Greetings!
We hope you enjoy getting our news directly to your inbox. Please let us know what you think or if you want to change how you receive this. Thank you!

Guess What The Big News is this Month - The Eclipse!

From a live interview for Busted Halo on Sirius XM to a TIME Magazine article to a football stadium at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, the Vatican Observatory was very busy with the Great American Eclipse.

Catholic News Service wrote about Fr. Guy's visit to Kentucky while Fr. Paul Mueller contributed to an article about how even Popes can get spooked by an eclipse.

Be sure to read the fascinating Catholic Astronomer Blog articles about all our Eclipse experiences. Take a look at some of the photos we gathered, too.

Totality Composite by Claudio Costa, a Vatican Observatory docent in Castel Gandolfo, taken in Casper, Wyoming.

Fr. James Kurzynski, Catholic Astronomer Blogger, and his parishioners in Menomonie, Wisconsin.

The Vatican Observatory
New Online Platforms

With the Catholic Astronomer blog and the Faith and Science library the VOF is moving further into the technological world. Many of you receive our newest online item: the monthly newsletter. If you do not and would like to please go to our website, www.vofoundation.org, to complete the mailing list form. And let us know what you think!

www.vofoundation.org/faith-and-science

Founded in 1891, the Vatican Observatory demonstrates the Church’s desire to embrace, encourage and promote scientific study, on the basis of Her conviction that 'faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth' (Fides et Ratio, Praemium). For more information email (katie@vaticanobservatory.org) or call +1 (520) 795-1694.

Brother Guy Consolmagno, S.J.
Director, Vatican Observatory
President, Vatican Observatory Foundation
President’s Message
by Br. Guy Consolmagno, S.J.

It’s been a busy summer; I have taken so many trips to spread the word about astronomy and the Vatican’s role in it. One wonderful venue for reaching folks who enjoy hearing about what we do is science fiction conventions, and my travels included the North American Science Fiction Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico (where I was a guest of honor!) and the World Science Fiction Convention in Helsinki, Finland. My panels there included talks on role models in science fiction to what it’s like, living and working in a (benevolent!) monarchy — the Vatican itself.

Every talk was packed. Well, that may have had something to do with the fact that I shared the podium with a number of popular science fiction writers, as well as the American astronaut Kjell N. Lindgren... but a lot of it, too, is that people are eager to hear about astronomy.

And not just astronomy, but who we astronomers are, why we do the work we do, and how it feels to explore the unknown. Planets, after all, are places where people have adventures.

Starting a new adventure with us this month is Father Justin Whittington, S.J., who becomes the assistant to the president of the Vatican Observatory Foundation. He will hold the fort here in Tucson while I go around telling our story at schools and churches around the world. He’s an old friend — we were classmates in the Jesuit novitiate in Wernersville, Pennsylvania nearly 30 years ago. It is such a pleasure to have him in our community, and a blessing for the Foundation to have his talents working for us.

One other set of adventures, of course, that has faced many of us this past month has been the hurricanes that hit the Caribbean (including where I had just visited in Puerto Rico), Texas, and Florida. I am grateful to everyone who joined their prayers with mine for the safety of our loved ones in those areas, including our students, colleagues, and indeed my own parents and family in Florida. Prayers are powerful; they work.

So let me end by thanking you for all your support... your financial donations, your prayers, and every time you tell your friends and neighbors about who we are and what we do. We could not tell our stories (science fiction and science fact!) without your help.

And not just astronomy, but who we are, why we do the work we do, and how it feels to explore the unknown. Planets, after all, are places where people have adventures.

At Space Fest in Tucson Paul Gabor, S.J., demonstrated the size of our solar system compared to Trappist 1 and the difference between volume and density using meteorites at the VOF exhibit table.

Excerpts from His Holiness’ address to the group:

“As both a Catholic priest and a cosmologist, Mgr. Georges Lemaître knew well the creative tension between faith and science, and always defended the clear methodological distinction between the fields of science and theology. While integrating them in his own life, he viewed them as distinct areas of competence.

I am deeply appreciative of your work, and I encourage you to persevere in your search for truth. For we ought never to fear truth, nor become trapped in our own preconceived ideas, but welcome new scientific discoveries with an attitude of humility. As we journey towards the frontiers of human knowledge, it is indeed possible to have an authentic experience of the Lord, one which is capable of filling our hearts.”

At Space Fest in Tucson Paul Gabor, S.J., demonstrated the size of our solar system compared to Trappist 1 and the difference between volume and density using meteorites at the VOF exhibit table.

Friends and colleagues of Jesuit missions around the world, including the VOF, met at the World Union of Jesuit Alumni (WUJA) Congress in Cleveland to share insights and discuss the future of Jesuit education.

Part of the Astronomy Club: Daniela, Gretchen, Erica, Gabrielle, Kaiti and Javier at Colegio San Antonio de Padua in Puerto Rico.

Astronaut Kjell N. Lindgren, author Janet Catherine Johnstone, and Brother Guy, panelists at the World Science Fiction Convention in Helsinki, Finland. Part of the Astronomy Club: Daniela, Gretchen, Erica, Gabrielle, Kaiti and Javier at Colegio San Antonio de Padua in Puerto Rico.
WHERE WERE YOU ON AUGUST 21ST?

AUDRA BALEISIS
DAVID LEVY
DAN DAVIS AND BROTHER GUY
RICHARD D’SOUZA, S.J.

Fr. Kurzynski: Wisconsin
Frs. Gabor and Corbally with Tommy Wickland: Kansas
Claudio Costa: Wyoming

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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
PALMER COMMONS – FORUM HALL
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