

MEDIA ALERT – DRAFT 2/15/16

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WHAT: Vatican Astronomer Speaks at Utah Symposiums on Science & Faith

Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ, is a Jesuit brother, astronomer and meteoriticist, appointed Director of the [Vatican Observatory](#) in Sept. 2015 by Pope Francis I. He has been invited to speak at several Utah educational institutions on the juxtaposition of science and faith. He will be making a series of presentations at Utah Valley University, Brigham Young University, and Juan Diego Catholic High School on March 10-13, 2016.

WHO: Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ, is a native of Detroit, Michigan, he earned undergraduate and masters' degrees from MIT, and a Ph. D. in Planetary Science from the University of Arizona, was a postdoctoral research fellow at Harvard and MIT, served in the US Peace Corps (Kenya), and taught university physics at Lafayette College before entering the Jesuits in 1989. Along with more than 200 scientific publications, he is the author of several popular astronomy books, including [Would You Baptize an Extraterrestrial?](#) In 2014, [Bro. Consolmagno](#) received the Carl Sagan Medal from the American Astronomical Society. He is well respected within the scientific and faith community as a commentator on planetary science and Christianity. His public speaking engagements include many universities, and a recent interview with [Stephen Colbert](#).

Sunday, March 13, 2016, 2-4:30pm

[Juan Diego Catholic High School](#), 300 E 11800 S, Draper, Utah

Free and Open to the Public, sponsored by OC Tanner

- **RECEPTION IN THE GREAT HALL: 2-3PM** Refreshments & STEMs displays: view huge telescopes, science fair winners, robots, 3D printers and more!
- **PRESENTATION in AUDITORIUM: 3-4pm**
"Adventures of a Vatican Astronomer" - Br. Guy Consolmagno will speak on tales of his science expeditions in every continent, and reflect on the larger meaning of science and faith - not only what the Vatican does, but why it is done for the Catholic Church.

Saturday, March 12, 2016, 8:30am – 3:30pm

Classroom Building 101, Utah Valley University, Orem, Utah (watch www.mormoninterpreter.com for details)

Free and Open to the Public, sponsored by the Interpreter Foundation, BYU Studies, and FairMormon

- **2016 INTERPRETER SCIENCE AND MORMONISM SYMPOSIUM** – The topic for the 2016 symposium is "Body, Brain, Mind, and Spirit." Speakers include Brother Guy Consolmagno, Jeffrey M. Bradshaw, Samuel M. Brown, James E. Faulconer, Brant A. Gardner, Ugo A. Perego, Daniel C. Peterson, Jani Radebaugh, Stephen H. Webb, and Camille Stilson Williams.
- **KEYNOTE ADDRESS: 9:00am**
"Astronomy, God, and the Search for Elegance" - Brother Guy Consolmagno. Scientific theories must do more than merely satisfy the data; they must do so in a way that is (to use a term much favored by mathematicians) "elegant." By looking closely at a handful of astronomical images, we'll explore the way that one proceeds from an emotional appreciation of the beauty of the stars and planets, to a deeper understanding that satisfies both reason and emotion. Ultimately, this link between "elegance" and rational truth has profound theological implications.
- 5:00 PM: No-host dinner at Brick Oven Restaurant in Provo (111 E 800 N, Provo, UT 84606). Advance sign up at the symposium is required.

Thursday, March 10, 2016, 6:30 pm (<https://calendar.byu.edu/Event/HtmlEvent/30823>)

Joseph Smith Building Auditorium, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

Free and Open to the Public

[Summerhays Lecture Seminar](#)

Brother Guy Consolmagno will speak on "Encountering God's Personality in Creation"

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Media are invited to all events, and may arrange pre-event interviews via any of the contacts listed above