

Basic Certificate in Apologetics Outcomes

These six seminars rationally explore “big questions” about God, Jesus, salvation, the Catholic Church, and suffering, as well as vital apologetics skills. Students who complete all six seminars for the *Certificate in Apologetics* should be able to:

- Credibly, convincingly, and compellingly explain and share why Catholics believe what we do about God, Jesus, salvation, the Church, and suffering.
- Explain scientific and human evidence of God's existence.
- Elucidate Catholic teaching on the creation vs. evolution debate, including how to properly interpret the Genesis creation stories.
- Describe how to know that Jesus was a real historical person, who is truly God, and who really rose from the dead.
- Explain how scientific studies of near-death experiences confirm the reality of heaven and an afterlife.
- Share reasons why Christ's passion and death were necessary for our salvation and how we can accept God's gracious gift of salvation.
- Describe why being “spiritual” is not enough and why the Church, including the sacraments, are important and necessary in our lives.
- Share the “top ten” reasons to regularly attend Mass.
- Explain reasons why God may allow moral evil (evil human behavior) and natural evil (earthquakes, disease, etc.).
- Describe some beneficial purposes of suffering.