

Previous Symposia

2011 After a Century of Ecumenism:

What has been achieved?
What are some challenges facing us today?

By Monsignor John A. Radano, Ph.D.

Monsignor John A. Radano, Ph.D., served on the Pontifical Council For Promoting Christian Unity, Vatican City, from 1984-2008, and headed its western section. He was appointed Visiting Professor at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (The Angelicum) Rome, 2009-2010. Currently he serves as an adjunct professor at Seton Hall University in the Archdiocese of Newark.

The churches have recently commemorated the centenary of the 1910 World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh, Scotland, an event understood as the starting point of the modern ecumenical movement. A century of ecumenism has gone by. This gives us the occasion to ask what has been achieved during this century. In what ways have Christian communions, divided from one another over centuries, begun to move towards unity? What are some of the ecumenical challenges facing us today? With an emphasis on the results of ecumenical dialogue, this presentation explores some answers to these questions.

- [After a Century of Ecumenism](#) 

**Thursday
April 7, 2011**

**St. Mary's Seminary
9845 Memorial Drive, 77024**

6:30 p.m. Taize Prayer Service
Seminary Chapel

7:30 p.m. Lecture
Nold Auditorium

Free and open to the public. For more information, contact at 713-942-5066 or cfc@stthom.edu.

The mission of the Center for Faith and Culture is to understand and impact the relationship between the worldview of Catholic faith and the American way of life.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2011

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated around the world from **January 18-25, 2011**. Local **UST scheduled events** are:

Fri., Jan. 21, 7:30 pm - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Prayer Service, Windsor Village United Methodist Church, 6011 West Orem, Houston, 77085.

Tue., Jan. 25, 7:30 pm - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Prayer Service, UST Campus, Chapel of St. Basil, 3802 Yoakum, Houston, 77006.

Prayers of Intercession that may be included during Prayer Services and Liturgies can be found [here](#).

Resource information for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity can be found through the following links:

Vatican Website - http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/sub-index/index_weeks-prayer.htm

Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute - http://www.geii.org/wpcu_index.htm

2010

2010 M.A.F.C. Inaugural Lecture by Cardinal Wuerl

On the same day he was elevated to the College of Cardinals, Cardinal-designate Donald W. Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington D.C., came to the University of St. Thomas campus to speak about "Religious Faith's Role in Building a Good and Just Society." The event, held Wednesday, Oct. 20, marked the inaugural lecture for the UST Center for Faith and Culture Master of Arts in Faith and Culture Program.



The [lecture video](#) can be viewed on the UST website. A [full transcript](#) of the lecture is also available.

Center of Faith and Culture Presents Lecture About "Science and Religion"

The University of St. Thomas Center for Faith and Culture will sponsor a lecture presented by Dr. Francisco J. Ayala and Fr. George V. Coyne, S.J. on "Science and Religion." The lecture will be held at 6:30 p.m., on **Tuesday, April 27**, in the IMAX Theater at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, 1 Hermann Circle Drive.

As colleagues and friends, Dr. Ayala and Fr. Coyne will address "Science and Religion" in a spirited discussion, and may even bring up more questions. Could faith possibly be made stronger by science? Can science include or exclude divine action in the world?

These two popular figures in this debate are uniquely familiar with both science and religion. Fr. Coyne is a Jesuit priest who is also a noted astronomer, and served as director of the Vatican Observatory for 28 years. Dr. Ayala is a renowned evolutionary biologist and a former Dominican priest currently servicing as a professor at the University of California at Irvine, and recently received the 2010 Templeton Prize.

- [Ayala-Coyne Conference for Religion & Science](#) 
- [Science, Evolution, & Creationism](#) 

"The Holy Spirit And Evangelization" 2010 Lecture Series

Wednesdays - April 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5, 2010 - from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

This is a five-week Lecture Series entitled, "The Holy Spirit and Evangelization" which will explore the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in the life of The Church and experienced through culture.



Schedule of speakers:

April 7 - Rev. Jeffrey N. Steenson, D.Oxon
April 14- Rev. Thomas Rosica, C.S.B.
April 21- Rev. C. J. T. Talar
April 28- Dr. Scott Alexander
May 5 - Rev. Elochukwu Eugene Uzukwu, CSSp

Location St. Mary's Seminary, Nold Auditorium
Address 9845 Memorial, Houston, Texas 77024
Sponsored By Center for Faith and Culture and The Congregation of the Holy Spirit
Flyer [Download the flyer](#)

- **The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is a worldwide celebration in which Christians of all denominations come together to pray for Christian Unity. Various Christian communities throughout the Houston area hosted a night of the week of prayer, January 18 - 25, 2010. zz

"You are witnesses of these things." Luke 24: 48.

