

Kolbe Center for the Study of Creation

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*For me You have created the skies scattered with stars . . . and all the beautiful things on earth.
(St. Maximilian Kolbe).*

Catholic Seminar on Origins

The Kolbe Center for the Study of Creation presents the “Catholic Seminar on Origins” to proclaim the fullness of the Catholic teaching on the origins of man and of the universe from the perspective of Scripture, Tradition, and natural science. These seminars can be adapted to any audience, from elementary to post-graduate, by members of the Kolbe Center staff and Advisory Council.

The Catholic seminar on origins helps audiences to understand the following truths:

- Man’s understanding of his origins shapes his view of the purpose and meaning of human existence.
- Naturalism and theism offer two alternative ways of explaining the origins of man and the universe. Neither of these views can be proven true or false by empirical science.
- Divine Revelation contains information about the origins of man and the universe as well as guidelines for interpreting that information.
- Sacred Scripture, as interpreted by most of the early Fathers of the Church, teaches that God created the various kinds of living things, including man, by divine fiat less than 10,000 years ago.
- The first man, Adam, had no “parents.” His body was created from material elements, into which God infused his spiritual soul. The first woman, Eve, was created miraculously from Adam’s side. Adam and Eve were created in a state of perfect health of body, mind, and soul, but lost this state of original holiness through disobedience to the Divine Will. After our first parents experienced this “Fall” from original holiness, God engineered a global flood that produced most of the so-called “fossil record.”
- The Fathers of the Church interpreted Genesis 1-11 in this way for hundreds of years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. At Lateran Council IV, the Council of Florence, and Vatican I, the doctrine of creation was further defined in ways that harmonized with the doctrine of special creation.
- In the nineteenth century, many natural scientists challenged the literal interpretation of Genesis 1-11 in light of a theory of molecules to man evolution. According to this

theory, all living things are descended from non-living matter through billions of years of evolution. Charles Darwin speculated that scientific advances would confirm his theory. Paleontologists would discover missing links, intermediate fossils. Biologists would discover evidence of descent from lower forms of life and the mechanism that transforms simple organisms into more complex ones.

- In the late 19th and the early twentieth centuries, the Magisterium of the Catholic Church responded negatively to this theory. During the second half of the twentieth century, however, many Catholic theologians and natural scientists attempted to integrate the theories of modern evolutionary scientists into their teaching of Catholic doctrine. According to these theologians, God used natural processes over billions of years to create all of the various kinds of creatures in the universe, including man.
- Recent discoveries of modern science contradict the fundamental principles of the macro-evolutionary theory. Experimental research in sedimentology shows that many of the layers of sedimentary rock have **not** been laid down gradually and vertically with the youngest layers on the top and the oldest layers on the bottom. Cutting edge research indicates that the sedimentary layers of the earth can be better understood as having been laid down rapidly by fast-moving water. Paleontologists admit that there is an “absence of transitional fossils.” Genetics shows that there is no mechanism within living things that will spontaneously produce new organs or bodily systems. Molecular biology reveals that even the “simplest” living things possess irreducibly complex design features that had to have been fully functioning from the start and which could not have arisen through any kind of undirected, random natural process. These discoveries have seriously challenged the foundations of Darwin’s molecules to man evolution theory.
- The restoration of the traditional, patristic understanding of origins will have a profound impact on the future of the Church. It exposes the falsehood of the molecules to man evolutionary paradigm and offers an alternative to modern man. It restores man to his rightful place at the center of creation and restores the intimacy between man and his Creator that has been so weakened by a belief in molecules to man evolution. Most importantly, a true understanding of creation will restore man’s faith in the goodness of God by illuminating the truth that sickness, disease, and death were not willed by God as part of his original creation. As the early Fathers understood, these evils are the result of man’s misuse of his free will through sin. Through Jesus Christ and his Mystical Body, the Church, the original beauty and harmony of creation are being restored by the work of the Holy Spirit (cf. *Romans* 8).

Structure of the Seminar

Two hour, all-day, and one and a half day seminars can be arranged.

Two Hour Seminar

The Origins of Man and the Universe according to Scripture and Tradition (30 minutes)

The Origins of the Theory of Molecules to Man Evolution (30 minutes)

The Church Responds to the Theory of Evolution (30 minutes)

Natural Science Evaluates the Theory of Evolution (30 minutes)

All-Day Seminar**

9:00-9:50

The Origins of Man and the Universe according to Scripture and Tradition (50 minutes)

10:00-10:50

The Origins of the Theory of Molecules to Man Evolution (50 minutes)

11:00-12:00 – Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

12:00-2:00 Lunch

2:00-2:50

The Church Responds to the Theory of Evolution (50 minutes)

3:00-3:15 Divine Mercy Chaplet

3:15-4:05

Natural Science Evaluates the Theory of Evolution (50 minutes)

4:15-5:00

The Significance of the Origins Debate (and What You Can Do to Proclaim the Truth of Creation) (45 minutes)

5:00 Final Blessing

One and a Half Day Seminar

Friday Evening

7:00-7:50 p.m.

The Origins of Man and the Universe according to Scripture and Tradition (50 minutes)

8:00-8:50 p.m.

The Origins of the Theory of Molecules to Man Evolution (50 minutes)

Saturday

9:00-9:50

The Fathers of the Church on Genesis 1-11

10:00-10:50

Natural Science Evaluates the Theory of Evolution (50 minutes)

11:00-12:00 – Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

12:00-2:00 Lunch

2:00-2:50

The Church Responds to the Theory of Evolution (50 minutes)

3:00-3:15 Divine Mercy Chaplet

3:15-4:05

Scientific Evidence for a Young Earth and a Young Universe (50 minutes)

4:15-5:00

The Significance of the Origins Debate (and What You Can Do to Proclaim the Truth of Creation) (45 minutes)

5:00 Final Blessing