

NAZARETH RETREAT CENTER

The Cosmic Christ and the Two Books of Creation

January, 7th | 2-4pm ET
Fr. Vincent Pizzuto, PhD

*Ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you;
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.
Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the LORD has done this?
~ Job 12:7-9 ~*

DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKSHOP

From its most ancient roots, Christianity has held that there are Two Books of Scripture: the little book of the Bible and the big book of Creation. Having the same Author, these sacred books cannot ultimately contradict. However, in the modern era, with the rise of science and the age of reason, the two books of scripture were severed, depriving each of their intimate connection and deeper spiritual meanings. In scripture this manifested as a precipitous rise in biblical literalism in the 20th Century, while in creation it reduced the inherent value of creatures to whether or not they were valuable to humanity. Both of these interpretive shifts have had devastating consequences for our spiritual lives and our planet – now on the brink of ecological collapse. In this two-hour presentation, Fr. Vincent Pizzuto will help us frame how we might read both “books” through the unifying lens of the Cosmic Christ, the Word-made-Flesh, in whom Scripture and Creation find their ultimate unity and fulfillment.

PROFESSIONAL BIO

Father Vincent Pizzuto, Ph.D. is [Professor of New Testament Studies and Christian Mysticism](#) in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the (Jesuit) University of San Francisco. He received his Ph.D. in New Testament Exegesis from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium (2003). He has since published and presented internationally in the areas of New Testament Christology, ecological discipleship, marriage equality, inter-religious dialogue, Christian mysticism and contemplative Christian spirituality. In 2018 he published his second book, [Contemplating Christ: The Gospels and the Interior Life](#), with Liturgical Press, to be released in Spanish, [Contemplan a Cristo: Los Evangelios y la vida interior](#), in

January 2022 by Desclée de Brouwer. As an Episcopal priest Fr. Vincent serves as Vicar of [St. Columba's Episcopal Church and Retreat House](#) in Inverness, California. Working for the advancement of contemplative Christianity, he has reinvigorated the mission and ministry of St. Columba's through the introduction of [contemplative eucharistic liturgies](#), public lectures, [online courses](#), directed retreats, [thought provoking sermons](#), an [online blog](#) and a [weekly online study of his book](#) through the Thomas Keating Meditation Chapel.