**Science and God Log**

**Journals**

As Catholics and as scientists, there is much to appreciate and marvel at when we truly reflect upon and ponder God’s amazing creation: the immensely incredible universe and ALL that it holds. We, humans, have only studied, know and understand probably only a VERY small fraction of this creation. Yet, at the same time, God is so loving, He has given us the minds, the talents, the skills, and the grace to attempt to understand His wonders.

In order to encourage you to reflect upon this more deeply, and to think more critically about our faith, and about science, you will be required to keep and maintain a **Science and God Log Journal**. Writing in this journal will be your **DAILY** bell work during science class (unless otherwise noted).

While you may write down any reflections you may have regarding the relationship between your Christian faith and science, here are some points of reflection, to help guide you:

* Where do you see God in science or in the natural world?
* How does what we’re learning about in science relate to your faith, impact your faith or your relationship with Jesus?
* Is there anything you struggle with or have questions about regarding issues in science and religion?
* How can you integrate your faith and belief in Christ with your scientific studies?
* What scripture/Bible passages can relate to what you are studying in science?
* Any other reflections regarding science and God/religion.

Occasionally, I will provide you with prompts upon which you may reflect. However, you are not limited to just writing about that prompt; feel free to reflect on any other topic which may relate to the general idea of science and God.

Since this is a journal, there is not necessarily any minimum length requirement. HOWEVER, your journal entries should be **thoughtful and genuine.** Thus, an acceptable entry would be something that is at least a **half-page** long.

While paying attention to spelling, grammar and formatting is always a best and important practice, I will not be evaluating/grading you on this. I would like you to focus more on the content of your entries.

 I will periodically collect and grade these journals, so you should be ready to turn in your journals **at any time**.

**Examples**

*Sneha Tharayil*

*PHYC 190*

*Section 02*

*09 September 2007*

*Science and God Log: Entry #1*

 *Today, I was reading about the multitude of stars and galaxies and other such astronomical bodies there are in our observable universe. The number astounded me. My astronomy textbook noted that the number of stars in the universe was comparable to counting every single grain of sand on every possible beach on our planet, Earth. The textbook also discussed the general sizes and distances of these objects. After reading this information, an overwhelming feeling of insignificance overcame me. I began to contemplate how we live our lives. We often forget that we are a mere speck in this magnificently enormous universe. It almost seemed as though our lives mattered little in the terms of the general functioning and existence of the universe. I do not mean to detract from the value and importance of humanity (and Earth in general) when I employ such terms as “insignificance” and “speck.” In fact, I came to realize the contrary. As I reflected on this, my attention turned toward God. A deep sense of gratitude and awe for His unimaginably fantastic and indescribable creation filled me. However, more importantly , the magnitude of His love was even more striking. God’s love is so profound and great that He was willing to send His only Son, Jesus, to us mere, “insignificant” specks in the universe to save us by his death. In this monumental act of love, God proves our significance. While we may be microscopic in comparison to the rest of the universe we still MATTER, just like each subatomic particle matters in the constitution of life and the whole universe. Although I was previously aware that size did not determine significance before, this realization is ever more prominent now. Nothing is insignificant even if it is not apparent.*

*Sneha Tharayil*

*Professor Wickman*

*16 October 2007*

*Black Holes*

 *For my class presentation, I chose to explore the astronomical phenomenon of black holes. Black holes are truly one of the most fascinating subjects I have encountered. Their effects on their surroundings and on the universe are unprecedented and amazing. The black hole effect on time and space however is the most enthralling aspect. As I was conducting my research, I learned that black holes warp the space-time continuum so drastically that eventually both space and time cease to exist. For someone who lives in a world essentially bound by time, this concept was almost unfathomable to me. However, while I may not be able to fully comprehend the inexistence of space and time, this new concept provided me a new insight into understanding God’s nature. As a Christian, I believe that God is unbound by space and time and in fact transcends this. The cessation of time and space in a black hole is a true reflection of this divine characteristic of God. If it is possible for us to comprehend or believe in an astronomical body in which time and space cease to exist, then it would not be so bizarre to fathom a God of this nature. In 2 Peter 3:8, Saint Peter acknowledges this formidable attribute of our God, “But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.”*