

The Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Israel invites you
to the Fourth Lecture in the 2018-2019 research lecture series
“Time's Up: Eschatology Then and Now.”

Who Wins in the End?

Fr. Peter Ashton, OFM

Studium Biblicum Franciscanum

Thursday, 24 January 2019 at 8:00 P.M.

**At the STUDIUM THEOLOGICUM SALESIANUM,
Rh Shmuel Hanagid 26**

Fr. Peter Ashton presents a reading of Josef Pieper's book, “The End of Time,” as a way to understand paragraphs 675-677 of the *Catechism* of the Catholic Church. The English translations of the Latin text of the *Catechism* are from 1995 and 1997. Three little paragraphs with references to texts mainly, but not only, from the New Testament express in a concise way what the Catholic Church teaches will happen at the very end of the world. Josef Pieper's book, a 1954 translation from the original German, “Das Ende der Zeit” (1953), will provide a helpful commentary from a Catholic philosopher who wrote during and in the aftermath of WWII, well placed to clarify the interplay between human experience and the philosophical enterprise, necessarily - Pieper says - illumined by received, revealed ideas about ‘the beginning’ and ‘the end’, neither of which poles being accessible to human experience.

At the beginning of 2007, about a year and a half after Josef Cardinal Ratzinger (who had made major contributions to the *Catechism*) became Pope Benedict XVI, the newspapers of the world reported on the Spiritual Retreat conducted for him by one Cardinal Biffi, and which drew upon a well-known work by V. S. Solovyov, “War, Progress and the End of History - three conversations, with a short story of the Antichrist,” published back in 1900.

Almost six years after Benedict's resignation, as western society begins the new year 2019 and moves away from the Millennium, leaving further behind the historical contexts of the works of Solovyov and Pieper, we will consider the question if it is really even possible to think about the end of the world. Pieper suggested that actually it is impossible not to! But is it worthwhile - or is it depressing, perhaps even dangerous?

Fr. Peter Ashton, OFM, a Catholic Franciscan priest, in his first lecture to the Fraternity will do his best to convince us that, although he does not think it is the end of the world just yet, reflecting on who wins in the end, and what winning might mean, should indeed be part of nourishing our hope and strengthening our courage at the start of the year 2019.

Please join us for light refreshments from 7:30 P.M.

The next lectures in the series will be 28/02; 28/03; 02/05; Retreat: 31/05.