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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Re: Wormwood?

From: [starborn@sirius.com](mailto:starborn@sirius.com) (Stella Marie Harder)  
Date: Wed, 18 Dec 1996 23:53:30 -0800  
Fwd Date: Fri, 20 Dec 1996 10:08:50 -0500  
Subject: Re: Wormwood?

-> SearchNet's iufo Mailing List

Hi! I'm a grad student in seminary doing a special reading course on ufos with Ted Peters, professor of Systematic Theology at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary here at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. Ted is also a MUFON consultant in theology, and was a MUFON field investigator. He has been Acting Director of the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences ([www.ctns.org](http://www.ctns.org)), and has written the book "UFOs---God's Chariots?: Flying Saucers in Politics, Science and Religion." His article, "Exo-Theology: Speculations on Extraterrestrial Life" is in the book "The Gods Have Landed: New Religions from Other Worlds" (SUNY), a series of articles from academics studying new religious movements, one I highly recommend. I forwarded to Ted the letter allegedly from the priest who contacted art bell, and he said he was going to check with his colleagues at the Vatican Observatory. Here is their reply.

>From: [TPeters2ct@aol.com](mailto:TPeters2ct@aol.com)  
>Date: Thu, 19 Dec 1996 00:04:18 -0500  
>To: [starborn@sirius.com](mailto:starborn@sirius.com)  
>Subject: Fwd: Hale-Bopp Hoax  
>X-UIDL: 19961218.210249  
>Status: U

>Dear Stella:  
> I've contacted Vatican Observatory colleagues both in Italy and Arizona.  
>Here's what I've learned. No surprise, huh.  
> Ted

>-----  
>Forwarded message:  
>From: [wstoeger@as.arizona.edu](mailto:wstoeger@as.arizona.edu) (Bill Stoeger)  
>To: [TPeters2ct@AOL.com](mailto:TPeters2ct@AOL.com)  
>Date: 96-12-18 17:56:03 EST

>Dear Ted,  
>  
>Thanks for your message. We've gotten a few other inquiries about this. I did some checking, and I'm afraid my information is that it is a hoax, or rather a rumor that has no foundation. I have no idea who started it -- so it well could be an "urban legend." At any rate it has nothing to do with astronomy, and I have some information indicating that neither the Pope nor people like Cardinal Ratzinger believe there is anything of theological significance in the whatever some people saw. It has been linked by some to the "third secret" of the apparitions of the Virgin Mary at Fatima. I would not be surprised if letters went the Vatican concerning it -- but what I am saying is that they do not believe the supposed phenomenon to be

>in any way significant.  
>  
>Have a very blessed and merry Christmas, Ted, along with all your family.  
>And every wonderful thing in the New Year!!  
>  
>Bill  
>  
>

Search for other documents to/from: [starborn](#) | [tpeters2ct](#) | [wstoeger](#)

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