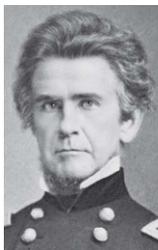




The Observer

December 2015 (#38)



Beneath the Same Sky
A Vatican Astronomer and a Civil War General
Speak to Louisville About the Heavens



TWO ASTRONOMERS TO SPEAK IN LOUISVILLE

Civil War General Ormsby Mitchel and Vatican Observatory Director Guy Consolmagno, who share an exceptional ability to communicate to the public the science of astronomy, will speak at the Louisville Free Public Library on **Wednesday, December 9, at 7:00 PM.**

Kentucky-born **Ormsby MacKnight Mitchel** was founder of the Cincinnati Observatory and famous for his ability to enthrall crowds with his descriptions of the universe. The Cincinnati Observatory's web page describes him as the first American poplizer of astronomy—the Carl Sagan of the nineteenth century. Mitchel was the first director of the observatory, and

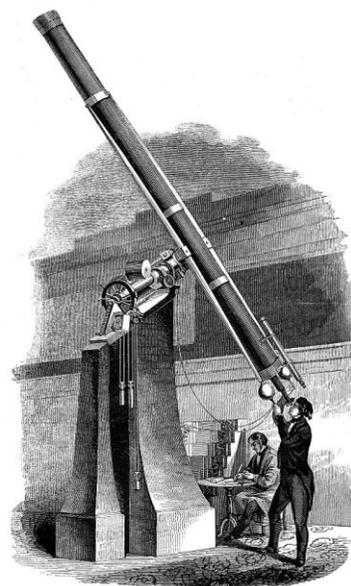


Illustration of the 11 inch refracting telescope Mitchel acquired for the Cincinnati Observatory.



www.jefferson.kctcs.edu/observatory

wrote and edited the first astronomical publication in the United States. In the Civil War he was a general and involved in the “Great Locomotive Chase”—an effort to disrupt the Confederate-held rail line between Atlanta and Chattanooga. He organized the defenses around Cincinnati in Northern Kentucky, and Fort Mitchell in Northern Kentucky is named for him. He died in the Civil War, but his words will be heard again as (thanks to the Frazier History Museum) he opens the program at the library for Brother Guy Consolmagno, Director of the Vatican Observatory.

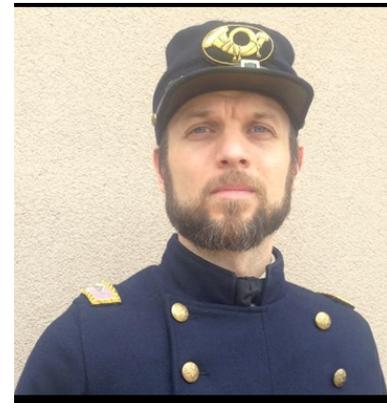
Brother **Guy Consolmagno** was awarded the American Astronomical Society’s Carl Sagan Medal for Excellence in Public Communication in Planetary Science in 2014. He is the author of several books, including the best-selling *Turn Left at Orion*. He has been a guest on the Colbert Report. He will discuss research at the Vatican Observatory concerning meteorites, asteroids, and what these objects can teach us about the formation of the Solar System. The title and abstract of his talk are as follows

Meteorites, Asteroids, and the Stratigraphy of the Early Solar System

Abstract: Meteorites represent an invaluable resource of geological material from the asteroids, sampling their mineralogy, geochemistry, and small-scale structure. Meteorite physical properties, in particular density and porosity, can be tied to recently determined asteroid physical properties. Our



The 11 inch refracting telescope today, still operating at the Cincinnati Observatory.



