

The
REV. FRANCIS WADE, S.J.,
PUBLIC LECTURE

Internalization of Religious Experience: From the Third Heaven to the Heart of a Person

The religious experience of St. Paul is primarily understood as happening outside the person. With Philo of Alexandria as a transitional character, the religious experience became more and more internalized, a movement that will be fulfilled with the experiences of Clemens of Alexandria, Isaac the Syrian and others. In this change of perspective, there are more than Platonic or Philonic influences. The earliest Christology is crucial as well.



Rev. Tomás García Huidobro, S.J.

Rev. Tomás García Huidobro, S.J., is the Rev. Francis Wade, S.J., Chair for 2018–2019 in the Department of Theology.

**THURSDAY, FEB. 28, 2019
4 P.M.
Beaumier Suites BC, Raynor Library
Reception immediately following**

Born in Santiago, Chile, in 1971, Father García Huidobro studied theology at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, the Boston College School of Theology, and the University of Deusto. With a doctorate in biblical theology, his academic interests revolve around the Jewish roots of early Christian mysticism. To understand the emergence of Christianity, it is essential to drink from Jewish sources, especially those that relate to religious experiences that were shaping the Christian identity. From there he has deepened his study in topics such as the Temple of Jerusalem, the High Priesthood, early Adamic theology, the resurrection as a transformation of the believer, etc. The sources that occupy his investigations are mainly the Fourth Gospel, the Pauline Letters and the Letter to the Hebrews, as well as the Jewish and Christian apocryphal, the gnostic literature, the rabbinic literature and the Hejilot.

After serving as a New Testament professor at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Father García Huidobro was sent to work in Russia where he was rector of the Propaedeutic Seminary and director of the Iñigo Library and Cultural Center in Novosibirsk, and director of the Saint Thomas Institute and of *Symbol* magazine in Moscow. His first encounter with the Russian world, however, came much earlier, during the years of his preparation for the priesthood, when he was sent to study the language and Russian culture from 1999 to 2001. The universality of the Society of Jesus has led him to enter into the dialogue between Zen Buddhism and Christianity in Japan where he meditated under the supervision of the Rev. Kakichi Kadowaki, S.J. All these experiences have confirmed his first intuition: the importance of religious experiences to understand the radicality of Christianity.

For questions or special needs, contact Debra Reeder at
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