

Tweeting  
with **GOD**

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# Tweeting with GOD

**1** # The Big Bang, Bible, crusades, purgatory...

**Michel Remery**



**Don Michel Remery** @DonMi... 12s  
Your questions reveal that you are busy with God. By questioning, you can understand the logic of faith, and feel in it your heart #TwGOD

**Veronica** @VeronicaParel 7m  
Is it logical to believe? Can I ask questions? #TwGOD

**Don Michel Remery** @DonMic... 2h  
Not everything in the Bible is to be taken literally, but there is an important message about God's love in each story and parable #TwGOD

**Peter Visser** @PeterVisser01 2h  
Aren't those incredible Bible stories just fairy tales? #TwGOD

# Tweeting with GOD



**1** # The Big Bang, Bible, crusades, purgatory...

Michel Remery



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*For the young people of the JP2 Group*

Imprimatur: ✠ \*\*\*

**Twittering with God 1: the Big Bang, Bible, crusades, purgatory...**

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NUR 000

## About this book

This book will give you support if you want to grow in your faith and your relationship with Jesus. It provides you with the basics about faith in God based on what the Bible and Catholic Church teach. The book can serve as a basis for group discussions, for a deepening of belief after the Evangelium Course, Alpha Course or other similar studies of the faith. It can also help you if you want to explain your belief to others. St Peter calls on believers to: “*Always be prepared to make a defense... for the hope that is in you*” (1 Pt. 3:15). See further [WWW.TWEETINGWITHGOD.COM](http://WWW.TWEETINGWITHGOD.COM).

The questions in this book are real questions from young people. For a few years, young people gathered together every other week in the author’s church in Leiden, The Netherlands (not far from Amsterdam) to think about their faith. They called their group the JP2 Group, after Pope John Paul II (SEE TWEET 2.50). All topics were fair game, and nothing was taboo. So, do not expect a complete catechesis in this book. The answers are formulated as they would be when talking with young people, rather than trying to be scholarly or giving exhaustive answers. The questions are grouped in the book around global topics to make them easier to find.

Pope Francis called the project *Tweeting with God* very important: whilst he placed his hand on one of the books to bless the project, he prayed for a few moments in profound contemplation for all the people who will read in these books in search for the truth in their lives (SEE PICTURE). His words are directed also to you: “Today, Jesus is calling each of you to follow him in his Church and to be missionaries. The Lord is calling you today! Not the masses, but you, and you, and you, each one of you. Listen to what he is saying to you in your heart” (HOMILY JULY 27, 2013).

This first volume deals with the essence of faith, God, the creation, the Bible, and the ways that God relates to us. It also deals with the origin and history of the Church and how the Church is present in the world. The second volume deals with praying and how difficult life can be, with the role of the church building, and what liturgy and Sacraments do for us. It also deals with the Christian life and the different choices that you may be confronted with as a believer.

### Read more

In particular in the boxes ‘Read more’ you find reference to texts which further explain a topic or develop its background. Most reference is to paragraph numbers. Read more in:

- the Bible. See Appendix 1 for a list of abbreviations,
- the Catechism of the Catholic Church (ccc),
- the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (cccc),
- Youcat (YOUCAT),
- ecclesiastical documents like encyclicals (letters) by the Pope.

Find direct links to these and many more texts and videos: [www.tweetingwithgod.com](http://www.tweetingwithgod.com).



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# Part 1

## # Tweets about God: the Beginning & the End

## Introduction

Of all the events and appointments on my calendar, I especially look forward to those three or four nights throughout the year when I celebrate Mass for young adults at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. The cathedral is packed with over 2,000 men and women, working professionals in their 20s and 30s, who are seeking a closer relationship with Jesus through his Church, hungry for the truth and eager for fellowship and support from other faithful Catholics their own age. They come hoping that as their bishop I will be able to help them in their faith journey, and I certainly try to do that for them.

But, they also inspire me to a deeper faith, for if in this city that is the very center of business, communications, culture, and entertainment – called the “capital of the world” by Pope Saint John Paul II – there still exists this yearning for God, then I know that the future of the Church is in very good shape.

I often spend extra time after these Masses, meeting with those present and answering their questions. Some questions are simple and fun, like what kind of music do I enjoy listening to or who would I root for in a Saint Louis Cardinal/New York Yankee World Series. But most reflect the challenges that these young adults experience in living out their faith in today's world, a world that often tells them that their beliefs are foolish, old-fashioned, and out of step with reality.

*Tweeting with GOD* by Fr. Michel Remery taps into the longing for Jesus, and the desire for a closer relationship with him, that so many young people feel today. He tackles their questions with straightforward answers, all presented in a clear, concise format. Everything is addressed: from is there a God, why did he create us and the universe, and is the Bible true, to who was Jesus, why is Mary so important, what does it mean to have faith, and how can we know our ultimate goal in this life – and the next.

Before someone can love Jesus, he has to get to know him. Jesus himself understood this. Remember what he told his first disciples? “Come, follow me.” Spend time with me. Listen to me. It's the same invitation that he extends to you and me today! And what did he tell those Apostles just before he went up to heaven? “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

This book inspires us to obey that last command! @DonMichelRemery combines the timeless teaching of our faith with the best of modern technology, and #TwGOD is a great way for us to follow our Lord's final instruction!

✠ Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan  
Archbishop of New York  
@cardinaldolan

## Introduction

This book was written for you! There may be all sorts of reasons that you picked it up. Maybe you liked the title. Maybe you are looking for answers. Maybe it was a gift. Maybe people are asking you about your faith. Or perhaps you picked it up because you were bored... Whatever the reason, as you start reading, I would like to suggest four things.

### Dare to ask!

You're free to ask questions. By asking questions, you formulate your own thoughts and doubts. Your questions can tell you more about who you are, what you long for and what you have to do. An answer to your questions can help you take a next step in life. In this book, I'm sure you'll run into lots of your questions (and hopefully even some answers).

### Dare to listen!

Listening can be quite difficult, especially if deep down you think you already know the answers. Real listening can be quite confrontational. It can teach you more about who you are, what you truly think, and what you believe. The tweets in this book may help you with that.

### Dare to think!

Everyone can think. But *really* thinking is something we do not do all that often. Do you ever think about who you are? Where you came from? Where you're going? Or, are you mostly concerned with your daily life? I would like to challenge you to think for yourself about the answers presented in this book.

### Dare to have faith!

Having faith in Jesus is not so bizarre or illogical as some people think. Quite the contrary: many questions can be answered only through our faith in Jesus. But we don't only believe with our heads. Perhaps even more importantly, we also believe with our hearts.

## # Trust in God!

That's not always easy. When I studied architecture at Delft University of Technology, I used to go to church occasionally, but I only saw old people there. It seemed clear to me that the Church would not continue to exist for much longer.

That changed, however, when I visited World Youth Day in Manila and met young Catholics from all over the world. Not only were they of my age, but they were full of enthusiasm for Jesus and his Church. Getting to know Jesus has been a long journey for me, and there are still many things I don't know about him. So, I keep asking questions. But in my heart I am sure that I can rely on him and on the Church. I trust him. That is faith.



## # I dare to have faith. What about you?



The Bible says I can love God with all my mind, all my heart and all my soul (Lk. 10:27). I believe with my mind that what Jesus has to say perfectly fits with who I am as a person. I believe with my heart that Jesus loves me. And I believe with my soul that he invites me to follow him, to remain close to him in my daily life and even when I die!

