

April 2, 2011

Dear Steve,

You mentioned that you hope to promote use of your "Faith and the Big Questions" series with youth and young adults when you return to the United States. I would like to add my input as to why this would be good.

This year was the fourth year of using your custom-developed apologetics program with our parish high school confirmation class. I know the students always love coming to your class because it gets them to think more critically about their faith and its relevance in today's world.

We know that young people today face a difficult time making good choices in this electronic age. With access to the Internet, we are seeing a greater challenge to belief in God than ever before. It is more "hip" to be secular these days.


For young people to more easily fit in, they often have to downplay their belief in God in order to be more like their peers. That is why the "Faith and the Big Questions" program is so important. It gets them to think about their faith and how to not be afraid to say they believe in God when many of their friends may believe otherwise.

Each of the sessions in this apologetics program helps prepare youth and young adults for challenges they are facing or will likely face in explaining their faith to others without feeling ashamed of their beliefs. That is why I think this program is important enough to have made it a key part of our confirmation preparation program.

Furthermore, I would like to see the "Faith and the Big Questions" program more widely used to help high school students and young adults in any stage of their Christian formation, as well as grown adults. We Roman Catholics can and should do more to help all our people not lose their faith in our increasingly secular society, as well as to be better able to stand up for their beliefs when challenged. I believe those are the strengths of this program and why I highly recommend it be used elsewhere.

I hope my observations help in the use and possible publication of this excellent program.

Peace and All Good!



Paul Koenig, OFM Cap.

Pastor

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima