

# AGGIE CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS TEAM

Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for  
a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence...  
1 Peter 3:15

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## What is Apologetics?

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### **Introduction:**

- Welcome!
- Introduction of Leadership
- Mission Statement: “Our primary objective as the Aggie CAT is to prepare Catholics to explain and defend the faith of the Church. We do this by providing Catholics the knowledge and skills needed to confidently share our faith in charity and humility with others. We look to 1 Peter 3:15 as our guide in this endeavor. “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence...”

### **What is Apologetics?**

#### **Apologetics:**

An explanation and defense of a faith or religion that is based on reason (derived from the Greek word “apologia” which means defense).

#### **Faith and Reason:**

- Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth. – John Paul II, Fides et Ratio
- Faith is not opposed to knowledge or reason; faith and reason nourish each other.
- It is important for us to understand our faith, so we can then explain it to others.

## Practical skills in apologetics:

- Part of our Baptismal call is to share our faith and be prepared to explain our faith to all who ask.
- It is important to study resources so that we are prepared when God calls us to explain the Catholic faith to others.
- No matter what we study and how much we know, we sometimes might not know the answer to a question or objection. One must practice intellectual humility: It's better to admit that you don't know the answer than to misinform someone with the wrong answer.
- Be original – Try to be creative and interesting in your explanations, especially when giving a talk. Relate the topic to real life, try to make it personal.

## Resources Past and Present:

- Every aspect of the teachings of the Catholic Church has been criticized throughout history at some point.
  - The real presence of Christ in the Eucharist (2<sup>nd</sup> Century)
  - Mary's Perpetual Virginity (4<sup>th</sup> Century)
- Two-thousand years of Church history have yielded these resources:
  - **The Bible**
  - **The Catechism of the Catholic Church**
  - The Writings of the Church Fathers (esp. Doctors of the Church)
  - The Magisterium (i.e. Church Councils)
  - The Summa Theologica by St. Thomas Aquinas
  - Your Friends at Aggie CAT
- These can be found at Evans Library (6<sup>th</sup> floor), St. Mary's Library, the internet.

*\*\*\* Understand the nature of your source!!! We (Aggie CAT) and other theologians are not the Magisterium (teaching body) of the Catholic Church. We are not free from error. \*\*\**

## Important Notes:

- The purpose of Apologetics is to explain and defend the faith that you KNOW and LOVE
- Apologetics is NOT your faith
- Apologetics is NOT a time to bash other people and their beliefs
- “What doth it profit thee to enter into deep discussions concerning the Holy Trinity, if thou lack humility, and be thus displeasing to the Trinity?” – Thomas à Kempis