

## 10/15/17 Faith and Reason, and Other Philosophical Issues

“Faith and reason 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 (cf. *Ex* 33:18; *Ps* 27:8-9; 63:2-3; *Jn* 14:8; *1 Jn* 3:2).”

– Pope St. John Paul the Great, beginning of *Fides et Ratio*

### **Key points:**

- Philosophy and theology are closely linked, and philosophical mistakes are a frequent cause of theological errors
- Faith and Reason are not enemies, but partners in the search for truth.
- The findings of philosophy, science, and mathematics all point to the reasonableness of faith
- Everyone puts faith in something since no one can personally verify everything he accepts to be true
- God's existence cannot be known from natural science, but there is no scientific reason to limit knowledge to science
- God's existence can be known through philosophical demonstrations
- If Darwinism by itself explains the existence of life, then we cannot know whether Darwinism itself is true.
- An all-powerful, all-loving, and all-knowing God could permit evil in order to secure a greater good, or to draw good out of it. God Himself suffered on the cross for this reason.
- Human beings are different from animals in several key ways, including: our use of language, our reaction to leisure, and our capacity to make moral choices.
- The so-called “new atheists” make many significant philosophical errors and fail to understand what they claim to refute.

### **Resources:**

*Five Philosophical Mistakes Every Catholic Apologist Should Be Aware Of*, Tom Harmon, *This Rock*, Jan. 2005, pp. 6-9

*Handbook of Catholic Apologetics* by Peter Kreeft and Ronald Tacelli,

OR *Handbook of Christian Apologetics* (same book, minus 40 specifically-Catholic pages)

*Who's Deluded? An Atheist Just Doesn't Get Aquinas*, Christopher Kaczor, *This Rock*, Mar 2009

*Thomas Aquinas's Five Ways*, Stephen Richards, web article at “That Religious Studies Website”

*The Problem of Evil*, Matt Fradd, Catholic Answers Blog, July 9, 2013

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