



News Release

Contact: Sandra Soliz  
713-906-7912  
solizs@stthom.edu

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**HOUSTON (Feb. 15, 2010)**

**University of St. Thomas Hosts  
“Gaudí’s Sagrada Familia: Through the Sculptor’s Eyes”**

Crossroads Cultural Center-Houston presents Etsuro Sotoo, a sculptor currently working on Antoni Gaudí’s unfinished masterpiece the basilica of the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10, at the University of St. Thomas, Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon.

In the lecture “Gaudí’s Sagrada Familia: Through the Sculptor’s Eyes,” Sotoo will talk about his life-changing encounter with the famous Spanish architect Gaudí through the Sagrada Familia. He sees Gaudí’s genius in his artistic creation, but he also realizes that great art involves obedience – both to the vision of another man and also obedience to one’s original experience of beauty, which points to the mystery of God. Gaudí was always fascinated with the mystery of God and believed that the designs of nature are the masterworks of the Creator.

Sotoo, Japanese by birth, has worked on the basilica for more than 30 years. His involvement with Gaudí and the Sagrada Familia was a decisive factor in his conversion to Catholicism.

Michelangelo, Sabatino, Ph.D., will briefly discuss the history of the Sagrada Familia prior to Sotoo’s lecture. Sabatino is an assistant professor in Architectural History at the University of Houston.

Kisako Kiseki, an award-winning pianist, will perform a concert before the lecture. Kiseki has hosted charitable concerts in efforts to raise money for the restoration of the Sagrada Familia.

Crossroads Cultural Center is a non-profit corporation established in New York in 2004. The Center was initiated by four members of Communion and Liberation, the international movement in the Roman Catholic Church that was founded more than 50 years ago by Monsignor Luigi Giussani. Houston is Crossroads’ newest branch.

The lecture and concert are free and open to the public. A reception will follow the lecture. University of St. Thomas Music Department and the Office of Hispanic Ministry are the co-sponsors of the lecture. Parking is available for \$2 in the Moran Center, 3807 Graustark at W. Alabama. For more information, visit [Houston@crossroadsculturalcenter.org](mailto:Houston@crossroadsculturalcenter.org) or call 713-823-2263.

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