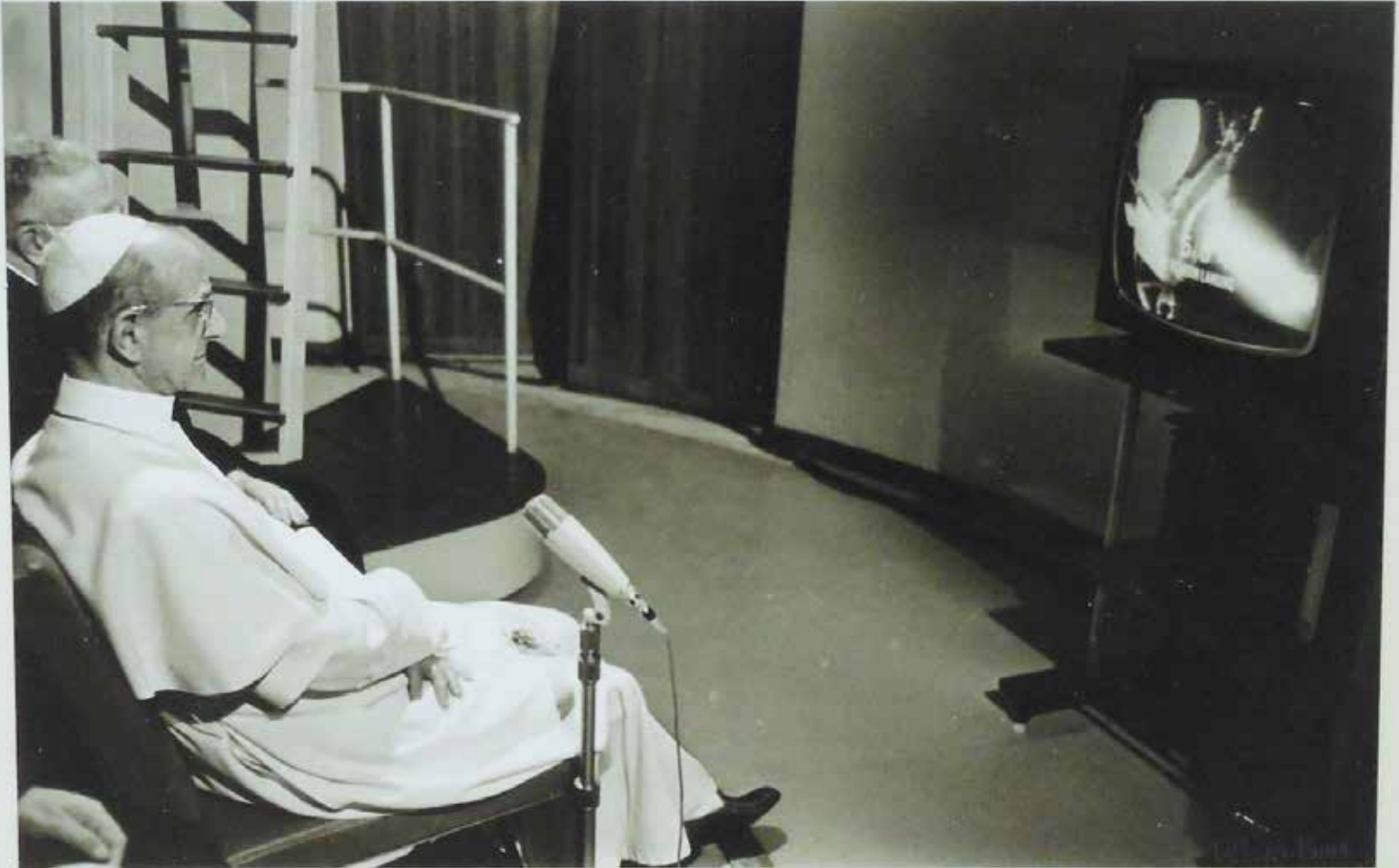




VATICAN OBSERVATORY FOUNDATION

2018 ANNUAL REPORT OF GIVING



Paulus P.P. VI-

20-VII-1969

On the night of July 20, 1969 – actually early morning of July 21 at the Pontifical Villa of Castel Gandolfo – Pope Paul VI watched on television as the first humans landed on the moon. Then he addressed the astronauts of Apollo 11 from the telescope domes of the Specola,

