

Raymond Brown to deliver Eugene Burke Lecture, "The Star, The Magi, and the Wicked Herod: Matthew's Gospel Story of Jesus' Birth"

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DISTINGUISHED CATHOLIC SCHOLAR TO DELIVER BURKE LECTURE

Raymond E. Brown, called by Time magazine "probably the premier Catholic scripture scholar in the U.S." will deliver a free public lecture at the University of California, San Diego Monday, Nov. 23, at 8 p.m. in Room 108, Peterson Hall.

Brown's topic will be "The Star, The Magi, and the Wicked Herod: Matthew's Gospel Story of Jesus' Birth." His talk is part of the Eugene M. Burke Lectureship at UCSD.

Although it appears only twice in the New Testament, the story of Christ's birth is one of the best known narratives in the Bible. Scholars have long debated the interpretations of these accounts in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, and questioned their absence in Mark and John. Brown will address these issues in his lecture and present an interpretation which deals with what Matthew's gospel meant to his divided community of Jews and Gentiles, and with what this gospel can mean to people of all faiths today.

Since 1971, Brown has been the Auburn Distinguished Professor of Biblical Studies at the Union Theological Seminary in New York.

During his distinguished career he has been granted 15 honorary doctoral degrees and is the author of some 20 books on the Bible. He has won seven book awards.

He has lectured in Australia, Asia, Latin America and Europe as well as the United States, and in 1972, after consultation with the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Pope Paul VI appointed him as the only American on the Roman Pontifical Bible Commission, a post he held for six years.

The Burke Lectures focus on the functions and responsibilities of religion in society and its role in shaping moral and social values.

The lectureship is endowed in honor of Eugene M. Burke, a Catholic priest of the Paulist order who was closely associated with UCSD until his death in 1984. Burke was a distinguished teacher, theologian, scholar, church historian and ecumenist.

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