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**ON THE COVER:** On Father Christian's lap, from left to right, are Ian, Simon, Zoe and Madison. In their seats, from left to right, are Joshua and Olivia. Photo by Cornelia Karaffa.

# DISCOVERING THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF MONEY

**O**n Monday, October 27, 2003, Adele Azar-Rucquoi delivered the Seventeenth Annual Furlong Lecture before two hundred students, faculty, and other guests in the JFK Student Center. The lecture series is named for the late Dr. William B. Furlong, who taught English at Saint Francis University from 1955-1986. Among the audience members were two of Dr. Furlong's sons, Brendan Furlong, M.D., and Joseph Furlong (SFU '86), as well as Joe's wife, Marisa.

Azar-Rucquoi, author of *Money as Sacrament: Finding the Sacred in Money*, spoke on "The Goodness of Money." Azar-Rucquoi explained that the term "currency" helps us understand how money functions. Like a river, money can be a moving stream that connects us in relationships of giving and receiving. Money can also be an authentic link to God, if we exercise wise stewardship of our financial resources. Azar-Rucquoi encouraged her listeners to consider what their attitudes toward and behaviors around money reveal about their values. Do our financial exchanges express positive, God-centered intention? Where is the "sacrament" in our relationship with money?

Azar-Rucquoi's lecture helped the audience understand that spirituality and money are not opposing concepts. If selfishness and greed motivate our financial decisions, then money obstructs true relationship with God and with our fellows. If, on the other hand, we view money as a gift from God that enriches the giver and the receiver, we begin to understand money's spiritual potential.

The Furlong Lecture Series is one way that Saint Francis University ministers to the intellectual and spiritual needs of students, faculty, and staff. Funded by the generous support of students, colleagues, and friends of Dr. Furlong, the series brings to campus speakers whose work exemplifies the values-based intellectual inquiry that Dr. Furlong helped foster in thousands of students during over thirty years of service to the University. If you would like more information about the Furlong Lecture Series, please contact Ms. Valerie Cheeseman at [vcheeseman@francis.edu](mailto:vcheeseman@francis.edu). ■