

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RITTENHOUSE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY HOSTS BROTHER GUY CONSOLMAGNO
ASTRONOMY, RELIGION AND THE LATEST ON PLANET 513-C**

Free & Open to Public May 9th, 7PM in Stearns Auditorium

Philadelphia, PA -- April 30, 2007 -- Are we alone in the universe? Is there anyone else out there? What might life be like on other planets? Our curiosity surrounding these issues has stimulated a wide variety of films, literature and television programming, yet the questions raised remain fascinating. With last week's discovery of the planet, **Gliese 581-C**, said to be potentially habitable and able to sustain life, interest remains particularly high in the worlds beyond our own Planet Earth.

On Wednesday **May 9th at 7:00 pm**, planetary scientist and official astronomer for the Vatican, **Dr. Guy Consolmagno**, will offer his insights on "*God, Astronomy and the Search for Elegance*" in The Franklin Institute's Stearns Auditorium. Dr. Consolmagno has spent several terms as a visiting scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. His research includes modeling the evolution of the moons of the outer solar system, predicting and explaining many of the features later discovered by the Voyager spacecraft. As co-author of four astronomy books, a veteran of the Peace Corps, and a member of the Jesuits at the Vatican, Brother Guy is uniquely qualified to speak to current advances in astronomy and scientific discovery's interface with faith.

Hosted by the **Rittenhouse Astronomical Society**, whose aim is to spread knowledge, awareness and enjoyment of astronomy, this event is free and open to the public. However, **registration is required** as seating is limited. Please call **215-448-1231** to reserve your seat.

Discover all aspects of science and technology at The Franklin Institute: physics in Sir Isaac's Loft: Where Art and Physics Collide, astronomy in Space Command, and anatomy at The Giant Heart: A Healthy Interactive Experience. Visitors can explore science and technology in a hands-on manner that will not only educate but stimulate and inspire as well. For more information please visit www.fi.edu or call 215-448-1200.