Schedule, Speakers & Topics

Friday June 4

- 10:00am - 10:15am: Opening Prayer, Introduction, and Welcome

- 10:15am - 11:00am: “Science and the Catholic Faith” (Stephen Barr, President, Society of Catholic Scientists, Emeritus Professor of Physics, University of Delaware)
  Many have claimed that modern science and Christian faith have been opposed historically, and completely disagree in what they say about the physical world. Prof. Barr will show how embracing modern science not only does not contradict Catholic theology, but offers new horizons for faith.

- 11:00am - 11:15am: Break

- 11:15am - Noon: “Cosmology, Extraterrestrial Life and Creation” (tentative) (Karin Öberg, Professor of Astronomy, Harvard University)
  An astrochemist and Catholic convert, Prof. Öberg will discuss the latest advances and pressing questions in the study of exoplanets and the search for life beyond our planet. She will relate her exciting work to her faith in the Christian doctrine of creation. (for a sneak preview, see “The Galactic Recipe for a Living Planet”)

- Noon - 1:00pm: Buffet Lunch (free of charge)

- 1:00pm – 1:45pm: “Evolution and Creation, Chance and Purpose: A Catholic Perspective” (Daniel Kuebler, Dean of Science, Professor of Biology, Franciscan University of Steubenville)
  For some, the scientific theory of evolution is seen as incompatible with a God who has knowingly and purposely fashioned us. However, if one examines the science of evolution properly, the theory can reveal the order inherent in creation. As Pope Benedict has stated, creation and evolution represent “two complementary—rather than mutually exclusive—realities.” Prof. Kuebler will guide participants to see the harmony between evolutionary biology and the Catholic faith. (for a sneak preview, see The Purposeful Universe: A Conversation with Dan Kuebler)

- 1:45pm - 2:00pm: Break

- 2:00pm – 2:45pm: Lightning Round Talks – Session #1
Participants should choose one of the following talks:

- **Modern Science, the Catholic Church, and the Galileo Affair** (Cory Hayes, Senior Professor, Department of Philosophy and Theological Studies, St. Joseph Seminary College) Beginning with Copernicus and ending with St. John Paul II, Dr. Cory Hayes will examine the trials of Galileo, the major players involved and the issues that were at play in his 1633 condemnation by the Inquisition, overcoming misconceptions and deepening our understanding of the lessons it has for us today.

- **Catholicism and the Sciences: Overturning the Myths** (Prof. Lawrence M. Principe, Professor of History of Science and Technology, John Hopkins University) There is a great deal of popular misinformation about the historical interactions between science and religion, especially Catholicism. This talk will contrast these myths with the actual historical record, and point out where and why the myths began (the answer will surprise you!) and their continuation down to today despite historical evidence to the contrary.

- 2:45pm – 3:00pm: Break

- 3:00pm – 3:45pm: Lightning Round Talks – Session #2
  
  - Participants should choose one of the following talks:
    
    - **Is the Universe Made for Life?** (Stephen Barr, President, Society of Catholic Scientists, Emeritus Professor of Physics, University of Delaware) In recent decades physicists have discovered that many features of the fundamental laws of physics are “just right” to make life (including complex living things such as ourselves) possible. These are sometimes called “anthropic coincidences.” Do these show that the universe was made with us in mind? Or does the “multiverse” idea explain them? Or possibly both?
    
    - **What is a human being and when does life begin?** (Maureen Condic, Associate Professor of Neurobiology and Anatomy, University of Utah School of Medicine) The questions of who is a human person with rights and when does a person arise during the process of human development have profound implications for society, for medicine and for the law.
    
    - **God and the Dinosaurs** (Peter Dodson, Professor of Dinosaur Paleontology, University of Pennsylvania) Prof. Dodson will talk about the adventure of being a paleontologist making discoveries about dinosaurs and how these strange and wonderful creatures fit into our understanding of God and the world He created.

- 3:45pm – 4:00pm: Break
• 4:00pm - 4:15pm: Closing Remarks and Next Steps