

## **Crisis of faith: Why so many young people leave the Church**

Dear Concerned Parents, Grandparents, and Friends,

Nothing is more tragic than for a young person to lose his Catholic faith – the pearl of great price. And yet young people are falling away from the Faith right and left.

There's a hidden culprit for this loss of faith – a culprit that hides in plain sight, a culprit that has perhaps caused more harm than even pornography. Yes, you heard me right.

I'm talking about the culprit that caused me to lose my Christian faith at the age of 13. I remember the moment I lost my faith as if it were yesterday. Let me tell you what happened that day.

You see, when I was 13, my Protestant minister was teaching the Apostles' Creed. I asked him a question about the first article of the Creed – "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth" – because I had heard about Charles Darwin and evolution.

I asked the minister point blank, "How does God as Creator of Heaven and Earth square with evolution?" The minister didn't give me one reason why I should believe in God as the Creator. I concluded right then and there that Christianity had no relevance whatsoever to my life.

And for the next seven years I lived like a wild monkey. After all, Darwinists believe we're just apes that got "smart" and wear pants. Darwinist and atheist Madelyn Murray O'Hare once objected to a sign on a campus building that said "No Animals Allowed." She insisted, "*I am an animal!*"

If evolution caused me to lose my Christian faith as a 13-year-old, it could cause your children and mine to lose theirs – quite easily – unless we're prepared to handle the issues. The danger is real. This is serious. The stakes couldn't be higher.

As Catholic parents, we must teach our children the truth about where they came from without talking out of both sides of our mouths. We must give our kids reasonable evidence and solid arguments for what the Church teaches as true. And that means we must have a crystal clear understanding of the evolution vs. creation debate so we can give straight answers *with confidence.*

### **How to keep young Catholics from losing their faith**

As a parent, you owe it to yourself, and especially to your children, to hear both sides of the creation vs. evolution debate so you'll be prepared to answer questions your children may ask. You've already heard the evolution side *ad nauseam*, but you might not be as familiar with the opposing viewpoint.

Remember, it was my pastor's inability to give any type of firm answer to my question about creation and evolution that caused me to lose my Christian faith at the age of 13. Don't let that happen to your teenagers or young adults.

Countless young Catholics are having a crisis of faith because of confusion on this issue. And that's why I've put together a "combo pack" for Catholic parents and their children about the debate that's raging over origins.

The "combo pack" includes an action-packed 60-minute CD of a live presentation I gave to a group of young Catholics on the first chapters of Genesis, plus a superb 96-page booklet that describes exactly what the Church teaches about creation. This booklet covers all the bases and home plate twice.

This amazing booklet is jam-packed with fascinating facts that are being *dropped down the Orwellian memory hole*. It has more pertinent information per page than just about anything else I've seen on the subject.

In addition to the important papal and church proclamations about origins, the creation booklet also covers important topics in the creation vs. evolution debate, such as:

- The difference between micro-evolution and macro-evolution, and why micro-evolution isn't really evolution at all
- Why modern genetics sounds the death knell for evolution
- The brazen fraud that fooled evolutionists for decades – and the Catholic turncoat behind the fraud
- The peculiar animal the evolutionists can't begin to fit into their scheme
- Why random chance can never produce new complex information
- Why random mutations don't provide the necessary genetic changes for the development of a species
- How the fossil record is an embarrassment to evolution
- The overlooked theological problems with theistic evolution

Let me assure you of this. If my childhood pastor had given me anything resembling the "combo pack" I've put together for you, I never would have quit Christianity at the age of 13. That's why I want you to have this information. I don't want the young Catholics in your family to fall away.

### **Genesis is pure myth, right? WRONG!**

Tragically, most young Catholics are being taught that Genesis is just a collection of myths. Not so! Do you realize that popes, church fathers, saints, doctors of the church and ecumenical councils have consistently affirmed creation? Darwinism has created lots of confusion in the Catholic community.

To strike a blow against all of this misinformation and confusion, I spared no effort preparing for my 60-minute presentation to a group of young Catholics that included three of my own children. I gave them the undiluted truth. I held nothing back. I covered the essential issues. And the teenagers ate it up.

I recorded this 60-minute presentation for you and your loved ones because I wish every teenager in America could hear it – especially Catholic teenagers. The young Catholics in your household need this information. It covers the three key questions every human being must wrestle with: Where did I come from? Where am I going? What should I be doing with my life?