In my life I have discovered that Jesus wants to be my friend – a friend who cares about me and wishes the best for me. And I know and believe that he can give me what's best – not only later in heaven, but also in the here and now. That's why I am happy, even when I have to go through difficulties, and even when I'm sad or in pain – because I'm not alone!

I really hope that this book will help you to discover this for yourself. Jesus wants to be your friend. He only wants one thing: that you will be happy in your life. That's why he wants to help you to get to know him better. He wants to help you to learn to talk to him and to pray. He wants to help you to come to see how much sense it makes to have faith. He wants to answer all your questions.

*Father Michel Remery*



## 1.1 Doesn't the Big Bang rule out faith in God?

For a long time, scientists have been trying to learn more about how the world came into existence. In Central Europe, for example, an institute for the study of physics called CERN, constructed a machine to try to model the Big Bang. That's very interesting, highly technical stuff.

However, some people think that the Church is against that sort of thing, and only accepts the biblical story of creation in Genesis (SEE TWEET 1.2) as an explanation for how the universe came into being (often called *creationism*). But that certainly isn't true. The Church is not at all opposed to science. Quite the opposite!

### # Catholic wisdom

Throughout the ages, the Church has nurtured many great scientists (SEE BOX). For example, it was a Catholic priest, Fr Georges Lemaître (†1966), who first suggested the theory of the Big Bang. He was awarded by the Church in several ways, which in itself shows that his theory does not contradict the claims of faith.

In fact, whereas Fr Lemaître's ideas met a lot of resistance from outside the Church, he was supported by Pope Pius XII (†1958). Although the Big Bang theory is not direct, scientific evidence of God creating the universe, it is certainly compatible and consonant with the biblical story of a creation out of nothing (*ex nihilo*, as it is called), which started with light (GEN. 1:3). There is nothing to stop us from seeing God as the one who struck the match for this creative firecracker, some 14 billion years ago!

### # Origin of life

Like the Big Bang, the theory of genetics was also first developed by a priest, Gregor Mendel (SEE TWEET 1.3). The picture of the universe and of life presented by such theories is of a gradual development over time. This picture is consonant with a Catholic understanding of the world in which God gives his creatures the dignity of contributing freely to this unfolding development (SEE TWEET 1.3). Indeed the Latin word for unfold, *evolvere*, which St Augustine used in the early fifth century to describe the development

### Who are the best-known Catholic scientists?

There are a lot of Catholics among the great scientists and scholars of history. The Franciscan Roger Bacon (†1292), for example, was ordered by the pope to write a book about philosophy and natural science. Cardinal Nicolas of Cusa (†1464) developed lenses to help short-sighted people. Catholics were the first to map the world: think of Marco Polo (†1324), Bartholomew Dias (†1500) or Christopher Columbus (†1506).

The brilliant works of Leonardo da Vinci (†1519) are known to a lot of people. But don't forget Nicolas Copernicus (†1543), who first brought forward the theory that the sun was the centre of the universe. Fr Matteo Ricci (†1610) was the first to work on a Chinese dictionary. Fr Angelo Secchi (†1878) laid the foundation for astrophysics and founded the Vatican Observatory.

Jean-Baptiste Lamarck (†1884) was the first to formulate a theory of evolution and Gregor Mendel (†1884) is the father of genetics (SEE TWEET 1.3). These learned men were all Catholics, just as Alessandro Volta (†1827) and André-Marie Ampère (†1836), who made great discoveries in the field of electricity.

### Read more

Creation 'out of nothing': CCC 296-297; CCCC 54; YOUCAT 43.

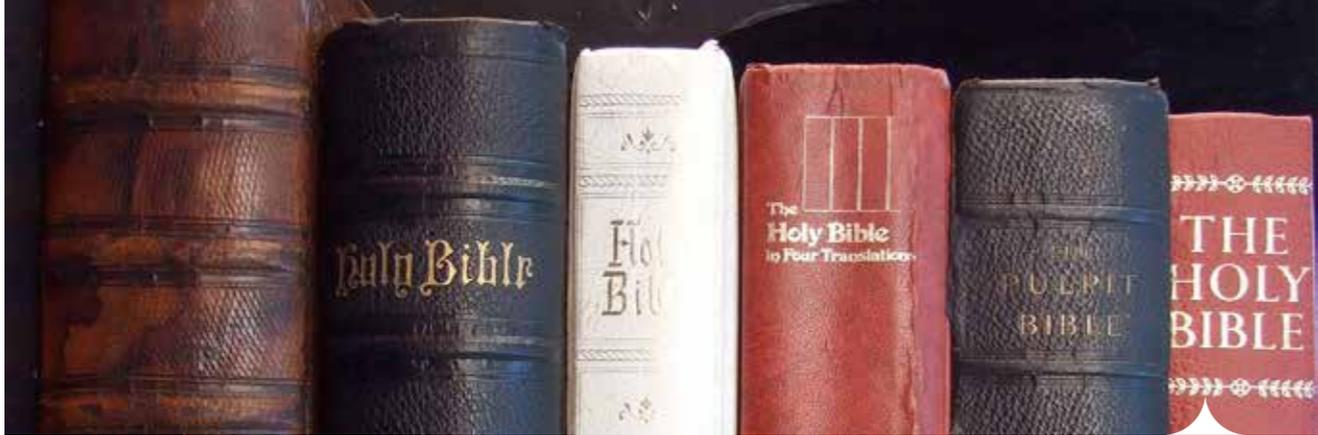
of the universe, is the origin of the modern word 'evolution'. Nevertheless, all scientific theories can only describe how some physical things are transformed into other physical things. Since the things they describe are not self-causing (they did not create themselves), there remains a need for a first cause (SEE TWEET 1.9). This initial cause of all things that follow we normally call 'God'. Moreover, Catholic thinkers, along with others, have perceived great order and beauty in the way the universe is put together. Although not a formal proof, this underlying order is conducive to belief that the universe is the work of a creative, divine intellect.

### # Creation out of nothing

The story of creation tells us how God has made the world with great care. He made everything 'out of nothing': the vast universe with all its solar systems, but also the smallest molecule in your body. When you realise this, God feels very personal. And God is everywhere. Even in deep space, if a space traveller were floating in the darkness between planets, God would be present (Ps. 139:8-12).



Science cannot prove that God is NOT behind the Big Bang. On the contrary: it's a beautiful theory about how God created the world!



The Bible: true or false?



## 1.10 Why is the Bible so important?

It's very interesting to consider the origins, history and structure of the Bible. But it's even more important to realize that the Bible is a fantastic treasure. A treasure that can change your life if you let the text truly speak to you.

### # Word of God

With good reason the Bible is called 'Holy Scripture' or the 'Word of God'. The Bible is not only about God, it is also about you! Every text in the Bible has words for you from God. It's not merely a book with words written a long time ago: God wants to speak to you here and now through these ancient texts.

The Bible contains the totality of God's inspired written truth, revealing himself and his 'Plan of Salvation' (SEE TWEET 1.27). It is the only book you will never finish reading. You can always discover new meanings in a Bible verse. The more you read it, the more you discover the ways God speaks to people – the more you learn to discover the Will of God in your life (SEE TWEET 3.4).

