



Franciscan Friars of the Atonement-Graymoor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2009 PAUL WATTSON LECTURE IN SAN FRANCISCO DR. ELSA TAMEZ, LATIN AMERICAN BIBLICAL UNIVERSITY, TO SPEAK

Garrison, New York, January 27, 2009---The XXX Paul Wattson Christian Unity Lecture will be held at the University of San Francisco on Monday, February 23, 2009 at 6 p.m. Distinguished author and teacher, Dr. Elsa Tamez, Emeritus Professor of Biblical Studies, Latin American Biblical University, Costa Rica, will speak on “*Relevant Ecumenism: Input From Earliest Christianity.*” The lecture, which is free and open to the public, will be held at the Fromm Conference Center, Xavier Hall, Parker and Golden Gate Avenues, San Francisco, CA.

Dr. Tamez, a member of the Methodist Church in Costa Rica, is also a translations consultant at the United Bible Society and a theological advisor for the Latin American Council of Churches. She is a graduate of the Biblical Seminary of Costa Rica, where she received two degrees in theology, and of the National University of Costa Rica, where she received degrees in literature/linguistics. She received her doctorate in Theology from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. Among her books are: *Bible of the Oppressed*, 1982 (in Spanish, English, French and Dutch); *The Scandalous Message of James*, 1989; *Amnesty of Grace*, 1993; and *Jesus and Courageous Women*, 2001. She has edited several books including *Through Her Eyes: Women Theologians from Latin America*, 1989, and written many articles for various international magazines and reviews on the Bible, women and social justice. Dr. Tamez is the recipient of many awards. In 1990, the University of Lausanne gave her the prestigious Prix de Faculté. In 1998, the Women’s Department of the United Presbyterian Church, USA, presented her with the Women of Faith Award for her project “One Million Women’s Names”. In 2000, the University of Bern, Switzerland, honored her with the Hans-Sigrist Award for her contributions regarding contextual biblical hermeneutics.

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COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

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The Paul Wattson Christian Unity Lectures honor the memory of the Reverend Paul James Francis Wattson, S.A. (1863-1940), founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement and pioneer for the cause of Christian Unity. The lectures annually feature national and international leaders in the fields of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue who speak on current topics of interest. Initiated in 1974 at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, the series was expanded in 1980 to the University of San Francisco; then, in 1995 to the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax; and in 1996 to the Toronto School of Theology in Toronto. In 1998, it was added to the ministry of the friars at their Centro Pro Unione in Rome honoring not only Father Paul, but also Mother Lurana White, S.A. founder of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement.

For over one hundred years, the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, whose motherhouse is at Graymoor in Garrison, NY, have prayed and worked for Christian Unity and Interreligious Dialogue.

Today, the friars' mission of “at-one-ment” includes dialogue among Christians, Muslims, and Jews; serving the homeless and those suffering from alcoholism, drug addictions, and HIV/AIDS; and offering respite for those in need of spiritual renewal.

For more information about this lecture, call the university at 415-422-2404.

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