Schedule:

January 18, 7 pm The Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
 January 19, 7 pm St. Mary's Seminary Chapel
 January 20, 7 pm UST Chapel of St. Basil
 January 21, 7 pm St. Theresa Catholic Church
 January 22, 7 pm Windsor Village United Methodist Church
 January 23, 6 pm Christ the King Lutheran Church
 January 24, 6 pm St. Martin's Episcopal Church
 January 25, 7 pm The Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

- [Download the flyer](#)

Ecumenism has shown how important prayer is for Christian unity, and for 100 years, Christians have gathered around the world to pray in communion with the prayer of Jesus "that they all may be one" (John 17: 21). Houston-area Christians of all confessions will collaborate during the week-long observance to come together in prayer.






"Christians, who share belief in Christ and share one baptism and one Lord are obligated to overcome the stumbling block of disunity," said Fr. Donald Nesti, CSSp, director of the UST Center for Faith and Culture. "Obliged by their belief Christians of every generation and every decade must enter into relationship of prayer and dialogue to sense where it is that the Holy Spirit is leading them to be one. Only the Spirit can be the 'Glue' that will reassemble a fractured Body."

The Church Unity Octave, a forerunner of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, was first celebrated in January 1908 by the Rev. Paul Wattson, SA, at Graymoor in Garrison, N.Y. The eight days between two liturgical feasts, the Confession of St. Peter (Jan. 18) and the Conversion of St. Paul (Jan. 25), seemed especially appropriate to pray for the unity of the Church.

"This new prayer movement caught the imagination of others beyond the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Atonement to become an energetic movement that gradually blossomed into a worldwide observance involving many nations and millions of people," said Rev. Timothy MacDonald, SA, associate director of Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute.





The 2010 theme, "**You Are Witness of These Things**," comes from Luke's Gospel, chapter 24 verse 48. Each prayer service will integrate the theme along with Luke's entire chapter 24. All prayer and celebration is open to the public.

2009

- **"Evolution and Faith: What is at Stake"**
 John Haught, Ph.D., Senior Fellow, Science & Religion, Woodstock Theological Center, Georgetown University, will speak on "Evolution and Faith: What is at Stake" on Tuesday, October 20, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Open to the general public. Tickets are \$17 and may be purchased through the Museum. [Download Flyer](#)
- **Twitter! Twitter! Connecting and Loving in the Age of Me**
A conference about dating, relationships, family and faith will be presented Friday, Sept. 25, from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm and Saturday, Sept 26, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Open to the general public. [Click here](#) for further information and registration flier, which includes the event schedule.
 - [Twitter Conference: Mr. Jeff Crandall \(9.25.09\)](#) 
 - [Twitter Conference: Rev. Donald S. Nesti, CSSp \(9.26.09\)](#) 
 - [Twitter Conference: Dr. Catherine R. Barber \(9.26.09\)](#) 
 - [Twitter Conference: Dr. Joseph & Catherine Garcia-Prats \(9.26.09\)](#) 
 - [Twitter Conference: Dr. Prachi Shah, M.D. \(9.26.09\)](#) 

- **St. Paul and Evangelization Lecture Series**
March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1, 2009
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Seminary
Nold Auditorium
9845 Memorial Drive
Houston, Texas 77024

[View Event Flyer](#)

- Event Videos:
 - [Dr. Witherington](#) 
 - [Dr. Osiek](#) 
 - [Dr. Ryan](#) 
 - [Dr. Capes](#) 
 - [Cardinal DiNardo](#) 

2008

- **Fifth Annual Seminar on Spirituality: "There will be Blood": Reconciliation in Faith and Culture,"** June 10-12, 2008, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., St. Mary's Seminary, 9845 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas 77024.

This seminar addressed the necessity for reconciliation in faith and culture that can only be found in and through Christ. Speakers: Rev. Donald S. Nesti, CSSp, Rev. Binh The Quah, CSSp, PhD, and Ms. Maureen N. Bacchi, LMSW. [View some event photos.](#)

- March 5 and 6 - **Inaugural Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza Interreligious Dialogue Symposium: "The Roots of Dialogue and Peacemaking in Sacred Texts and Traditions: Contemporary Implications for Judaism, Christianity and Islam."** Presented by UST Center for Faith & Culture and co-sponsored by The Anti-Defamation League - Southwest Region, The Institute of Interfaith Dialog, and UST Center for International Studies. [View some event photos.](#)

The symposium was a two-part event at the University of St. Thomas.

- The first part was an all-day program on March 5, 2008 and featured three internationally recognized speakers: Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, Rabbi Samuel E. Karff and Rev. Dr. Thomas Michel, S.J. Leaders from the Jewish and Muslim communities, as well as from the local sister churches and ecclesial communities participated in the symposium.
- The second part on March 6 was a morning-only program specifically designed for the Consular Corps of Houston. It included a key-note address by Archbishop Celestino Migliore and brief presentations by the symposium speakers. The panel discussion was moderated by Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian.

2007

- **Fourth Annual Seminar on Spirituality: "Identity Theft: The Challenge for Catholic Americans,"** June 11-15, 2007, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at St. Mary's Seminary, 9845 Memorial Drive.