



PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM
DE CULTURA

PRESS RELEASE

STOQ LECTURE 2010: INAUGURATED A NEW CHAPTER ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAITH AND SCIENCE

***J.D. Barrow, the English cosmologist
in Via della Conciliazione for a dialogue with the Church
on the man's place in the universe***

VATICAN CITY, December 7th, 2010 - **John D. Barrow**, Cambridge University mathematician and cosmologist and winner of the Templeton Prize *for Progress Toward Research or Discoveries about Spiritual Realities* (2006), well-known for having proposed and developed some years ago with Frank Tipler the theory of *Anthropic Principle*, will be holding the first **STOQ Lecture next Friday, December 10th 2010, at 6.00 p.m. at the Pontifical Council for Culture (San Pio X Hall - Via della Conciliazione, 5 - entrance Via dell'Ospedale - Rome)**. The conference, entitled *The Origin of the Universe. What Modern Cosmology Tells Us about Our Place in the Universe*, will deal with the model of an expanding universe and its consequences for the development of human life.

The STOQ Lecture will be presided by **Card. Gianfranco Ravasi**, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture. **Fr. José G. Funes S.J.**, Director of the Vatican Observatory, will discuss the Professor Barrow's ideas. **Professor Piero Benvenuti** from ASI (Italian Space Agency) will moderate the event.

The event, fostered by the Pontifical Council for Culture and sponsored by ASI, marks the collaboration between the two institutions in the STOQ Project (*Science, Theology and the Ontological Quest*), following the signing of the agreement for establishing the "Universal Portal of Cosmology".

In order to introduce the event, a meeting with journalists has been scheduled at 12,30 am on Friday December 10th in Pontifical Council for Culture (Via della Conciliazione, 5) at the presence of Prof. Barrow and Card. Ravasi. A refreshment will follow.

"In the relationship between science and faith - stated **Card. Gianfranco Ravasi** - the past lies within its greatness as well with its tensions and tragedies. We need to look now to the future, the horizon of history cannot be the only one, there is another horizon that widens to our eyes". A point of intersection of secular and religious cultures expressed in 2003 with the institution of the STOQ Project (*Science, Theology and Ontological Quest*) by the Pontifical Council for Culture, with the aim of launching a new era of confrontation between experimental research and theology, looking for a new

horizon no longer marked by conflict and intolerance, but by mutual respect and recognition of common dignity.

At the root of the STOQ there is the Holy See's will to promote fruitful interactions between different fields of knowledge and to open with confidence the Roman Church and the main Pontifical Universities to the study and comparison with sciences. An appeal directed to the scientific community and the contemporary man, hoping that experimental reasoning and divine *logos* may illuminate a reciprocal and common yearning for the truth through a dialogic dimension.

Further Information:

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