### # God is love

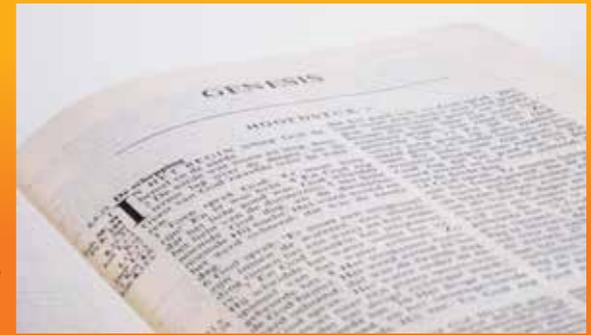
The most important message that the Bible can give is that God truly loves us. We can read about how he created us, and the whole world, out of love (SEE TWEET 1.2). Out of love he sent prophets to guide people down the right path towards God. Out of love he was with his people during their long wanderings and saved them from oppression and other difficulties (SEE TWEET 1.24). Eventually, it was out of love that Jesus was born and became a man. With Jesus, God himself walked on the earth and told us about his love for us human beings. Crucially, it was out of love that Jesus sacrificed his life, died on the cross, and also rose from the dead (SEE TWEET 1.26). After his resurrection he walked and preached on the earth, alive again, before ascending into heaven. The Bible gives us the account of many people who witnessed all those things and then told others about them. The resurrection of Jesus can also be seen as a promise of God that we, too, will rise from the dead and will be able to live forever with him in heaven (SEE TWEET 1.50).

### How can I look up a citation from the Bible?

The Bible has been divided into:

- Books
- Chapters
- Verses

If we want to refer to the first three verses of the Bible, first we mention the book (Genesis), then the chapter (1), and then the verses (1 to 3). In order to save space, the names of the books are often abbreviated (GEN. 1:1-3). See Appendix 1 in the back for a full list of abbreviations. Some names are present in more than one book in a series, for example, the first and the second books of Kings (I KGS. AND II KGS.).



### # Old and new

The two parts of the Bible, the Old and the New Testament, form a unity. Together they tell us about God's love for mankind. "The Old Testament prepares for the New and the New Testament fulfills the Old; the two shed light on each other. Both are the true Word of God" (CCC 140). Therefore, we can consider the whole Bible as a source of help and guidance for our life as Christians. We can say to God, with words from Scripture: "Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (PS. 119:105). In the New Testament, Jesus explained to his followers how the Old Testament spoke about him: "Beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself" (LK. 24:27). He warned that the most important thing

is not to conduct an intellectual study of the Bible in itself, but to have a personal relation with him (JN. 5:39-40). The English word BIBLE could be read as an abbreviation for 'Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth'. Only by approaching Jesus can we truly come to know God and live forever. That is the ultimate message of both the Old and the New Testaments.

Every biblical text contains the Word that God speaks to you at this moment. You only have to learn to listen to his way of speaking.

### Read more

Importance of the Bible: CCC 101-104; CCC 24; YOUCAT 14. Importance of the resurrection: CCC 638; CCC 126; YOUCAT 104.



## 2.3 Who 'sits' on this 'Holy See', the chair of St Peter?



The Holy See is the chair of the bishop of Rome, the pope. Since he is the successor of the Apostle Peter, it is also spoken of as the 'Apostolic See'. It is a bit like a throne from which a king rules, assists, and judges the people.

### # Driver's seat

Usually when we speak of the 'Holy See', we do not primarily mean a thing to sit on. The Holy See is the 'central administration' of our Church. If the pope dies (or resigns, as with pope Benedict xvi), the seat becomes vacant (*sede vacante*). But the Holy See as an institution carries on governing the Church – not led at that time by the pope, but temporarily by the cardinals collectively. At that time only urgent matters are dealt with: the rest must wait until there is a new pope (SEE TWEET 2.4). The insignia of the Holy See is formed by two crossed keys. The keys are a reminder of those that Jesus gave to Peter (SEE TWEET 2.17). Above the keys is the triple crown (tiara) or also the mitre of the pope.

### # Vatican or Holy See?

According to international treaties, the Holy See is a legal entity that can enter into diplomatic relations with other countries. But the Holy See itself is not a state, which makes its position unique.

Vatican City, however, is a state, which is represented by the Holy See (SEE TWEET 2.6). So, when you hear it said that 'the Vatican' has decided something or does not want something, the speaker almost always means that the Holy See has decided for or against something.

That the Holy See, rather than Vatican City, is the entity involved in the international diplomatic relations of the pope, has to do with history. Between 1870 and 1929 the Papal States were occupied, and the pope officially had no country. Yet, the Holy See continued to maintain diplomatic relations with many countries (SEE TWEET 2.44-2.45). In 1929, the Lateran Treaties stipulated that the Holy See would have an independent state, Vatican City (SEE TWEET 2.6).

### Why papal diplomacy?

You may wonder why the Church puts so much energy into maintaining a diplomatic network in many countries that often do not agree with the Church. It is precisely through this network that the Church lets a clear voice be heard in a society that often otherwise has little regard for the weak and needy. Topics such as freedom of religion, disarmament, the right to life, food and shelter for all, must always be given renewed attention.

A good example is the papal encyclical (letter) *Caritas in Veritate* ('Charity in truth') of Pope Benedict xvi. In it he spoke about contemporary issues such as globalization, the market economy and alternative energy sources. The pope called on people to be less greedy, to share more, and to be guided by their consciences in decisions about the economy and environment. But he also brought to the fore the importance of disarmament, peace, and securing food sources for all. *Caritas in veritate* has aroused widespread interest, among others because the pope called for a reform of the United Nations. The time for talk is over, he seemed to say, now is the time for action. If countries join together in a new and decisive way, it could be possible to bring actual peace, justice and prosperity to the world. All this is not new. The pope based this document on Catholic social teaching, which is a practical outworking of the Gospel (SEE TWEET 4.45).

### # The Pope as a negotiator

Why would a country like to have diplomatic relations with a Church denomination? Sometimes you hear ambassadors say that the Holy See is better informed than any secret service agency, because so much information is brought together through local Churches and missionaries throughout the world.

Also, the position of the Holy See on for example human rights is appreciated. Its neutral position can be of great help in crisis situations or in negotiating peace. The Church can fulfil this Christian task, because in these situations she can stand above the parties.

### Read more

*The pope as successor of Peter: ccc 880-882, 936-937; cccc 182; YOUCAT 141.*



The Holy See, where the pope 'sits', is the 'central administration' of our Church. From there he makes contact with dioceses and many states.



## 1.1 Doesn't the Big Bang rule out faith in God?



For a long time, scientists have been trying to learn more about how the world came into existence. In Europe, for example, an institute for the study of physics, the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), constructed a machine to try to model the Big Bang. That's very interesting, highly technical stuff. However, some people think that the Church is against that sort of thing and only accepts the biblical story of Creation in Genesis (SEE TWEET 1.2) as an explanation for how the universe came into being (often called creationism). But that certainly isn't true. The Church is not at all opposed to science. Quite the opposite!

### # Catholic wisdom

Throughout the ages, the Church has nurtured many great scientists (SEE BOX). For example, it was a Catholic priest, Fr. Georges Lemaître (†1966), who first suggested the theory of the Big Bang. He was honored by the Church in several ways, which in itself shows that his theory does not contradict the claims of faith.

