SR. SANDRA SCHNEIDERS  
Flannery Professor Lecturer, 2001

The Twenty-Fifth Annual  
Flannery Lecture

Wednesday, March 28, 2001  
8:00 p.m.  
Spokane Room of the Cog  
Gonzaga University

RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY:  
I'M A VERY SPIRITUAL PERSON BUT I'M NOT RELIGIOUS

Sandra M. Schneiders, I.H.M., is an internationally recognized author, lecturer, and scholar in the fields of both New Testament and spirituality. She synthesizes these roles and fields to produce stimulating and provocative analyses of religious life, the Gospel of John, and the study of spirituality. Her most recent book, Find the Treasure: Locating Catholic Religious Life in a New Ecclesial and Cultural Context, projects a new model of religious life in the context of postmodern society. An S.T.D. graduate of the Pontifical Gregorian University of Rome, Schneiders is currently Professor of New Testament and spirituality at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, California.

"I'm a very spiritual person but I'm not religious" is a claim heard frequently today among seekers of all ages, on campuses and in board rooms, among athletes and film celebrities, from the military to politicians, from mediators to channelers to joggers. What lies behind this claim with a disclaimer? And how should we evaluate it?

This lecture will explore what contemporary people mean by "religion" and by "spirituality" and why people tend to identify with spirituality while distancing themselves from religion, being fascinated by the former and repulsed by the latter. We will look at what the terms do and do not mean and ways in which they might be related in the hope of shedding some light on a very rich but very confused contemporary discussion about what we human beings really want out of life and how best to pursue it.

The FLANNERY CHAIR OF ROMAN CATHOLIC THEOLOGY is an endowed Chair, gift of the late Maud and Milo Flannery of Spokane, to further excellence in theological study and teaching at Gonzaga University. The Flannery Lecture is delivered each year by the outstanding theologian who holds the Chair, and is prepared and presented to benefit as wide an audience as possible.