I told the kids that to be truly educated you have to give a fair hearing to the different perspectives. The same is true for adults. Most Catholics have only heard the evolutionist side of the debate. Hardly any have heard a knowledgeable creationist explain the fatal flaws of evolution or defend the early chapters of Genesis.

### **Why evolutionists today are afraid to debate creationists**

As a young adult I attended a debate between an evolutionist and a creationist. I was certain the creationist would get slaughtered. But the creationist held his ground, argued his case with confidence, and actually stumped the evolutionist. The creationist won hands down, which I had never expected.

By now the word has spread that creationists are skilled debaters, and so most evolutionists aren't willing to debate creationists any more.

Yet few Catholics realize how pitifully weak the case for evolution is. Most seem to believe that evolution has been proven, and so they feel it's necessary to somehow harmonize evolution with Catholicism. Not so!

If you doubt this, let me give you a quote that'll jolt you. The First Vatican Council, which took place a decade after Darwin published his *Origin of Species*, solemnly declared, "If anyone does not confess that the world and all things which are contained in it, both spiritual and material, as regards their whole substances have been produced by God from nothing: let him be anathema." The Church has never retracted this statement.

### **Why "theistic evolution" doesn't work**

Young Catholics generally can't straddle both sides of the fence for very long. It's understandable that they'll end up going one way or the other.

Still, you might be wondering if it's possible to blend some part of Darwin's theory with Christianity. To the question "But couldn't God have created *through* evolution?" I would reply that the question is irrelevant and as pointless as asking, "How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?"

The question isn't what God could have done. We already know God is all-powerful. Rather, the question is this: Why should you or anyone else accept Darwinism without any proof or persuasive evidence? The evidence points not to Darwinism but rather to God's creation of all living things, as all Catholics have believed for the first 18 centuries of the Faith.

Furthermore, if Darwin's theory can't work without a little divine help from God here and there, it can't be much of a "scientific" theory, right? Dead matter can't "pull itself up by its own bootstraps" to become conscious life, period.

### **But what about Noah's Ark? Was there really a flood?**

About 98 percent of Catholic youth are being told Noah's Ark and the Flood are nothing more than myths, like the other "stories" in the early chapters of Genesis. And yet the early church historians, church fathers, saints, and doctors of the Church believed Noah's Ark was real.

Believe it or not, these fathers, saints, doctors, and historians affirmed that the Ark survived and that its remains were still plainly visible at least 3,000 years after the Flood.

For example, St. Isadore of Seville, who lived in the seventh century A.D., said, "Ararat is a mountain in Armenia, where the historians testify that the Ark came to rest after the Flood. *So even to this day wood remains of it are to be seen there.*" In other words, if you doubt that the Ark is real, then go and see it for yourself.

Even if you had the time and the money to undertake an expedition to find the remnants of the Ark on Mt. Ararat, the Turkish government wouldn't give you permission. But Turkey can't block high-resolution satellite photos.

If you're interested, you can see an enormous man-made anomaly amidst the snow and ice high up on Mt. Ararat in Turkey, using Google Earth Plus, at these coordinates: 39 degrees 42 minutes north latitude; 44 degrees 16 minutes east longitude. Satellite photos of this anomaly were discussed in the White House as recently as 2002. Perhaps when political tensions ease, Turkey may allow a proper expedition to thoroughly examine this anomaly.

On the CD I deal with the common questions and objections to the Ark, such as "How could the Ark contain all the species of animals?" and "How did Noah capture the animals?"

### **Darwinism is only as strong as the pillar supporting it**

Darwinism has only one "leg" or pillar to stand on: the concept of uniformitarianism. That's the concept that things have always been pretty much the way

they are right now. For example, all modern dating systems, such as carbon 14, assume that the natural forces in the ancient past operate the same as they do today.

Is that so? Well, then how does uniformitarianism square with the finding in 1901 of a mastodon with 24 pounds of tropical vegetation flash frozen in its stomach? It doesn't. There must be a catastrophic and sudden change in the climate to cause this kind of flash freezing in an area with tropical or subtropical vegetation.

On the CD I explain how the Flood – one of the key events in human history – caused drastic changes in climate.

Have things *always* been the same on earth? No. Genesis describes the pre-Flood (antediluvian) world as enshrouded with a canopy of mist, which watered the vegetation without rain. Because of this canopy, it's likely that Adam and Eve never saw a blue sky or the sun as we do today. And the atmospheric pressure would have been vastly different before the Flood, which perhaps explains the extraordinary lifespan of the people of that time.

