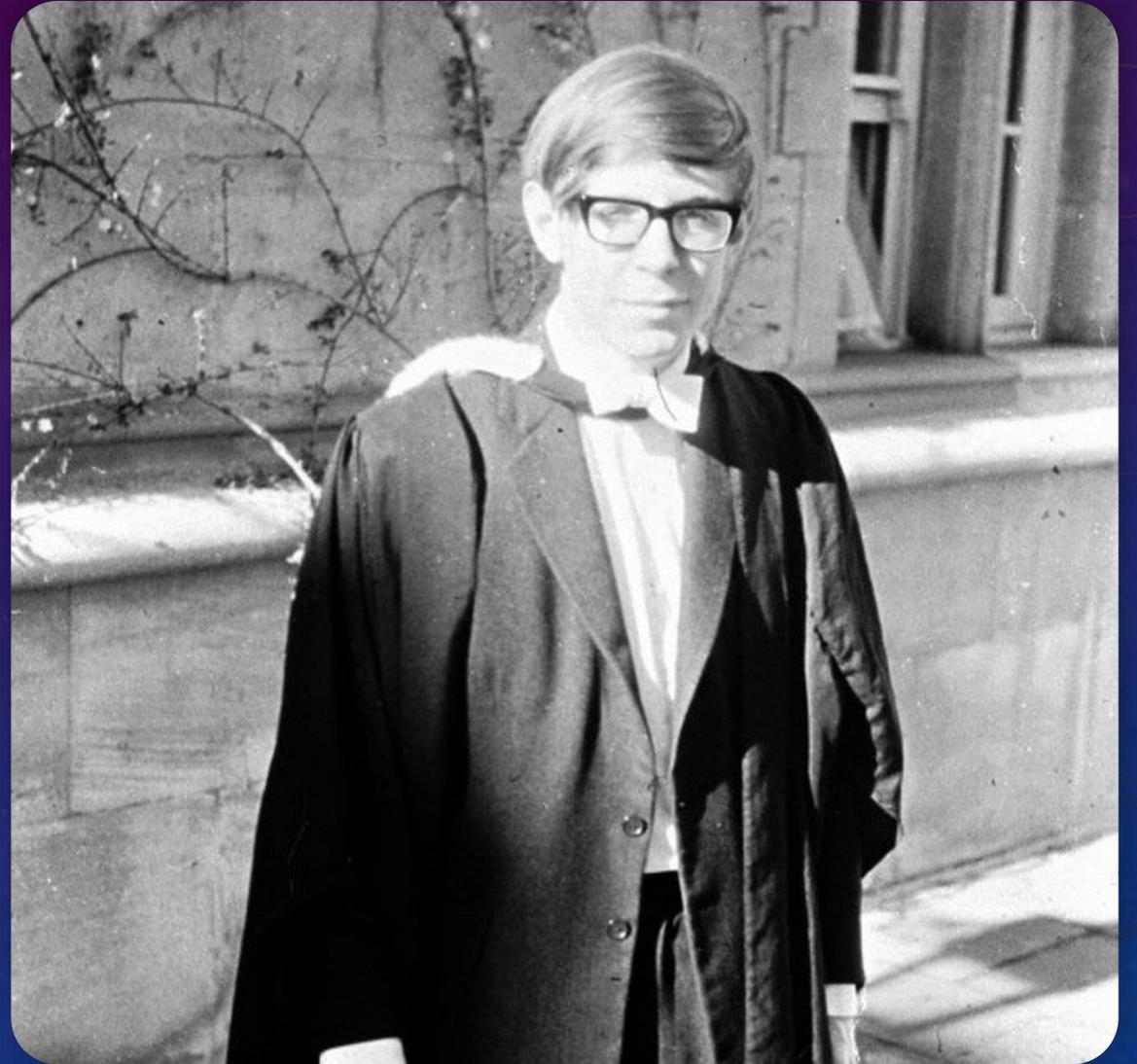
“The Teaching Authority of the Church does not forbid that, in conformity with the present state of human sciences and sacred theology, research and discussions, on the part of men experienced in both fields, take place with regard to the doctrine of evolution, in as far as it inquires into the origin of the human body as coming from pre-existent and living matter — for the Catholic faith obliges us to hold that **souls are immediately created by God**. However, this must be done in such a way that the reasons for both opinions, that is, those favorable and those unfavorable to evolution, be **weighed and judged with the necessary seriousness, moderation and measure**, and provided that all are prepared to submit to the judgment of the Church.” – Humani Generis 36

# GLOBAL WARMING

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” – Genesis 1:26

- ...Science can purify religion from error and superstition; religion can purify science from idolatry and false absolutes.
  - Greed and Politics
- The only question is whether they will do this critically...
  - How long have we been able to accurately record temperatures? (1880)
  - Does CO2 cause temperatures to rise or vice versa?
    - Temperatures are showing an increasing correlation with Solar Activity and CO2 follows.
  - Sea levels remained relatively constant throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.
  - Polar Ice Sheets have not reduced in the last 35 years.
- Do we have better alternatives?

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which is based on authority, and science, which is based on  
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because it works.**” – Stephen Hawking



Following an exhortation to Theologians,  
Philosophers, and Scientists, Pope St. JPII writes:

“Different philosophical systems have lured people into believing that they are their own absolute master, able to decide their own destiny and future in complete autonomy...But this can never be the grandeur of the human being, who can find fulfilment only in choosing to enter the truth...Only within this horizon of truth will people understand their freedom in its fullness and their call

**to know and love God...”**

*(Fides et Ratio 107)*



KNOWLEDGE  
FOUND IN SEARCH  
OF TRUTH

Grant me, O Lord my God,  
a mind to know you,  
a heart to seek you,  
wisdom to find you,  
conduct pleasing to you,  
faithful perseverance in waiting for you,  
and a hope of finally embracing you.

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