



**DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE**  
**OFFICE OF CATECHETICS**  
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To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Steven R. Hemler, who is the President of the Catholic Apologetics Institute of North America (CAINA), as an excellent choice for any workshops or presentations to Catechists, Faculty, or Administration in Catholic Schools and or Parish schools of religion. He was able to make several stirring and needed science-based apologetics presentations that address some of the most consistent reasons cited by a demographic of Catholics consistently leaving the Church post Confirmation and entering adult life.

Bishop Robert Barron, once the head of the Committee for Evangelization and Catechesis for the USCCB, conducted a survey of most 18–40-year-olds within the demographic mentioned above. They all stated unequivocally four distinct reasons for abandoning the Catholic Faith:

1. They cannot see the existence of God
2. They cannot reconcile their biology classes with the Creation account in Genesis
3. They do not understand why an all-loving God allows suffering.
4. They do not understand the nature of the human person or the apparent restrictions of sexual license they choose to exercise in direct contradiction to the moral teachings of the natural law.

Mr. Hemler provides several science-based studies and engaging videos that provided answers to these most frequently asked questions of young people while also making the resources available to all teachers and catechists for use in their individual lessons and teaching platforms in schools and churches. He is very competent to answer questions and provide oversight and tips for making these resources friendly for use in these two environments.

I have known Mr. Hemler for a few months and recently my Dicastery sponsored an event in the Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana with him as the keynote speaker introducing himself and his apologetic work during a series of summer workshops for Catechists, Catholic School teachers, Religion Administrators, Directors of Religious Education, and Pastors of Churches from over 122 parishes and 32 Catholic Schools.

As the Director of Catechetics for the Diocese of Lafayette, La. I have no qualms in writing this letter. Mr. Helmer is academically qualified and consistently faithful in presenting catechetical, theological, or scientific topics within the realm of these four areas of concern of young adults with great accuracy, insight, and professionalism. I am certain that Mr. Hemler will be a valued speaker to any event that you choose to invite him to in your diocese

Sincerely,

*Chad Judice*

Chad Judice

Director of the Office of Catechetics  
Diocese of Lafayette, La.