When the canopy joined with the waters below, the world experienced the Flood. And when the canopy dissipated, the atmosphere changed, and the first rainbow appeared.

### **Amazing facts about Noah's Ark**

As a Navy man, I know something about ships. So let me give you some perspective on Noah's Ark.

The Bible gives the dimensions, which are simply gargantuan. Yet the proportions – length, width, and height – are ideal for stability in rough seas. Noah's Ark was the largest vessel built until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It took Noah 100 years to build it. Yes, in the antediluvian world, the average human lifespan was hundreds of years because things were vastly different, as I mentioned earlier.

The Ark had approximately the same capacity as my Navy ship, the U.S.S. *Coronado*. My ship was a little longer and wider, but the Ark was boxier – taller. We had a crew of 450 Navy men and could handle over 800 Marines. We also took tanks, combat cargo, assault landing craft, and semi trucks. In other words, we held a lot of stuff.

The Ark could easily have held 18,000 species, and another 40 percent of the Ark would have been available for food. My "combo pack" goes into much more detail about the Ark and the Flood, answering many common questions and objections. I can only scratch the surface in this letter.

**I warned the kids: "You need to be aboard *today's* Ark"**

Can you imagine how the people in Noah's day must have scoffed and laughed at him? Well, the Flood wiped the smirks right off their faces. They drowned because they weren't aboard the Ark of salvation.

Today, the Ark of salvation is Peter's Barque, which is the Catholic Church. Just as in the days of Noah, lots of people laugh and scoff at us for practicing our Catholic faith. But like the scoffers in Noah's day, the coming Judgment will wipe the smirks right off their faces. Unless they get aboard the Ark, they're going to find themselves in serious trouble.

I told the kids, "What you've just heard me say makes you responsible. You have no excuse. You know better. Don't ever leave the Ark, which is the Catholic Church – EVER. It is the one Ark of salvation. You might meet someone who's attractive and say, 'Let's get married in this other church.' No. Don't do it. Don't marry outside the Church."

Every young Catholic needs to hear my message because marrying outside the Church is one of the most common ways Catholics walk out of the Ark.

### **How to get my new 'combo pack' about evolution vs. creation**

Let me send you my new "combo pack." I'll be glad to send you this set, which includes my new CD and the superb 96-page booklet describing what the Church teaches about creation. Let me send you this gift as a token of thanks for your tax-deductible gift of \$35 or more.

Could you consider making a gift of \$35 or more? Your gift will help me reach more people and change more lives.

As a token of thanks for your gift of \$50 or more, I'll gladly send you two sets of my new "combo pack." Would a gift of \$50 or more be possible?

As a token of thanks for your tax-deductible gift of \$100 or more, I'll gladly give you three sets of the new "combo pack." Why do you need three copies? Well, I would deeply appreciate your sharing this information not only with your family but with other families as well. You need one to keep for yourself, one to loan out, and one to give away to a loved one, friend, neighbor, or co-worker.

Could you consider sending a gift of \$100 or more?

### **Your gift is needed now**

Could you please consider making a gift beyond the suggested minimum amounts because our financial need is so great? Would it be possible for you to sacrifice \$150, \$250, or \$500 to help sustain our worldwide life-changing outreach? I'm depending on friends like you to be as generous as possible. I have no one else to turn to.

To help meet our urgent needs, could you consider sacrificing a major gift of \$1,000?

I'll gratefully accept your gift no matter how large, no matter how small. Please send whatever is a sacrifice for you. And please join me in praying for the success of our life-changing projects.

May God bless you and your loved ones in His own best way.

Yours in Christ,

Steve Wood

P.S. A few adults also attended my presentation to the youth group. They remarked, "I've never heard anything like this before." That's why I feel so strongly that you and your loved ones should hear this. You've probably never heard anything like it before. Putting together this "combo pack" is one of the most important projects I've ever done. I urge you to request more than one copy. Please send your sacrificial gift today.

**REPLY MEMO**

**Yes, Steve.** I want to help the Family Life Center promote your life-changing projects to strengthen marriages and families.

Please send me one “combo pack” about evolution vs. creation, which includes your new CD and the 96-page booklet describing what the Church teaches about creation (gift of \$35 or more)

Please send me two sets of your new “combo pack” (gift of \$50 or more)

Please send me three sets of your new “combo pack” (gift of \$100 or more)

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**Print out and mail to:** Family Life Center, Dept. 0408DADS, 2130 Wade Hampton Blvd., Greenville, SC 29615. 864-268-6730.