

The Kolbe Center for the Study of Creation  
952 Kelly Rd., Mt. Jackson, VA 22842  
Tel: 540-856-8453 E-Mail: [director@kolbecenter.org](mailto:director@kolbecenter.org)  
*For me You have created the skies scattered with stars . . .  
and all the beautiful things on earth  
(St. Maximilian Kolbe)*

Dear Friends of the Kolbe Center,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

For an on-going writing project, I have been reading a recently-published book on the faith and practice of young adult Catholics in the United States. The authors attempt to determine the reasons why some-a small minority-continue to practice their Faith as adults, while others-the great majority-do not. Although the book contains valuable insights into the reasons why some Catholics continue to practice the Faith, it does not establish any clear connection between the specific teaching they have received from their parents and teachers as children and their adult belief and practice of the Faith.

As I have traveled the world and talked to young Catholics who embrace the traditional Catholic doctrine of creation, I have become more and more convinced that their faith in the fundamental doctrines derived from the sacred history of Genesis lies at the foundation of their whole hearted acceptance and practice of the whole Catholic Faith. Indeed, after speaking with hundreds of Catholic young people on five continents, I cannot recall a single Catholic young adult who holds fast to the "sacred history of Genesis" who does not at the same time hold fast to all of the Church's traditional, authoritative teaching on Scriptural inerrancy, holy marriage, family, the sanctity of life, modesty, and other controverted teachings of the day. I would like to ask your help in collecting information to determine the extent to which Catholics who hold fast to the doctrines of Genesis 1-11 also hold fast to the rest of the doctrines that are under attack in our time.

To that end, I would be very grateful if as many of the readers of this newsletter as possible could conduct an informal survey of the young Catholics you know who firmly believe in the sacred history of Genesis to see where they stand on a number of other issues. If possible, please pose the questions I have listed below, carefully record the responses, and send the results to me in the format described below, so that I can determine the extent to which--at least within the Kolbe family--there is a clear correlation between faith in the sacred history of Genesis and a strong faith in and practice of all of the authoritative teachings of the Church.

I realize that this will not be a "scientific" study, in the sense that I am not doing anything to determine the relative number of teen-age or young adult Catholics who believe in and practice the Church's difficult teachings but who also believe in theistic evolution and a non-literal historical interpretation of Genesis 1-11. But I believe that this information will still be valuable in establishing correlation, if not a causal relationship, between faith in the sacred history of Genesis and an integrated faith in all of the "hard sayings" of the Catholic Church.

If you would be willing to help with this informal study, please pose the following questions to as many teen or young adult Catholics (as defined below) as possible and record their responses:

1. Do you accept the literal historical truth of Genesis 1-11 (specifically, the fiat creation of all things in the beginning of time; the special creation of Adam, body and soul; the creation of Eve from Adam's side; the cosmic effects of the Fall; the long ages of the patriarchs; a global Flood in the time of Noah; and divine intervention in the confusion of languages at Babel)?
2. Do you believe that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and that it is truthful in all that it teaches about history, geography, and other subjects, as well as in matters of faith and morals?
3. Do you pray daily and read the Holy Scriptures at least once a week outside of Holy Mass?
4. Do you go to Confession regularly (at least once a month on average)?
5. Do you attend Holy Mass consistently on all Sundays and Holy Days?
6. Do you believe, accept and strive to obey all of the Church's teachings on marriage, purity, modesty, and sexual behavior?
7. Do you believe in and defend the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death?
8. Do you have a strong devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary?

Please note that since the Church has not formally defined the meaning of "day" in Genesis 1 as a natural day, acceptance of the literal historical truth of Genesis is consistent with a belief in the fiat creation of all things at the beginning of time (as required by the Pontifical Biblical Commission decrees of 1909), and not solely with the view of the overwhelming majority of the Fathers that the entire material universe was created in six natural days.

Please restrict your survey to young Catholics in the age range from 14 to 18 or from 19 to 29 years old. For this survey, we are only interested in recording the responses of young Catholics who answer "Yes" to question number one. When you record the rest of the responses, please indicate the age, sex, and country of residence of the respondent. I would like to thank everyone in advance who participates in this survey. It will hopefully be another step on the way to establishing the fundamental importance of faith in the sacred history of Genesis for a firm acceptance and practice of the whole Catholic Faith by the next generation of Catholic leaders, the future of the Church.

Please keep the Kolbe Center in your prayers.

Yours in Christ through the Immaculata,

Hugh Owen

P.S. If you would like to help us to defend the traditional Catholic doctrine of creation, the foundation of the Gospel, please go to our [website](#), visit our donation [page](#) and sign up to become a regular contributor or to make a one-time contribution.