



ALL SAINTS AMERICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Janine Stock, Pastor

and

ST. BONAVENTURE HOUSE OF STUDIES

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Holmes Singleton, ofr, Dean

PRESENT



A CONFUSION OF TONGUES THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PLURALISM IN AMERICA FOR ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC WITNESS, OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM

A Day of Study and Reflection

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2012

10 am – 2:30 pm

All Saints American Catholic Church

1057 Sycamore Dr

Vista, California 92083

The term “Confusion of Tongues” refers to the Tower of Babel story in *Genesis* 11:1–9 in which God created different languages in order to thwart human arrogance. In the sweep of American History since the early 17th century we have proven to be a people who can experience a confusion of tongues and a multiplicity of world views of our own making (and most likely born of our own arrogance), even while the majority of us share a common language. While many of us rejoice in what an older generation calls “pluralism” and a younger generation calls “multiculturalism,” we often talk past each other precisely because we use the same language but have different meanings for key words. At other times we are acutely aware of our differences which can lead either to efforts at achieving some common understanding or spiritual estrangement and hostility. As the Ecumenical Catholic Communion expands we need to take this cultural context seriously and search for ways that are both faithful and effective to articulate our faith in the midst of a confusion of tongues. Of course we embrace multiculturalism, but we need to take a very close look at the implications of that embrace and begin discussing what we need to do to turn that embrace into continuing relationships.

Greg Singleton will facilitate our discussion of this often vexing characteristic of our cultural landscape. He will introduce the topic by mixing a bit of history in with a dash of theology and a pinch of social theory then open the floor for questions, discussion and rebuttals. Greg is Professor of History, Emeritus, at Northeastern Illinois University, and has taught courses on Religion in America at that university as well as Northwestern University, the University of the South, the University of Memphis, and Seabury-Western Theological Seminary. He is the author of *Religion in the City of Angels: American Protestant Culture and Urbanization, Los Angeles 1850-1930* and several dozen articles on various topics in religious history and social theory.

The Registration Fee of \$25 Includes Lunch.

Please call (760) 271-1812 for more information about arrangements.

Please write to greg.singleton@ECCFranciscans.org for more information about the program.