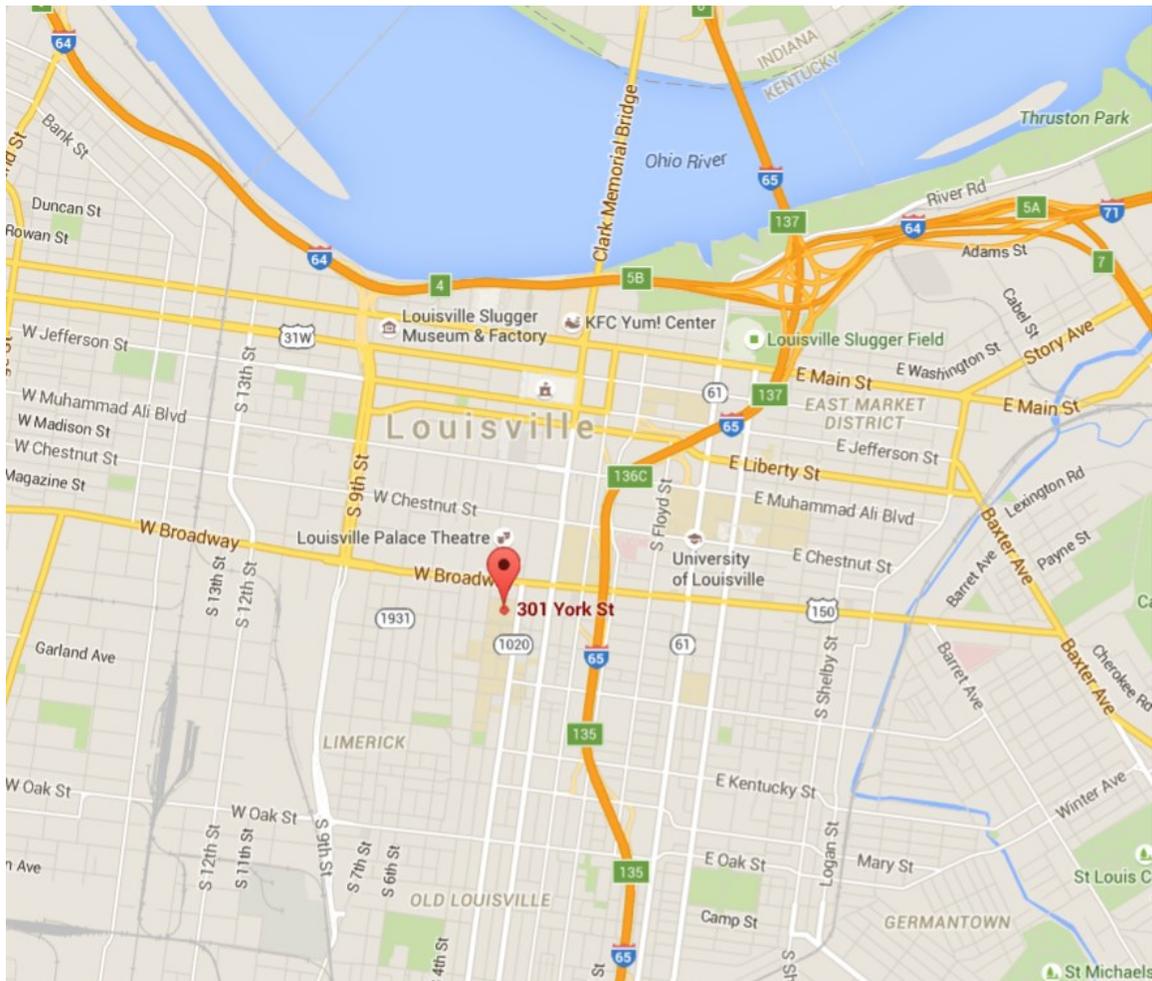
Astronomer and Civil War Major General Mitchell will be portrayed by Frazier History Museum Teaching Artist, Tony Dingman.