“Here, from this Observatory of Castel Gandolfo, near Rome, Pope Paul the Sixth is speaking to you, astronauts. Honor, greetings, and blessings to you, conquerors of the Moon, pale lamp of our nights and our days! Bring to her with your living presence, the voice of the spirit, hymn to God our Creator and our Father. We are close to you with our good wishes and with our prayer. Together with the whole Catholic Church, Pope Paul the Sixth salutes you.”



President's Report

The year 2018 wasn't the worst of times; but it hasn't been the best, either. We've made major upgrades to the Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope. We supported a fantastically successful Vatican Observatory Summer School, the 16th that we've run since the program began in 1986. The Jesuits and our adjunct astronomers have given hundreds of public talks and appeared in dozens of newspapers and media interviews. (I even rated a cartoon in the Wall Street Journal!)

Our Faith and Astronomy digital library is now up and running, and it has already attracted more than 60,000 views. And our blog - renamed Sacred Space Astronomy - now attracts nearly 9,000 followers. In terms of supporting the scientific and educational work of the Vatican Observatory, we've never done more.

On the happy-but-sad side, our beloved Development Director for many years, Katie Bannan Steinke, has retired. We were so blessed to have her expertise and wry humor with us that it seems churlish to complain now that she's gone! And in fact we wish her all the best as she turns her efforts to the "development" of her wonderful grandkids.

The more gloomy news is our financial state. The details are presented elsewhere in this report, but let me summarize what the situation looks like.

The people who handle our endowment tell us that just about all charities this past year did very poorly, and the Vatican Observatory Foundation is no exception. The way the stock market fell in the last quarter didn't help, either. The bottom line is that we took in \$570,000 from all sources last year, and against an outgo \$1.09 million... about twice our income. (Most of our expenses are fixed: they are the engineer salaries and other expenses associated with running the Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope from year to year.)

It's not quite as bad as it sounds, though: \$100,000 of that loss is depreciation on the telescope, not actual cash losses, and another \$100,000 is what the stock market did to our portfolio. On the other hand, \$250,000 of our income is just what we carry on the books to represent the salaries that we would normally have to pay for work done by the Jesuits on

staff; it's donation in time, not money, in other words.

In terms of pure cash flow, we brought in only \$320,000 and we spent \$645,000; we fell short by \$325,000. We need to double our donations.

My goal is get about \$600,000 a year from donations. A "pyramid" that could do that would be two \$50,000 donations, fifteen \$10,000 donors, a hundred and fifty \$1,000 donors, and two thousand \$100 donors, every year.

We have actually had a number of different donors coming in at the \$50,000 level, and a good number (though nowhere near 150 yet) at the thousand dollar level. Thank you! But we hoped to find those two thousand folks giving us about ten dollars a month by having them become Sacred Space members through paid subscriptions to our Sacred Space Astronomy website. So far, we only have 120 of those. They provide enough to cover the cost of the website, but not much more. You can see we have a long way to go.

There are 100,000,000 Catholics in the US. Can you help us find two thousand of them, a mere 0.002%, who love astronomy and would like to provide a paid subscription to our Sacred Space Astronomy blog?

When Pope Leo XIII founded the Vatican Observatory back in 1891, he gave us a mission to "show the world" how the Church supports science. That need is no less today. Your donations have been a wonderful boost to that effort. But we need to reach more people; and your parishes and circles of friends are just the folks we'd like to meet. That's what makes your support of the Foundation so important to everybody.



Br. Guy Consolmagno, S.J.
President

Image credit:
Wall Street Journal, 2018

Chairman's Report

Spring is the time of renewal and Easter. The cold and gray of the winter are replaced by trees and plants competing to show off dazzling blooms. Summer brings long days and maturity. As the seasons change so does the Development Office of the Vatican Observatory Foundation. A key member and good friend, Ms. Katie Bannan Steinke, retired last year after many years of service.