In fact, whereas Fr. Lemaître's ideas met a lot of resistance from outside the Church, he was supported by Pope Pius XII (†1958). Although the Big Bang theory does not directly prove creation by God, it is certainly compatible with the biblical story of Creation, in which God first said: "Let there be light" (GEN. 1:3). There is nothing to stop us from seeing God as the one who struck the match for this creative firecracker some 14 billion years ago!

### # Origin of life

Like the Big Bang, the theory of genetics was also first developed by a priest, Gregor Mendel (SEE TWEET 1.3). The picture of the universe and of life presented by such theories includes gradual development over time. This picture is consonant with a Catholic understanding of the world in which God gives his creatures the dignity of contributing to this unfolding development (SEE TWEET 1.3). Indeed the Latin word for unfold, *evolvere*, which was used by St. Augustine in the early fifth century to describe the development of the universe, is the origin of the modern word

### Who are the best-known Catholic scientists?

There are a lot of Catholics among the great scientists and scholars of history. The Franciscan Roger Bacon (†1292), for example, was ordered by the pope to write a book about philosophy and natural science. Cardinal Nicolas of Cusa (†1464) developed lenses to help near-sighted people. Catholics were the first to map the world: think of Marco Polo (†1324), Bartholomeu Dias (†1500), and Christopher Columbus (†1506).

The brilliant works of Leonardo da Vinci (†1519) are well known. But don't forget Nicolas Copernicus (†1543), who first brought forward the theory that the earth revolves around the sun. The Jesuit scholar Fr. Matteo Ricci (†1610) was the first to work on a Chinese dictionary. Another Jesuit, Fr. Angelo Secchi (†1878), was the first to classify stars according to their spectra (spectroscopy).

Jean-Baptiste Lamarck (†1884) was the first to formulate a theory of evolution and Gregor Mendel (†1884) is the father of genetics (SEE TWEET 1.3). These learned men were all Catholics, as were Alessandro Volta (†1827) and André-Marie Ampère (†1836), who made great discoveries in the field of electricity.

### Read more

Creation: CCC 282–299; CCC 54; YOUCAT 43.

*evolution*. In this discussion it is important to understand the limitations of scientific theories about the origins of the universe: they can describe only how things have changed over time. Since the things they describe are not self-causing (they did not create themselves), there remains a need for a first cause (SEE TWEET 1.9). This initial cause of all things we call God. Moreover, Catholic thinkers, along with others, have perceived great order and beauty in the way the universe is put together. Although not a formal proof, this underlying order is conducive to belief that the universe is the work of a creative, divine intellect.

### # Creation out of nothing

The story of Creation tells us how God has made the world with great care. He made everything out of nothing (*ex nihilo*, in Latin). He made both the vast universe with all its solar systems and the smallest molecule in your body. When you realize this, you experience God's closeness and know he is everywhere, even in deep space; if a space traveller were floating in the darkness between planets, God would be present there (Ps. 139:8–12).



The Big Bang theory does not rule out faith in God. On the contrary, it can be believed as the way God began his creation of the universe.



SCAN



## 1.2 But seriously, did all that Adam and Eve business really happen?

The Bible tells us about the creation of Adam and Eve, the first man and woman. The fact that there are two different creation stories, one directly following the other (GEN. 1:26–28; 2:7–8, 18–24), shows us that we cannot take them as literal descriptions of what happened. Nevertheless, they are not nonsense. It's not so much the how of creation that matters here, but the why.

Adam and Eve's story tells us a lot about the relationship between man and God and about the way people relate to each other. For example, it tells us that God created us according to his plan and that "God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good" (GEN. 1:31). Because of this, we can be happy with what and who we are. The story also tells us that we are all one family, with Adam and Eve as our common ancestors, and that we all share in the same "genetic disease": our fallen human nature, which leads us to sin (SEE TWEET 1.4).

### # A responsible task

When God created the world he paid particular attention to the creation of mankind. He made us as creatures in his image, after his likeness (GEN. 1:26). This gave us a unique place in creation (SEE TWEET 1.48). God loves us, and we can love both God and other people. God made us as male and female for the companionship of marriage (GEN. 2:24; SEE TWEET 4.19). We were given responsibility for the world, so much so that we were given the task of naming all living creatures (GEN. 2:19). God said to Adam and Eve: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth" (GEN. 1:28). This responsibility involves respect for creation (CCC 2415; SEE TWEET 4.48). So, caring for the environment is very Catholic!

### # Was God alone?

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (GEN. 1:1), says the Bible. But he wasn't alone: "The Spirit of God was moving

### Brother against brother

Adam and Eve had children. Their eldest son, Cain, was a farmer; his brother Abel was a shepherd. When both brothers made an offering to God, God accepted only the offering of Abel (GEN. 4:4–5). Cain was furious and killed his brother. When God asked him where Abel was, he said: "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" (GEN. 4:9). God said: "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground" (GEN. 4:10). As punishment, Cain had to leave his land. God told him: "When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength; you shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth" (GEN. 4:12). In spite of Cain's horrible deed, God continued to love him and showed it by making sure nobody harmed him.

over the face of the waters" (GEN. 1:2). That is the Holy Spirit. The New Testament says that Jesus – the living Word of God (SEE TWEET 1.29) – was with God at the beginning: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (JN. 1:1). Whenever we read "God said . . ." (GEN. 1:3), Jesus was also present. Actually, Jesus is the Word that God spoke! This is a good example of how the New Testament explains the Old Testament (SEE TWEET 1.10). God has always existed in three Persons (SEE TWEET 1.33). For that reason, St. Paul said all things were created through Christ and for Christ (COL. 1:16–17).

### # Six days?

The story of Creation is a beautiful, poetic tale (GEN. 1–2). But do Catholics have to close their eyes to what science has to say about the beginning of the earth? Certainly not! In the fourth century, for example, St. Augustine wrote that the days mentioned in the Bible are

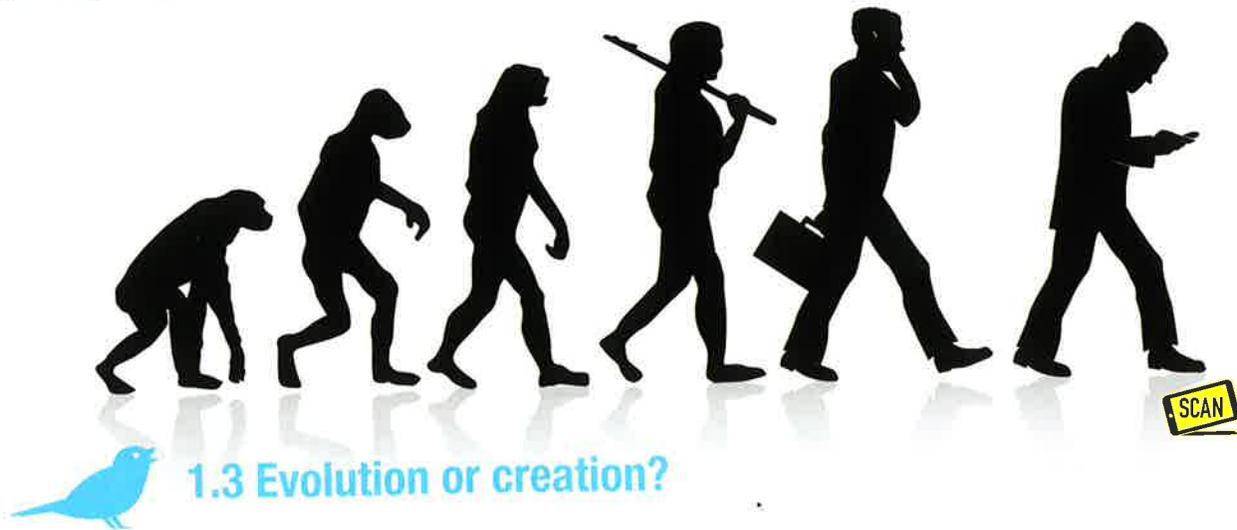
not actual days (sunrise to sunset), because the sun was created only on the fourth day! (DE CIVITATE DEI XI,7). Okay. Not literally six days, then. But why then do we still read the story of Creation? Because it presents us with some very important truths about God, the world, and man. It is not just a story with a moral, but revealed, symbolic history. For example, it tells us that there is only one true God, instead of many gods; that when God created the world he paid particular attention to us, whom he also created; and that his creation was very good before evil came into the world (SEE TWEET 1.36).



