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Lesson nr. 8 – continuum - –Tuesday, December 1, 2020. – 8th Grade HANDOUT number # 1

Dear 8th Grade Students;

Since last Tuesday I was trying to RE- CAP all the material we have talked about, and I have come to this conclusion:

- The reason I have even asked you to look over your Middle School (6 – 8 Grade) curriculum under the Norwalk Public Schools tab: Science: more specifically NGSS (NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS) under: Motion and Stability – Forces and Interactions – is the following:
 - To make sure that we do have a mutual understanding that I am not asking you to do ANYTHING EXTRAORDINARY you wouldn't be doing (studying) at your schools already
 - To APPLY the same (forensic, hands – on, experimental type of work) METHOD (methodology) you learn in your schools to the study of Religion, Bible, Church
 - With such understanding, my hope is to switch to the SAME REASONING we use about pretty much everything that surrounds us – to use the same standards of thinking, learning, exploring to the matters of our Faith, Bible, Religion
 - To give you an example: remember how we have talked about the something you cannot see, you cannot point to, you can just simply SHOW – and it DOES exist? It does rule, organize, and forces us to be part of it every minute of every day? We were talking about the Force of Gravity? Right?
 - The Force of Gravity exists EITHER we SEE IT or NOT, either you could PROVE it easily or not – it's still an INTEGRAL PART of the WORLD we live in

- Now, I hope you can see now where I am going with this? Right, to the LEARNING PROCESS about our God, Sacred Scripture, our Faith, our Church – all you have been learning since you joined the Rel Ed Program here at St. Thomas
- Only to apply the same METHOD you use with everything else – Logic and Methodological COHERENCE – see; Only because you can't see GOD – doesn't mean God does not exist.
- To continue with more specific Books of the Bible – like Genesis – or Exodus – with all the events and characters described in these Books we could DO JUSTICE to ourselves and to the Books doing some serious HOMEWORK on such and applying the same standards to them as we apply to anything else in the field of STUDIES
- You see, FAITH, SPIRITUAL CONNECTION, and BELIEVE not only that Jesus EXISTED – was ALIVE – at one time, in other words BELIEVING in JESUS – could be, and many times is - very different than BELIEVING JESUS (and therefore following, doing what He says on the pages of the Gospels)

You might also remember how we brushed quickly over the Theory of Relativity (and why we did that) during our last class? We did that to better understand the difference between the concept of a very SCIENTIFIC, SO FAR VALID theory, and ITS APPLICATIONS to the field OTHER than SCIENTIFIC; therefore, RELATIVISM or RELATIVISTIC MORALITY completely derails something that WORKED, and still DOES in many ways: like the 10 COMMANDMENTS.

Now, tonight also I would like to move from the OLD TESTAMENT to something that is much closer (in time, culture, and faith) to us, that is the New Testament and its WORLD.