Many of you know Katie. She was the person behind the camera, the person behind the desk, the person behind the Foundation's activities for the last decade-and-a-half. She tirelessly and energetically planned and coordinated presentations, dinners, workshops, and seminars across the country from coast to coast, from her native soil of Los Angeles to San Francisco, Tucson and Phoenix, to New York City and Washington in the East, Chicago and Ann Arbor - to name a few - with you, our benefactors and friends. She arranged tours of Rome that included such behind-the-scenes features as the Chapel of Saint Ignatius, and a pre-opening visit to the Sistine Chapel before the crowds entered. She led us on visits to state-of-the-art observatories at Kitt Peak, Mount Graham and in the Atacama Desert of Chile. She has a passion for education and outreach and was instrumental in launching our high school program that includes on-site presentations as well as Web-based seminars with a Jesuit astronomer.

She contacted and booked esteemed speakers for our Annual Benefactors dinner and Seminars. Astronauts, astrobiologists, astrophysicists, and philosophers were keynote speakers at these events. She pioneered the Foundation's interaction and development that resulted in significant programs supported by the Keck and Templeton Foundations. She leveraged social media and set up our Facebook page. She analyzed usage statistics to improve the value we bring to our friends on social media. She also led the first ever advertisements in Astronomy and Sky and Telescope magazines, spreading the word about the Vatican Observatory to over 100,000 amateur astronomers.

Thank you Katie for your essential contributions to the Vatican Observatory Foundation. Because of you a thousand blossoms bloom!

Rich Friedrich
Chairman



Katie Steinke and Brother Guy at Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena CA. September 2018

Our Mission

The Vatican Observatory has a double-edged mission: scientific research into the knowledge of the universe, including our place in it, and the education of the public based upon the knowledge derived from that research.

RESEARCH. In the early 1990s the marvels of technology and the commitment of a few visionary philanthropists made possible the creation of the Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope (VATT), which empowered scientists to look with more acute "eyes" into the universe. Today, the VATT continues to provide stunning access to the heavens for researchers from around the globe. Combined with other technologies and the continued commitment of Vatican Observatory scientists, our work is literally pushing the boundaries of what we know and how we know it.

EDUCATION. Each year members of the Observatory staff share their expertise by making educational presentations on the average to over 5,000 persons from 90 educational, religious, and academic groups. In recent times Vatican Observatory scientists have played an increasingly important role in the dialogue between science and faith.

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The VOF has made every effort to ensure that all information is correct. If any errors or omissions are noted, we offer our apologies and ask that you notify us.

2018 Circles of Giving Awards

For decades, each year the Vatican Observatory Foundation has been honoring individuals and organizations whose generosity over time has been vital to our mission. There are eight Circles of Giving each named for one of the exceptional individuals connected with Astronomy, the Society of Jesus and the Vatican Observatory. This public recognition is but a small token of our profound gratitude and appreciation. Our many thanks and prayers go to all those who support our mission but especially to the following being honored this year.



The Georges Lemaître Circle - \$5,000

A Belgian priest and cosmologist, Lemaître was one of the first to propose what has come to be known as the Big Bang. As president of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, he had the very difficult task of trying to convince Pope Pius XII of the difference between scientific theories and religious creeds. With such figures as Hubble and Einstein, Lemaître was a principal protagonist in the birth of modern cosmology.