The story of Adam and Eve is not a scientific explanation of the origins of mankind, but it speaks to us about our human condition.

### Read more

*The creation of man:* CCC 343; CCC 63; YOUCAT 56. *Respect for creation:* CCC 2415–2418, 2450–2451, 2453–2455; CCC 506–508; YOUCAT 436–437. *The Creator:* CCC 279–292, 315–316; CCC 51–52; YOUCAT 41, 44. *Creation:* CCC 337–349, 353–354; CCC 62–65; YOUCAT 46–48.



### 1.3 Evolution or creation?

The theory of evolution, which is taught in schools everywhere, is not in itself contrary to Catholic faith. It was a Catholic priest, Fr. Gregor Mendel (†1884), who developed the theory of genetic heredity, which provides the foundation for the modern understanding of Darwinian evolution. The human body could well have evolved in some way.

#### # Survival of the fittest?

But from knowledge of evolution we should not conclude that people are merely animals or that human actions must be guided by the principles discovered by Charles Darwin (†1882), whereby species flourish when only the strongest survive and evolve (as in the “survival of the fittest”). Such ideas can lead to social injustice and even to terrible violence against the weaker members of society (think of the National Socialism of the Nazis, which championed the survival of the fittest). The theory of evolution can help us to understand the way living organisms develop over time, but it must not be a basis for denying the equal

dignity of all human beings, who whether weak or strong have been created by God in his own image. For this reason, we as Christians have a particular concern for the weaker members of society. The social teaching of the Church is based on this (SEE TWEET 4.45).

#### # Human animals?

All animals have a remarkable ability to adapt to their natural habitat, and they have a power to act and a desire to flourish not found in machines. Human beings, however, have capacities far beyond those of animals. To illustrate this difference, the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein (†1951) said that a dog knows its master, but not that its master is coming home the day after tomorrow. G. K. Chesterton (†1936) observed that birds build nests, but they do not build nests in the Gothic style (EVERLASTING MAN). Such examples illustrate that animals do not think in terms of time or about any of the abstract ideas that make possible language, art, architecture, ethics, science, philosophy, or theology. We human

#### What about dinosaurs and aliens?

The existence of dinosaurs has clearly been proven by palaeontologists and other scientists. The earth is many billions of years old and has gone through different geological phases. This does not contradict the Catholic view on the origin of the earth. Pope John Paul II once said: “The truth cannot contradict the truth” (Oct. 22, 1996). Real scientific truths will never be in contradiction with the truth of the faith (SEE TWEET 1.5). Therefore, the Church is not afraid of science.

Once in a while we are surprised by vague photographs that seem to depict a UFO or an extraterrestrial creature. Some say God wanted to practice first before he created human beings, and so he made aliens. But there is no indication at all of this in the Bible or in good science.

Although astronomers can see ever more of the universe, life beyond earth has not been found, although there are planets where that is a theoretical possibility. Even if there is life outside earth, it has been created by God in love. For this reason, we do not have to worry about questions concerning aliens.

#### Read more

*Evolution:* CCC 282–289; CCC 51; YOUCAT 42. *The soul:* CCC 362–368, 382; CCC 69–70; YOUCAT 62–63.

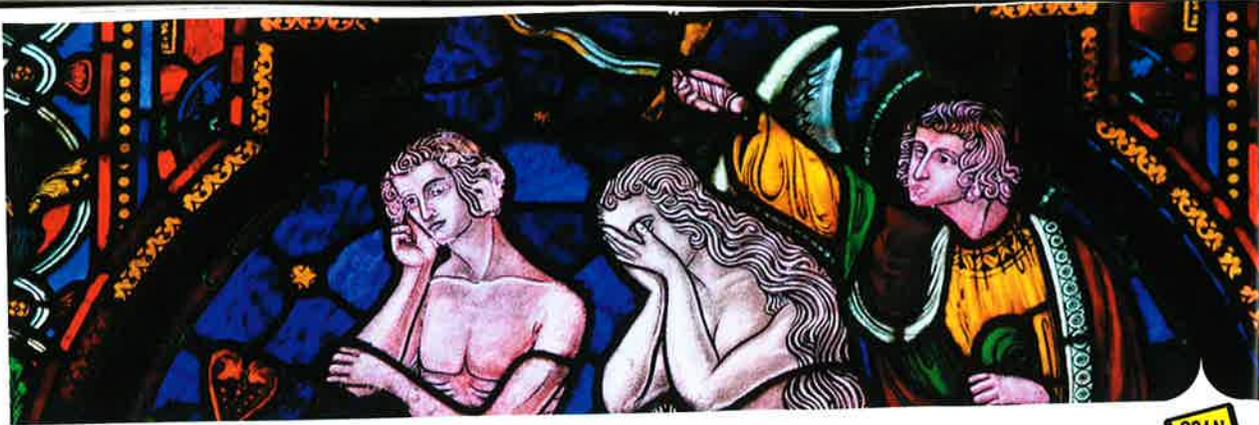
beings, on the other hand, are able to think abstractly. Our thoughts and desires can go beyond our instinct to survive in this moment. This supports the idea of human beings having immortal souls. Animals are satisfied to be what they are, but human persons seek ultimate happiness and are discontent with finite, created things alone.

#### # Immortal soul

Our souls make us the persons we are and give us the freedom to make conscious choices. Unlike animals we can make choices based on our sense of what is morally right and wrong. We do so by consulting our conscience, our knowledge of good and evil (SEE TWEET 4.1 AND 4.12). God loves every human being so much that he gave each one a soul that will continue to live after his body dies. God created our souls the very moment that our lives began, at conception (SEE TWEET 4.26). Our souls are the core of our lives; they make us human, giving us minds and wills. Because we have human souls, we are able to love God and one another.



Evolution and creation are not mutually exclusive. Evolution is evident in nature, but we, with our souls, have been created by God.



SCAN



## 1.4 What are original sin and the fall of man anyway?

For us Christians, it is essential that God created the world out of love. But what is also crucial is how mankind deals with it. God created everything good (GEN. 1:25). But that is not our only experience of the world! Natural disasters, war, poverty, crime, and disease; if you look around, you see that the world is full of suffering and evil.

