



In 1898, the Spirit of God inspired Sister Lurana White and Father Paul Wattson to establish a religious community to be called the **Society of the Atonement**.

The Founders had the vision of a religious congregation dedicated to the unity of Christians and to reconciliation in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. Since the Founders were Episcopalians, the roots of the Society were implanted in that ecclesial communion until 1909, the year in which the Friars and Sisters of the Atonement entered into full communion with the Catholic Church. This was the first time that a corporate reunion with Rome took place since the Reformation.

Among the various activities of the Society of the Atonement, special mention needs to be made of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begun by Fr. Paul in 1908 and celebrated today throughout the world.

From the humble beginnings in an abandoned church, St. John's-in-the-Wilderness, in an area called Graymoor (New York), the Society of the Atonement has dedicated its efforts for the unity of the Christians and reconciliation in several countries: the United States, Canada, Japan, England, Ireland, Brazil, Peru and Italy.

Yearly conferences honoring the memory of Fr. Paul Wattson were begun in 1974 at The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, then, in 1980, at the University of San Francisco. To these were added in 1995, the Paul Wattson Lectures at the Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax, in 1996 at the Toronto School of Theology, in 2017 at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and in 2025 at Fordham University in New York. The *Paul Wattson Lectures* are given by international experts in the field of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue.

In 2013 the cause for the canonization of Fr. Paul of Graymoor was introduced in the Archdiocese of New York.

Since 1998, the Centro Pro Unione organizes lectures each year in December to honor Fr. Paul Wattson and Mother Lurana White, co-founders of the Society of the Atonement.

Earlier lecturers were Enzo Bianchi, Sarah Anne Coakley, Abp. Bruno Forte, Anna Marie Aagaard, Robert Taft, SJ, Dame Mary Tanner, Angelo Maffei, Msgr. Eleuterio F. Fortino, Gillian Kingston, Timothy Radcliff, OP, Dr. Jane Williams, Abp. Michael Fitzgerald, M. Afr., Turid Karlsen Seim, Kurt Cardinal Koch, Hervé Legrand, OP, William Henn, OFM Cap, Walter Cardinal Kasper, Petros Vassiliadis, Rabbi Jack Bemporad, Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Michael Calabria, ofm, Muhammad Shafiq, Adam Afterman, Giovanni Maria Vian, Teresa Berger, Thomas F. Best, Donna Orsuto, and Sr. Nathalie Becquart.



The Centro Pro Unione invites you to
the Twenty-eighth Annual Conference



in Honor of the
Servant of God Father and Mother
PAUL WATTSON, S.A. LURANA WHITE, S.A.

Thursday · 18 December 2025
6:00 pm (Rome Time)

**“Reflections on the Sixth
World Conference on Faith and Order”**

Dr Andrej Jeftić

*Director of the World Council of Churches
Commission on Faith and Order*



Andrej Jeftić (1984) born in Bosnia and Herzegovina, received his bachelor and master's degree in theology from the Faculty of Orthodox Theology of the University of Belgrade (Serbia) in 2009.

He received his Ph.D. degree from the same university in 2016 with the doctoral dissertation titled *Reception of the Holy Fathers in the Writings of Thomas F. Torrance: Patristic Theology and Contemporary Science*.

He worked as a teaching assistant (2010–2016) and as an assistant professor (2016–2022) at the Faculty of Orthodox Theology of the University of Belgrade, as a Research Fellow (2022–2023) at the Institute for Philosophy



and Social Theory of the University of Belgrade, as a theological consultant for the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (2022–2023), and since February 2023 has been working as a director of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches.

He has published in different research areas that include patristic theology and philosophy, ecumenical theology, systematic theology and contemporary Orthodox theology.

Member of the Serbian Orthodox Church which he represented as a delegate at the WCC Assembly in 2013 in Busan, and as a Central Committee member (2013–2022).

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