Mrs. Susan Delonis
Dr. and Mrs. Christopher M. Graney

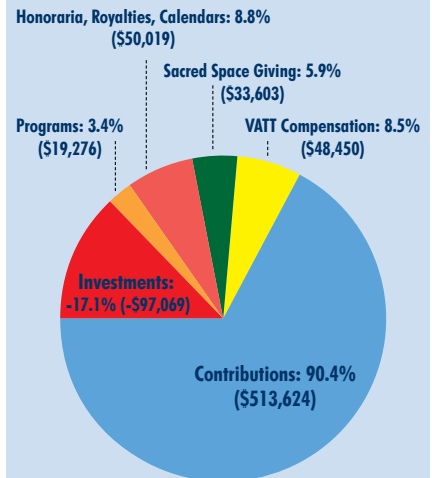


Angelo Secchi Circle - \$50,000

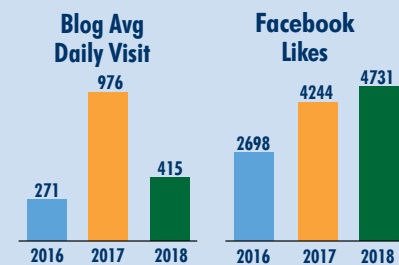
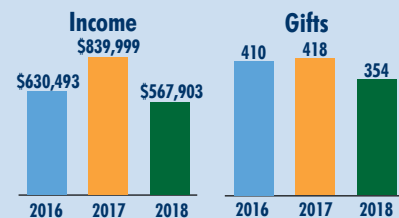
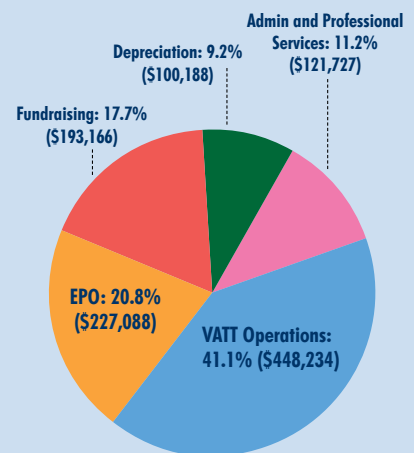
Known as the Father of Modern Astrophysics, Secchi was the first to classify stars according to their spectra. His scientific and engineering contributions ranged from the study of sunspots to double stars to irrigation systems while creating an astronomical laboratory on the roof of Sant'Ignazio Church in downtown Rome. He contributed in an exceptional way to the tradition of high quality research at the Vatican Observatory.

Dr. Edward Luther Oleen

Income: \$567,903



Expenses: \$1,090,403



The financial information above reflects pre-audit figures subject to adjustment



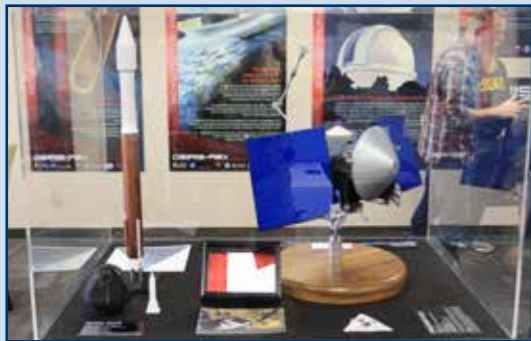
Casting a mirror for the Giant Magellan Telescope.



Mr. David Schaller takes a virtual trip through the rings of Saturn.



Dr. Chris Graney Skypes his message.



Models of the Osiris-REx spacecraft and asteroid Bennu.



A man-made ocean lies at the heart of Biosphere 2.



For Mrs. Megan Menne, observing does not end when the sun rises.

Faith and Astronomy Workshop 2019

The fourth Faith and Astronomy Workshop gathered 22 participants for a week in January at a retreat house in the desert outside of Tucson, Arizona. As always, the Workshop focused on developing ministers and teachers who can preach and teach about science in their faith communities at home.

Participants came from throughout the United States and Canada, and were facilitated by Vatican Observatory and Foundation staff from as far as Italy. But the program opened up frontiers to be explored in spaces both far and near.

Tours of University of Arizona programs offered insights into some of the most exciting developments in space sciences today. The Mirror Lab tour showed the construction of a massive telescope atop the Andes in Chile. A visit to the headquarters of the Osiris-REx mission revealed the complexity of taking samples from an asteroid and returning them to earth for “information about how the early solar system formed and about how life began” and the nature of near-Earth objects. Biosphere 2 uses an isolated artificial habitat to study the challenges of creating and maintaining sustainable ecosystems.