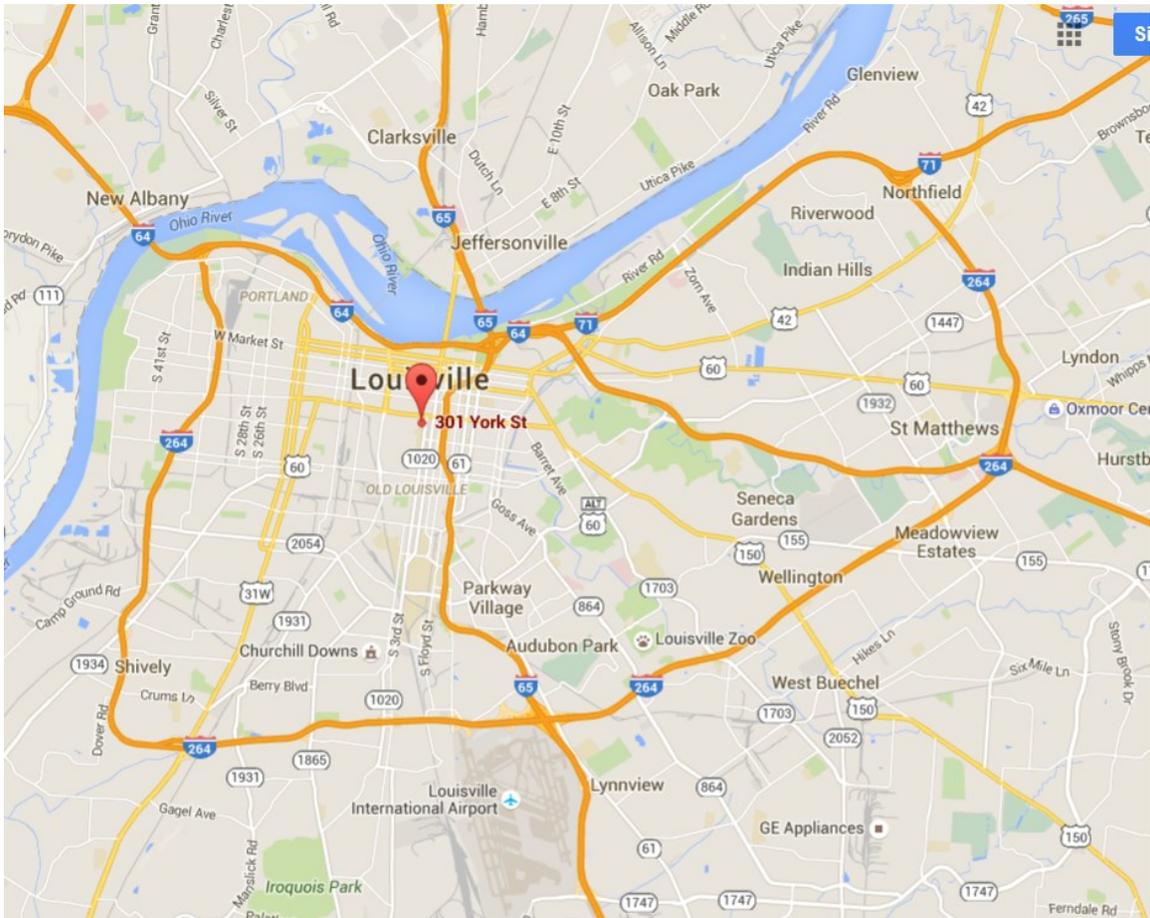
The Vatican Observatory’s Advanced Technology Telescope (VATT) on Mt. Graham in Arizona.

measurements show that both meteorite and asteroid porosities appear to increase as one travels further from the Sun. Thus one can envision a solar nebula where distance from the sun not only controls the composition of the material accreting into planets, but the physical nature of that material.

Beneath the Same Sky will be held at the Main Library, 301 York St., Wednesday, December 9, at 7 p.m. (See maps below.) The event is free, but tickets are required; visit **LFPL.ORG** or call (502) 574-1644 to order.



(continued on next page)



Beneath the Same Sky is sponsored by the Louisville Chapter of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, along with Jefferson Community & Technical College, The Frazier Museum, and the Louisville Free Public Library.

THERE ARE NO MORE PUBLIC PROGRAMS AT OTTER CREEK-SOUTH HARRISON OBSERVATORY IN 2015, BUT A SCHEDULE FOR 2016 WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON.