

Vatican's Celestial Eye, Seeking Not Angels but Data

Tom Gallagher | Jun. 23, 2009 NCR Today

Here's a good read from today's *New York Times*.

Last year, in an opening address at a conference in Rome, called "Science 400 Years After Galileo Galilei," Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the secretary of state of the Vatican, praised the church's old antagonist as "a man of faith who saw nature as a book written by God." In May, as part of the International Year of Astronomy, a Jesuit cultural center in Florence conducted "a historical, philosophical and theological re-examination" of the Galileo affair. But in the effort to rehabilitate the church's image, nothing speaks louder than a [paper by a Vatican astronomer](#) [1]in, say, *The Astrophysical Journal* or *The Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*.

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[1] http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/23/science/23Vatican.html?_r=1&hpw