Guest speakers covered topics both theoretical and very concrete: “Cosmology” by Dr. Brenda Frye, “Meteorites” by Dr. Larry Lebofsky, and “Politics and Planets: How Science is Funded” by Dr. Mark Sykes. Brother Guy and Father Chris Corbally discussed their experiences as people of faith whose mission is the pursuit of science.

Cyberspace played a large part in the workshop. Dr. Christopher Graney, curator of the Faith and Science website (www.vofoundation.org/faith-and-science/) gave a presentation by video conference. Mr. Bob Trembley, the Foundation’s blog administrator and technology wizard, set up a Virtual Reality tour of the solar system and presented other online NASA resources. Bob also made sure that the entire Workshop could be tweeted (#FAWVOF) and has set up a sharing page for Workshop alumni.

As usual at the desert site, nighttime skies were dark and viewing was enjoyed except when clouds drifted by. The most important input, though, came from the participants’ own ideas and discussions about their own issues as pastors and teachers, what they experience and think about. One commented, “I thought I understood faith and science pretty well, but this will change how I talk to ... others about important issues.”

Annual Seminar at Georgetown University

For decades the Vatican Observatory Foundation has presented an Annual Seminar as an opportunity to show the public “that the Church and her Pastors are not opposed to true and solid science, whether human or divine, but that they embrace it, encourage it, and promote it with the fullest possible devotion,” in the words of Pope Leo XIII. It’s also an opportunity to show off the great scholars and scholarship that the Vatican Observatory supports.

On Monday, June 3, the 2019 Annual Seminar was held in Washington, DC in the Copley Formal Lounge of Georgetown University. The setting reminded all of the distinguished history of astronomy studies at the Jesuit university. On the afternoon of the Seminar, alumnus and past president of the Georgetown Astronomical Society Nick Poplawski conducted a tour of the Heyden Observatory, which has a history stretching back to the 1840s. The hike across the Hilltop campus on a bright spring day – or a Monday at the office - whetted the appetites of those who attended the Seminar that evening. Alumna and current Georgetown Research Specialist Helen Karn arranged for all to be refreshed at a catered buffet dinner before the main course, the nourishment for curious minds.

Fr. Paul Mueller, S.J. led off the Seminar with a prayer and his discussion, “Solidarity: A Catholic Perspective on Science and Faith” which drew on the thought of recent Popes. Fr. Mueller is a scholar of the history and philosophy of science as well as Rector of the Vatican Observatory Jesuit Community. Fr. David Brown, S.J. followed with “PEPSI and Host Stars,” elucidating a project he is joining. The Potsdam Echelle Polarimetric and Spectroscopic Instrument involves the Large Binocular Telescope and the 1.8m Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope – neighbors on Mount Graham, AZ – in the search for planets in other solar systems.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Michelle Franci, an adjunct scholar at the Vatican Observatory who is Frank B. Mallory Professor of Chemistry and Chair of the Chemistry Department at Bryn Mawr College. She chose to celebrate the sesquicentennial of Dmitri Mendeleev’s 1869 formulation of the periodic table of elements with her address, “The Radioactive Cat: Prowling the Depths of the Periodic Table.” Focusing on isotopes, Dr. Franci especially delighted the audience by sharing anecdotes and her own experiences of heavy water.

The 2020 Annual Seminar will take place on Friday, February 21 in Tucson, AZ.



Nick Poplawski welcomes visitors to the dome of Heyden Observatory.



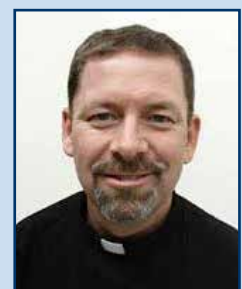
The 12 inch equatorial telescope from about 1880, and its mount.



Fr. David Brown, S.J.



Dr. Michelle Franci



Fr. Paul Mueller, S.J.



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FOUNDATION

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Annual Report 2018
Summer 2019



excelling in faith, education, and research

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VATICAN
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**Official Calendar
NOW AVAILABLE!**