### # A heavy freedom

There is evil in the world because God has given us free choice (SEE TWEET 1.34). We can consciously choose for God or against him. You can love someone only if you are left free to choose whom to love. Naturally, God wants us to choose to love him. That is why he created us! But because we are free, we can also reject God, which is sin and which separates us from God. In our weakness we are tempted to abuse our freedom and to deny God by choosing against him. Even if we do not want to sin, often evil strongly appeals to us. As a consequence of original sin, we are easily tempted (SEE BOX).

### # The fruit and the snake

The story of Adam and Eve tells about the first, that is, the original, sin (SEE BOX). They were tempted by evil (GEN. 3). They knew very well what God wanted. He was very clear: there was one tree from which they may not eat the fruit, or they would die (GEN. 3:3). Only one forbidden tree in all of paradise, with so many other trees! Yet they listened to an evil voice, which in the Bible is portrayed as a serpent. The voice promised them that they would not die but would become like God, knowing good and evil, if they would only eat the forbidden fruit (GEN. 3:5). The latter at least was true: quickly afterward, they did learn about evil.

After disobeying God's command, Adam and Eve dared not look at God anymore and concealed themselves from him (GEN. 3:8). They were ashamed of their nakedness and clothed themselves in fig leaves (as the couple is often depicted in art) (GEN. 3:7). Thus they kept their distance from the one who had made them and

### What is original sin?

You could say that we are born into a history of evil, the series of personal sins committed by those who came before us. Unfortunately, each generation passes on many troubles to the next generation. Original sin is not the same as these personal sins. Original sin is the loss of "original holiness and justice" (CCC 405) through the first sin. This first sin was committed by Adam, or "first man", who freely chose to disobey God (GEN. 3).

Because of original sin human nature is wounded (SEE TWEET 4.10). Humanity is no longer perfect as it was at the Creation because our closeness to God has been disrupted. Our minds are darkened, and our wills are weakened; we are subject to ignorance, deception, and disordered desires. As a result, nobody is without sin and everyone must die at some point.

Yet Baptism washes away both original sin and all our own sins (SEE TWEET 3.36). What remains after Baptism is concupiscence, which is a strong tendency toward pleasure that weakens us and tempts us to go beyond the limits God gives us. Thus, time and again we need God's forgiveness, which he gladly gives to those who honestly ask for it in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (SEE TWEET 3.38).

### Read more

*God's original plan:* CCC 374–379, 384; CCC 72; YOUCAT 66. *The Fall:* CCC 386–390; CCC 73; YOUCAT 67–68.

*Original sin:* CCC 396–409, 415–419; CCC 75–77; YOUCAT 68–69.

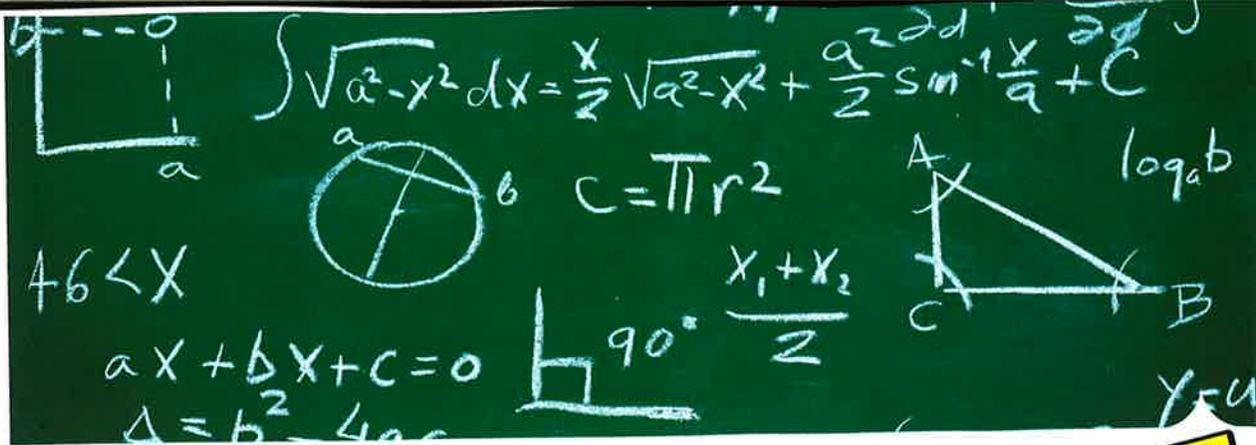
who really loved them. The first sin is called the Fall because it put distance between God and man. The book of Genesis shows how, with the Fall, man lost his original innocence and as a result his closeness to God, who is the source of life and love.

### # A divine poem

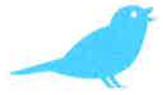
The Adam and Eve story tells us a lot about God and the human condition in a poetic form. This revealed history communicates in a symbolic way things that truly happened. Mankind's first disobedience, which brought sin into the world, is both a fact and a lesson important for people of every age. The story sheds a lot of light on the situation in which we now find ourselves. It shows us how important it is to choose to follow God and to respect the limits he gives us (CCC 396). The Fall disrupted the beauty of creation. Separated from the source of life, man was destined to die, which was not originally the plan of God. Yet, with the birth of Jesus, God changed that forever (SEE TWEET 1.26).



The first man & woman fell from God when they chose against him and committed the first, original, sin. We have inherited their fallen condition.



SCAN



## 1.5 Do science and faith contradict each other?

Sometimes it may seem as if faith and science contradict each other. But that really isn't true. Science has never shown that faith in Jesus Christ is unjustified. The Church does not oppose scientific research. Quite the contrary: there have always been plenty of Catholic scientists (SEE TWEET 1.1). Also, there has been a Pontifical Academy of Sciences for centuries. The Church does teach, however, that scientific research must take place within certain moral and ethical limits. For example, research may never deliberately harm human dignity or life. For this reason, research that involves the destruction of human embryos should not be allowed (SEE TWEET 4,34).

### # Freedom through truth

Some scientists and believers have become stuck in their own ways of looking at the world and are incapable of putting their own ideas up for discussion; they reject anything that seems to contradict them. History has plenty of examples of some heated discussions, for instance, the case of Galileo Galilei (SEE BOX).

We don't have to be afraid of the truths that science can discover. Jesus himself said: "The truth will make you free" (JN. 8:32). That means we can certainly ask questions, investigate, and conduct scientific research. Doing so can help us to grow in our faith, because we can see how beautiful God has made the world. But there's more than just exact science: not everything can be counted or measured. For example, the study of theology tries to find answers to questions about God.

### # God's work

Speaking of the complex structure of the universe, Pope Benedict XVI, quoting a psalm, said that the starry heavens "proclaim the glory of God" (SEE PS. 19(18):1). And he added that the results of scientific research enable us to praise God, as they improve our understanding of the laws of nature. This way, we are encouraged to "look upon the work of the Lord with gratitude" (ANGELUS, DEC. 21, 2008). At the same time, we should never lose sight of the fact that God is always greater than what science can

### Was the Church wrong about Galileo Galilei?

The Italian scholar Galileo Galilei (†1642) is often mentioned as an example of a scientist at odds with the Church. As the story goes, Church leaders silenced Galileo simply because he had said that the heliocentric theory of Copernicus (†1543) was true, that the earth revolved around the sun. This notion met with a lot of opposition, both inside and outside the Church, and lacking sufficient proof, Galileo was forced to withdraw to his villa for the rest of his life. Still, his daughter became a nun.

