Why Science and Faith Matter to Each Other

Father José Funes participates in unique work for the Catholic Church in Rome: the Vatican Observatory. In his lecture, he will speak about this crossroads of Science and Faith and how important it is to promote dialogue between them.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 at 7PM
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Born in Córdoba, Argentina, Fr. Funes joined the Jesuit order in 1985 and was ordained Catholic priest in 1995. In 2000, he became a staff astronomer of Vatican Observatory Research Group, and was appointed associate astronomer of the Steward Observatory at the University of Arizona. In 2006, he was appointed director of the Vatican Observatory by Pope Benedict XVI. He is a member ex-officio of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

He earned a mater’s degree in astronomy at the National University of Córdoba in 1985, writing on the computational analysis of the photometry of eclipsing binary stars. He obtained a bachelor’s degree in philosophy in 1990 at the Universidad del Salvador in San Miguel, Argentina and a master’s degree in philosophy in 1996, at the same university, at which he discussed cosmology as a science from the point of view of scientific realism. He was ordained to the priesthood after completing a bachelor’s degree in sacred theology (S.T.B.) at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. In 2000, he earned a doctorate in astronomy at the University of Padua with the study of the kinematics of ionized gas in the inner regions of 25 disk galaxies.

Fr. Funes specializes in extragalactic astronomy. His field of research includes the kinematics and dynamics of disk galaxies, the star formation in the local universe, and the relationship between gravitational interaction and galactic activity.

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Organized by the Department of Physics

Fr. José G. Funes, S.J.
Director, Vatican Observatory