

Vatican Hosts Conference on Alien Life

Updated: Monday, 23 Nov 2009, 10:19 AM MST

Published : Monday, 23 Nov 2009, 10:17 AM MST

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(MYFOX NATIONAL) - The Vatican recently held a "study week" of over 30 astronomers, biologists, geologists and religious leaders to discuss the question of the existence of extraterrestrials.

Put on by the **Pontifical Academy of Sciences**, the event took place on the Vatican grounds from November 6-10, **according to The Christian Post**.

The Pope's chief astronomer, Father Gabriel Funes, said the conference "focused on the scientific perspective."

One of those who took part in the conference was Penn State professor James Kasting. Kasting confirmed that the conference was focused on science.

"I would say it was a mainstream science conference," **Kasting told the Centre Daily Times**. "The church is interested in the question of, 'Is there life in the universe?' They're actually trying to show they're pro-science these days, not anti-science so that's why they sponsor things like this."

Father Funes **made a statement last year** that the existence of extraterrestrials does not preclude a belief in God, and that it's a question to be explored by the Catholic Church.

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