Later Galileo was proved to be mostly right. However, the Galileo affair is much more complex than often portrayed, with misunderstandings on both sides, and on more matters than the solar system. When the scientific evidence became clear, the Church accepted that the earth revolved around the sun. The contributions of Galileo to science have since been praised by the Church, and his name has been cleared of all blame. Pope Pius XII called him a great scientist (DEC. 3, 1939). Pope John Paul II regretted that Galileo suffered much at the hands of Church leaders (NOV. 10, 1979) and formally asked forgiveness for their treatment of him (MAR. 12, 2000).

### Read more

Science and creation: CCC 282–289; CCC 51; YOUCAT 41. Laws in creation: CCC 339, 346, 354; CCC 62, 64; YOUCAT 45.

discover about his creation. That's why faith in Jesus Christ remains the single most important thing, because only he, as the Son of God, can reveal the full truth about his Father.

### # Faith and science

The Second Vatican Council, an important gathering of the Church (SEE TWEET 2.48), wrote in 1965 that God "can be known with certainty from created reality by the light of human reason" (DEI VERBUM, 6). By using their reason, that is, by thinking carefully, people can come to the conclusion that God exists (SEE TWEET 1.6).

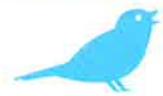
Faith and science are both very important. Pope John Paul II wrote an encyclical (a papal letter) about the relationship between faith and human reason: "Faith and reason (*fides et ratio*) are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human 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" (FIDES ET RATIO, INTRODUCTION).



The truth, whether it is discovered through science or faith, does not contradict itself. Jesus said: "The truth will make you free."



SCAN



## 2.5 What is the Roman Curia?

Formally, the pope is the absolute monarch of the Church. But, of course, he does not govern the Church alone. He has a collection of ministries (dicasteries) in Rome, which help him with the government of the Church. These departments together form the Roman Curia.

### # Secretariat of State

The Roman Curia is headed by the secretary of state. His function resembles that of a modern prime minister, but he is not a kind of “shadow pope”. There is only one pope! The Secretariat of State oversees simultaneously domestic and foreign affairs. This ministry is located in the building where the pope has his official apartment. The First Section, for General Affairs, maintains contact with the Church throughout the world. The Second Section, for Relations with States, focuses on international diplomatic relations of the Holy See. Both sections are in continuous contact with the worldwide network of nunciatures (SEE TWEET 2.8).

### # Congregations and councils

Within the Curia, there are several congregations and pontifical councils. Each of these takes responsibility for a different part of the life of the Church. Thus, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith helps to answer contemporary questions relating to the faith. The congregations for bishops, clergy (priests and deacons), and religious (brothers and sisters) follow issues pertaining to these specific vocations within the Church. The same applies for the dicasteries responsible for laity, youth and family, migrants, and Christian unity, for example. The Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples maintains contact with all Catholic missions and missionaries worldwide. Each of these dicasteries focuses on a particular administrative or policy area. For example, one of them is – among others – responsible for the organization of World Youth Day (WYD) on behalf of the pope. Part of the organization of each WYD is in the hands of the host country, but oversight of the WYD is in the hands of the Roman Curia. The dicastery

## Some ministries of the pope

Secretariat of State

Secretariat for the Economy

Themes dealt with by congregations and pontifical councils:

- Doctrine of the Faith
- Eastern Churches
- Divine Worship and the Sacraments
- Causes of Saints
- Bishops
- Evangelization of Peoples
- Clergy
- Religious Brothers and Sisters
- Catholic Education
- Laity, Youth and Family
- Culture
- Promotion of Christian Unity
- Justice and Peace
- Migrants and Itinerant People
- Health Care Workers
- Legislative Texts
- Interreligious Dialogue
- Social Communications
- Promotion of the New Evangelization
- Papal Charity

Tribunals:

- Apostolic Penitentiary
- Apostolic Signatura
- Roman Rota

responsible for social communications helps the pope to use all the available media for proclaiming the gospel in our time, for example through the Twitter channel of the pope (SEE TWEET 4.49).

### # Tribunals

Although dioceses have their own ecclesiastical courts, some cases are presented to the Roman Rota, the central or supreme court. But the highest court where an appeal against a decision of the Rota may be made is the Apostolic Signatura. On behalf of the pope, the Apostolic Penitentiary forgives, in the name of God, certain very grave sins and grants indulgences for special occasions (SEE TWEET 2.35). In addition there are a number of other organizations in the Curia that have a lot of influence, such as the Secretariat for the Economy, which is responsible for all economic and administrative affairs of the Holy See and the Vatican state. The objective of all these organizations is to help the Church to focus on its key task of proclaiming the gospel and assisting the faithful on their path to God.



The Roman Curia is the system of ministries (congregations and councils) that helps the pope to lead the Church.

### Read more

*Organization of the Church*: CCC 874–879, 935; CCCC 179–181; YOUCAT 140.



## 4.47 How can you use social media in the right way?

We live in an age with lots of different media, where you can find huge amounts of information about almost everything. But how do you know what is true and what isn't? (SEE TWEET 1.8). In the competition between websites, newspapers, and TV programs, it is very tempting for journalists to opt for sensationalism. That's what sells and draws visitors, readers, or viewers. You have to keep that in mind, for example, when you see news about a suspected criminal; he is innocent until proven guilty. You shouldn't condemn people just based on the news.

### # The right to information

You sometimes hear people say: "The public has a right to know." But the right to information is not absolute (CCC 2488). There are things that should remain a secret (SEE BOX). The same applies to your social network webpages: you cannot just post anything you know or think you know – not about yourself and not about others. In every situation, you have to consider whether it is wise or charitable

to make certain things known. Such caution has to do with love, the love of our neighbor. Everyone has the right to a private life, even famous people, politicians, and priests. Therefore, it is very important to think carefully about the way you write about someone. How will other people read and understand it? It is good to realize that keeping things a secret is impossible on the Internet, which is a public, not a private, place.

### # Stress? Go offline!

Social media make it very easy to make friends quickly and to stay in touch with friends and relations. At the same time, it can cause a lot of stress, because in addition to all your other work, you have to respond to messages. All those e-mails, Tweets, text messages, posts, and other communications keep calling for our attention. The stress that this can unconsciously cause can make it more difficult to make time for more important things, such as prayer, for example (SEE TWEET 3.7). How can you listen to God when you keep hearing the beeps and

### Can I lie in order to save someone?

If you lie, you are breaking the commandments of God (Ex. 20:16). Lying, gossiping, and slandering; these are all ways in which you abuse the truth and can hurt others. Of course, you can make jokes and use sayings or tell stories that are not really true, as long as the person you're speaking to knows that they are examples you are using to explain something. Not telling the whole truth is not the same as lying; for example, you don't tell a person you think he's ugly because you would hurt him.

Sometimes, you must hide the truth. Think about a war, where innocent people are being killed. If you have people hiding in your house and their lives depend on your answers, in rare cases, you can make a mental reservation, that is you deliberately withhold part of the truth from someone with evil intent. The purpose must be to protect the safety of yourself or others. Priests who are confessors, and up to a certain point people with a professional duty to keep private things secret, may also exercise mental reservation. But even in these exceptional cases, one should try to avoid deliberately lying.

