

September 19, 2005

BASIC APOLOGETICS COURSE (12-session course)

Schedule: Saturday Starting October 15th

9am to 10:30 Talk/Lecture

10:30 to 11:00 Open Forum

11:00 to 12:00 Mock Debate

Location: Totus Bookstore

2/F Red Ribbon Bldg.

Connecticut corner Missouri Streets

Northeast Greenhills, San Juan MM

Tel 723-4326

Defending the Faith

Catechesis, evangelism, ecumenism, and apologetics share interchangeable parts. Drawing heavily from Scripture, the course explains how apologetics is the bedrock on which all the others rest and which cannot be undertaken without first understanding apologetics.

Why be Catholic?

The course focuses on the irrefutable truth that the Catholic Church is a creation of Christ and how the institution of the papacy is essential to it.

Core Topics: 1, 2 and 3

1. Sacred Tradition BASIC

By What Authority? Discover our Catholic Tradition

The authority of Sacred Tradition is the big dividing line between Catholics and Protestants.

Discover that Catholic Tradition is the other side of the coin of biblical revelation.

2. Holy Scripture BASIC

Exploring the Bible

A tour de force into Scripture that gives the history of the Bible, how its contents were chosen, the various parts that comprise it, how to appreciate God's word, and common mistakes in interpreting it

3. Magisterium – Church BASIC

Learn the Divine institution of the Church and its commission to teach the truth.

Appreciate the authority of the Church through her magisterium headed by the Pope and all the bishops in union with him, as the infallible interpreter of God's word and the final arbiter on doctrinal questions.

4. Sola Fide – Faith Alone? (Salvation and Justification)

The course answers the question: Are we saved by faith alone?

What does the bible really teach? Is it faith alone or faith and good works? What do Protestants mean by Faith Alone? Appreciate the role of good works in relation to faith.

5. Sola Scriptura – Bible Alone (Authority)

Is Sola Scriptura Scriptural?

The question of all questions is authority. What is the Christian's final authority? Is it the Bible alone or the Bible plus Tradition and the Church? *Sola scriptura* is the lens through which Protestants view all doctrinal questions. Learn how to help them replace the false lens of *sola scriptura* with the true lens of sacred Scripture and sacred Tradition. In this engaging talk, DFF tackles common verses used to support *sola scriptura* and shows that "tradition" is not always a dirty word in the Bible.

6. Christology - Divinity of Christ

How to Prove the Existence of God and the Divinity of Christ
 Before we can convince non-Christians that the Catholic Church is the one, true Church established by Jesus, we must first address their more basic questions. Proving God's existence and Jesus' divinity should be child's play for Christians. But for most of us, it isn't. Rediscover the commonsense arguments from design, motion, and causality to prove that God exists. Master the classic "Lord, liar, or lunatic?" demonstration of Jesus' divinity. Learn to present the rational foundation for your faith.
7. Church History (Great Schism, Reformation)

The Incorruptibility of the Catholic Church
 Every anti-Catholic denomination has some fanciful theory about when the Catholic Church became totally corrupt. Whether it was at the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine, or Pope Gregory the Great, or those "dark" Middle Ages, somewhere the original Catholic Church must have dropped the ball. Learn how the witness of the Church Fathers and history confirm that no such corruption has occurred. Demonstrate how Christ's promises to his Church make a total apostasy impossible. Master the commonsense arguments that prove if the Catholic Church was once the true Church of Christ, it is still the true Church.
8. Papacy

Did Jesus Make Peter the Head of the Church?
 The papacy is unique to the Catholic Church. Did Jesus make Peter the head of the Church? If so, did Jesus intend for Peter's authority to pass to his successors, the bishops of Rome? Discover how to show that Jesus established his Church on Peter, the Rock. Be able to explain the difference between *petra* and *petros*, and demonstrate Peter's unique role and authority throughout the Gospels and the book of Acts. Finally, using both Scripture and the Church Fathers, learn to share how Jesus intended the apostles' (including Peter's) authority to be passed on to their successors.
Infallibility Doesn't Mean Never Having to Say You're Sorry
 What's up with the whole infallibility thing? Does anybody believe that stuff anymore? As a matter of fact, yes. This talk explains what infallibility does and does not mean.
9. Eucharist and Sacraments (Baptism, confession, confirmation)

Is the Mass a Sacrilege or a Sacrifice?
 Protestant Reformer John Calvin condemned the Catholic Mass as a blasphemous sacrilege. He claimed that the Mass tries to add to Christ's "once for all" sacrifice on Calvary. How can the Mass be a sacrifice, as the Catholic Church teaches, and how can we reconcile this with the teaching of the book of Hebrews that Christ's sacrifice is unrepeatable? Learn to explain and defend the Catholic Church's supreme and eternal act of worship.
Proving the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist
 One of the most important doctrines to share with non-Catholics is the Eucharist. A crown jewel of the Catholic faith, it is also one of the easiest doctrines to defend. Discover how to present the abundant biblical, patristic, and historical evidence for Christ's Real Presence and answer the most common objections
10. Mariology

The role of the Blessed Mother in the Life of the Church
 Understand the unique role of Mary in the economy of salvation. Explore the rich teaching of the Church about Mary's relationship with the Triune God. Know how to defend your mother from the attacks of non-Catholics.
11. Understanding INC, ADD, Quibology, Aglipay, etc. (Their teaching and weaknesses)

Examine the doctrines of local cults and sects. Know their modes of attack on the Church.
 Be ready to refute their false doctrines and answer their attacks.
12. Understanding Protestants, JW, Mormons, Seventh Day Adventists, etc. (their teaching and weaknesses)

How to Answer Jehovah's Witnesses

Like Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses are among the most aggressive and successful door-to-door evangelizers. Also like Mormons, the majority of JW converts are former Catholics. Learn to identify and refute "core" JW beliefs such as "Jesus was not divine" and "Only 144,000 people go to heaven." Discover how to answer their challenges and inoculate your loved ones against their errors.

How to Answer Mormons

Mormon missionaries are friendly, polite, and well dressed. They want to share with you "another gospel of Jesus Christ." But beware, they've got one goal: to pull you out of the Catholic Church. In this talk, Jim shows you how to target and refute "core" Mormon beliefs such as the great apostasy and continuing revelation.