

Apologetics

Mark 13:10-11

And unto all nations the gospel must first be preached. And when they shall lead you and deliver you up, be not thoughtful beforehand what you shall speak: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye. For it is not you that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 10:18-20

And you shall be brought before governors, and before kings for my sake, for a testimony to them and to the Gentiles: But when they shall deliver you up, take no thought how or what to speak: for it shall be given you in that hour what to speak: For it is not you that speak, but the spirit of your Father that speaketh in you.

Luke 12:11-12

And when they shall bring you into the synagogues and to magistrates and powers, be not solicitous how or what you shall answer, or what you shall say. For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what you must say.

Acts 6:8-10

And Stephen, full of grace and fortitude, did great wonders and signs among the people. Now there arose some, of that which is called the synagogue of the Libertines and of the Cyrenians and of the Alexandrians and of them that were of Cilicia and Asia, disputing with Stephen. And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit that spoke.

“Always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is within you” (1 Peter 3:15).¹

Definitions of “Apologetics”

“Apologetics is the science which explains and justifies the Catholic religion as the true religion.”²

¹ This passage of Sacred Scripture has long been an inspiration. See: <http://www.adrationem.com/> See also Orr, John Arthur. *Reason in Wojtyla / John Paul II*. Charleston, SC: Createspace, 2014, 157 note 560; 186-187 notes 634-635; 203 note 675; 205 notes 679-681; 211-210

² Glenn, Paul J. *Apologetics, A Philosophic Defense and Explanation of the Catholic Religion*. Rockford, IL: TAN, 1980, xiii.

Glenn goes on to identify “Apologetics” as

“a science, that is to say, it is a body of certainly known facts, set forth in a manner that is systematic, logical, and complete; and it presents the reasons which show these facts to be true and certain.”³

Another take:

“Apologetics: The science that aims to explain and justify religious doctrine. It shows the reasonableness of such doctrine in the face of the objections offered by those who refuse to accept any religion, especially Christianity and more particularly Roman Catholicism. Also called Fundamental Theology as the science that establishes the credibility of Christian revelation on the evidence of miraculous phenomena and the testing of unbiased history. (Etym. Greek apologetikos, a defense).”⁴

While St. Thomas Aquinas (+1274) “summarized theological arguments in his *Summa Theologiae* and *Summa Contra Gentiles*” these are not “apologetic arguments.”⁵

Kreeft and Tacelli have fifteen chapters in their *Pocket Handbook*⁶ in one hundred forty pages and sixteen chapters in four hundred pages in their original *Handbook*. Msgr. Glenn, in eleven chapters taking up three hundred pages makes his presentation. Frank Sheed and Maisie Ward use more than three hundred and fifty pages in their eighty-eight chapter volume.⁷

³ Glenn, xiii

⁴ Hardon, John. *Modern Catholic Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1980, 34.

⁵ Kreeft, Peter & Tacelli, Ronald K. *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 1994, 13. Hereafter cited as Kreeft, Tacelli, 1994.

⁶ Kreeft, Peter & Tacelli, Ronald K. *Pocket Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2003. Hereafter cited as Kreeft, Tacelli, 2003.

⁷ Sheed, Frank & Ward, Maisie. *Catholic Evidence Training Outlines*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Catholic Evidence Guild, 1992.

Among the highlights:

Faith and reason ⁸	The existence of God ⁹
God's nature	Creation and evolution
Providence and free will	Miracles ¹⁰
Problem of Evil ¹¹	Historical reliability of the Bible
Divinity of Christ	Resurrection ¹²
Life after death	Heaven and Hell ¹³
Salvation	Christianity and other religions ¹⁴
Objective truth.	

Cardinal Dulles gives historical background in seven chapters over four hundred pages.

There are tools for apologetics, the first of which is faith, the second of which is prayer, the third of which is example, the fifth of which is study. If we do not believe what we say our words will be flat. If we do not pray for God's insight or for those with whom we interact our words will be flat. If we do not give good example to those with whom we interact our words will be flat. If we do not study the faith, prayer, Sacred Scripture our words will be flat.

⁸ Glenn does not have a chapter on "Faith and Reason" nor entries in his index for "faith" or "reason." Others do treat "Faith and Reason" as chapters in their volumes: Kreeft, Tacelli, 2003, 13-18; Kreeft, Tacelli, 1994, 27-44; Sheed, Ward, 1992, 160-163. Dulles, Avery. *A History of Apologetics*. San Francisco, CA: Ignatius, 2005, 342-343, 99-100, 107, 128, 279-280, treats Saint John Paul II's *Fides et ratio* and the "rational grounds for faith" respectively.

⁹ Cf. Glenn, 1-55; Kreeft, Tacelli, 1994, 47-88; Kreeft, Tacelli, 2003, 19-29; Sheed, Ward, 286-294. Dulles addresses "arguments in proof of God" (76, 115-116, 133-134, 148, 170, 177, 192, 206, 233, 330, 345-355, 359).

¹⁰ Kreeft, Tacelli, 1994, 64, 103, 109-114, 118-119, 181, 196, 199-202, 205-206, 220, 302; Kreeft, Tacelli, 2003, 41-44; Sheed, Ward, 212-215. Glenn 205-225 treats "Miracles" under the heading of "Wondrous Works." There are seventeen sub-headings under "Miracles" in Dulles, 405.

¹¹ Kreeft, Tacelli, 2003, 45-57; Kreeft, Tacelli, 1994, 120-146; Sheed, Ward, 297-302

¹² Kreeft, Tacelli, 2003, 69-78; Kreeft, Tacelli, 1994, 175-198; Sheed, Ward, 216-218

¹³ Kreeft, Tacelli, 1994, 257-312; Kreeft, Tacelli, 2003, 97-111; Sheed, Ward, 185-187. Dulles treats "Heaven" (4, 14, 80, 138) and "Hell" (152, 186, 192, 228, 251, 316).

¹⁴ Kreeft, Tacelli, 1994, 341-360; Kreeft, Tacelli, 2003, 121-138. "Comparative religions" are treated by Sheed, Ward, 265-266.

A concordance is an index to the whole of Sacred Scripture. Some people have drawn up basic scriptural references.¹⁵

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¹⁵ Cf. Wong, Christopher. *The Catholic Apologist's Scriptural Cheat Sheet*. <https://www.ewtn.com/library/ANSWERS/WALLET.HTM> (Cited on 14 January, 2018); *Catholic Verse Finder Large Edition*. Farmington, NM: San Juan Catholic Seminars, 2018.

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