### Read more

*Right to information:* CCC 2488–2489; CCC 524; YOUCAT 457. *Media:* CCC 2493–2499, 2512; CCC 525; YOUCAT 459.

*Confessional secret and professional secret:* CCC 2490–2491, 2511; CCC 524; YOUCAT 457–458.

noises of incoming messages? How can you really take the time for him if just before praying you quickly read a few e-mails that are awaiting your reply? The same goes for your relationships with friends and relatives. It seems obvious, but it is still important to realize that you'll live if you switch off your mobile phone or computer for a while. Dare to go offline so that you can be online with God and the others whom you love!

### # Abuse

Social media are a fun way to stay in touch, but they can also be abused. It may seem very cool to have lots of "friends" on your social network, but it's easy to "de-friend" someone; it's also easy to pester, persecute, or bully people. Deliberately hurting others in this way is a grave sin. Everybody has the right to be respected; everybody has dignity. Jesus asks his followers to love everybody! That appeal also applies to the way we treat people on the Internet, even to the extent that Jesus asks you to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Mt. 5:44).



When online you're still a Christian! Don't just post or type anything. Go offline for God and others; give them your loving attention.



## What? Church?



to the light. Similarly, the paschal candle symbolizes the new life made possible by the resurrection (SEE TWEET 1.50). This candle is lit solemnly at the beginning of the Easter Vigil (SEE TWEET 3.32). During the Easter Vigil, candles stand near the altar; for the rest of the year, they are stationed at the baptismal font. At baptism the paschal candle is lit as a symbol of the new life of the baptized in Christ, and the baptismal candle is lit from it.

### and statues

statues, and other images in a church are not idols. Just as photos in your home remind you of certain people, images are helpful in remembering Jesus and the saints. In Catholic worship images but God alone. Catholics are kneeling before a statue or an image of a saint, we are not worshipping the saint it depicts. Rather, we are kneeling before the saint to pray to God with us and for us. We ask our friends and relatives to pray for us (SEE TWEET 3.9). When we go before an image to pray, often there is a place to

## Stations of the Cross

1. Jesus is condemned to death (Lk. 23:24).
2. Jesus takes the cross on his shoulders (Jn. 19:17).
3. Jesus falls the first time under the weight of the cross.
4. Jesus meets his mother, Mary (Jn. 19:25).
5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the cross (Mt. 27:32).
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.
7. Jesus falls for the second time under the weight of the cross.
8. Jesus comforts the weeping women (Lk. 23: 27-31).
9. Jesus falls the third time under the weight of the cross.
10. Jesus is stripped of his clothes (Jn. 19:23).
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross (Mk. 15:24).
12. Jesus dies on the cross (Mk. 15:37).
13. The body of Jesus is taken from the cross (Lk. 23:53).
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb from which he shall rise in glory (Mt. 27:60).

pay a small fee for a candle. By paying for the candle, lighting it, and placing it before the image, we are adding a small sacrifice of our time and money to our prayers. When we return to our busy lives, we have the consolation that the candle continues to burn as a sign that our intentions continue to be made by the saint who is interceding for us (SEE TWEET 4.15).

### # Calvary

In almost every Catholic church you will see the 14 Stations of the Cross hanging on the

### Read more

Images: CCC 2129-2132, 2141; CCC 446; YOUCAT 358.

wall. These images depict the Passion and death of Jesus in 14 steps (SEE BOX). Sometimes his Resurrection is added as a fifteenth station. By passing from station to station, from the sentencing of Jesus to his burial, we can pray and reflect on Jesus' great love for us. Thus, we are able in thought and prayer to experience his suffering and death with him. At each station, you can pray a short prayer: "We adore thee, O Christ, and bless thee. Because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world."



 The font is where a person is baptized & becomes a Christian. Statues & images help us to ask the saints to pray with us & for us.



Priest,



### Sincere confession

Everybody sins (SEE TWEET 4.13). Everybody needs God's forgiveness. Thus the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a tremendous gift of

### Penance

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation God forgives your sins and restores your relationship with him, but the damage your sins have caused remains. When you drop a vase (even by accident), you should not only say you are sorry but also try to replace or repair it (SEE TWEET 2.35). Similarly, you should not only tell God that we are sorry for our sins, but also try to undo the harm they have done. To help you do so, the priest gives you a penance during confession. Justice demands that you repair any harm you have done to your neighbor (return stolen goods, correct a false report, etc.). You also need to repair the harm done to yourself and your relationship with God. You cannot do this on your own, but with the grace of God such practices as praying, fasting, and doing works of mercy can heal what was broken. For souls still needing repair at the time of death, there is purgatory in the afterlife (SEE TWEET 1.47).

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

<i>Repeatable:</i>	yes	<i>Materials:</i>	
<i>Minister:</i>	bishop, priest	<i>Action:</i>	after the penitent confesses his sins and expresses contrition, the minister stretches out his hand
<i>Effect:</i>	reconciliation with God, forgiveness of all sins confessed with true remorse, restoration of the state of grace when this has been lost by mortal sin	<i>Words:</i>	"I ABSOLVE YOU FROM YOUR SINS IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT."

the Church. The moment a priest absolves you of your sins (absolution), you really are forgiven by God. Forgiveness is not automatic, however. There are three conditions: that you honestly tell the priest your sins (confession), that you are truly sorry for what you have done and firmly resolve not to commit these sins again (contrition), and that you do the penance the priest gives you (satisfaction).

### # Contrition

When St. Peter realized that he had denied Christ three times, he "wept bitterly" (Lk. 22:62). He knew that he had committed a serious sin and repented of what he had done. You also can repent of what you have done wrong. The Church distinguishes between perfect and imperfect repentance, or contrition. With *perfect contrition*, you are sorry for what you have done wrong because you know you have offended God, whom you love; you also intend to avoid this sin in the future.

With *imperfect contrition*, you are sorry about what you have done because you fear punishment. Whatever the reason for your repentance, God wants to forgive you. Imperfect contrition is sufficient, but perfect contrition is better: if you take your relationship with Jesus seriously, hopefully you are sorry most of all because you hurt him! Every time you repent and go to confession, God gladly forgives you. He does not count the times you have received the sacrament: he willingly forgives you again and again (Mt. 18:22).



God wants us to know: if we confess honestly and with remorse, our sins are forgiven. That's why he ordered priests to forgive in his name.

### Read more

*Confession:* CCC 1422–1498; CCC 296–312; YOU-CAT 224–239.

Here you will find (almost) everything that you always wanted to ask about God and faith – and you'll get answers! Will each fit into 140 characters? Fr Michel Remery takes up the challenge. He tweets answers to burning questions that young people have asked him in conversation about the faith. Along with the tweets, he provides expanded explanations on the basis of the Church's age-old teaching. In this book he shows how Faith is logical, even in the 21st century! The hundred questions in this first volume are about God, the Bible, Jesus and the Church. The questions in the second Volume are about faith, prayer, ethics and lifestyle. This book is for:

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- new Catholics and current catechumens
- anyone who wants to complement or freshen up his knowledge of the Faith
- those who want to speak with others about the Faith

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