Marian Doctrine

1. Q: The Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of Jesus: True or False? A: False: The Immaculate Conception refers to the conception and birth of Mary without original sin. In this way, she was made pure so that she could be the perfect vessel to carry Jesus.
2. Q: Since the term Immaculate Conception doesn’t appear in the Bible, there is no scriptural support for it: True or False? A: False: While the term is not used explicitly in the Bible, the idea of the Immaculate Conception is in the Visitation narrative. When Gabriel greets Mary, he says “Hail Mary full of grace”; not half-full, not mostly full, not somewhat full, but completely full. This condition of grace can only be the result of never having been under the shadow of sin, including original sin.
3. Q: The devil’s primary enemy is Mary: True or False? A: True: Mary, the devil, the angles, all humans are known as contingent creatures. This term means that we all depend on God for our existence – we are created. Since the devil is not begotten of God but created, he can never be an enemy of God. He can (and does) sin and he exists in a state of separation from God but he can never overthrow or defeat God. Of all contingent creatures, he is viewed as being the most disobedient. Mary, of all contingent creatures, is viewed as being the most obedient – she trusted and obeyed God her entire life. Therefore, she is the opposite of the devil and one of our most loving intercessors.

Ontology and Cosmology

1. Q: Science and faith are in conflict with each other: True or False? A: False: There are several ways to see that science and faith are complementary and cooperative with each other and which one you prefer is a matter of taste. First, there is the observation that throughout most of human history, the scientist was also a philosopher who believed in God. Many of the great scientists were and are firm believers in God (George Lemaitre, who conceived of the Big Bang in the first half of the twentieth century as a Roman Catholic priest). Second, there is the question of truth. No scientific observation has ever conflicted with revealed truth. Many observations have conflicted with widely held or cherished beliefs that certain religions held that were not revealed truth (e.g. the age of the Earth) and many revealed truths have overthrown limited interpretations and beliefs based on scientific evidence (e.g. social Darwinism held by communists and Nazis). Finally, the scientific enterprise is a matter of faith. Scientists believe two (at least) unprovable truths (which, by the way, were revealed to man in Genesis): 1) the world is understandable, and 2) the rules learned here and now can be used at different times and places (there and then). No scientist believes, regardless of what he may say, in random universe nor one without design.