

## **MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

OUR VISION

**Catholic Education † Future Ready**

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**Catholic Education Centre**  
420 Creek Street  
Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4C4  
Telephone: 519-627-6762  
Facsimile: 519-627-8230  
Website: [www.st-clair.net](http://www.st-clair.net)

**Director of Education**  
Deb Crawford  
519-627-6762, ext. 10241  
Email: [media@st-clair.net](mailto:media@st-clair.net)

**Chair of the Board**  
John Van Heck  
519-627-5746

*For further information regarding  
this release, please contact:*

**Superintendent of  
Education – Secondary**  
Scott Johnson  
[scott.johnson@st-clair.net](mailto:scott.johnson@st-clair.net)

**Supervisor –  
Communications and  
Community Relations**  
Todd Lozon  
519-627-6762 Ext. 10243  
Email: [todd.lozon@st-clair.net](mailto:todd.lozon@st-clair.net)

### ***STUDENTS AT ST. PATRICK'S AND URSULINE COLLEGE LINK WITH DIRECTOR OF VATICAN OBSERVATORY FOR SPECIAL SCIENCE LESSON***

Students at St. Patrick's Catholic High School in Sarnia and Ursuline College in Chatham participated in a very special science lesson yesterday, when they linked via the internet with Brother Guy Consolmagno, Director of the Vatican Observatory.

"Students have very challenging questions about faith and science," says Ann Clarke, Chaplaincy Leader at St. Patrick's Catholic High School. "This live event was an opportunity for them to have their questions answered by a leader in the field – someone who has a deep understanding of how our faith aligns with what science teaches us."

Brother Guy is a planetary scientist, whose area of research includes asteroids and meteorites. He has a tremendous ability to communicate advanced areas of science in a way that is understandable to the general public. His message to students is that faith and science are not exclusive, in fact they very are compatible.

"We take the Bible seriously. It teaches us that the physical universe was made by God, in an orderly fashion, who found that His creation was Good, and who indeed so loved this world that He sent His only Son," says Brother Guy. "This motivates us to study the physical universe, in order to become closer to its creator. The Bible tells us Who made the Universe; science tells us how He did it."

Classes from all grade levels and subject areas were invited to participate. Brother Guy was introduced by Director of Education Deb Crawford and thanked, following his presentation, by Scott Johnson, Superintendent of Education. The session was moderated by Ann Clarke.

"I also want to express my thanks to our teaching staff at both schools for leading their students in discussions about this important subject," says Mrs. Crawford. "As a Catholic system, it is essential that our students know and understand how our faith and science intersect."

The Vatican Observatory is one of the oldest astronomical institutes in the world. Its roots can be traced to the reign of Pope Gregory XIII, with the founding of a committee to study scientific data and the implications involved in the reform of the calendar in 1582.