

**Jesuit Journal to Publish Article by President
Grudzen and Marita Grudzen**



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Marita Grudzen and Gerald Grudzen
grudzen@gmail.com

ELDERS AND THE AMERICAN FAMILY



The recent studies of the Pew Center for Religious Research indicate that Americans' engagement with religious organizations is tending toward further secularization of society and a decline in participation in these institutions. The decline of social connections for families can lead to further marginalization and isolation of the elderly population...

[Learn More.](#)

[Explore Marita Grudzen's Course on Spirituality and Aging.](#)

Poetry as Prayer

God wants to be thought of
as our Lover.
I must see myself so bound in love
as if everything that has been done
has been done for me.
That is to say,
the love of God makes such a unity
in us
that when we see this unity
no one is able to separate oneself
from another.

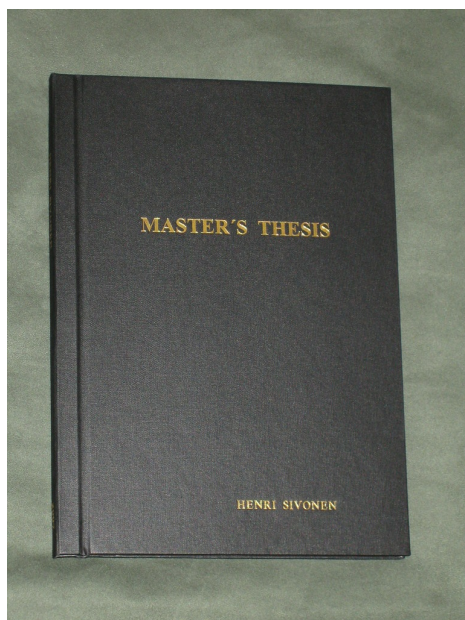
—Julian of Norwich

Judy Clarence

2020-08-09 16:22:44

Where does a poem come from? Inspiration. From the heart. From the still, small space from which, in prayer, we “hear” God’s voice, the voice of the cosmos, the voice of the center of our soul. Thus, poetry is a form of prayer. Perhaps poetry IS prayer! In our hour together, we will explore that sacred source from which poems emerge and look at examples of poems from throughout history that express a connection with the sacred, the divine, the infinite. Enjoy this free presentation with GMU Librarian and published poet, Judy Clarence.

Librarian's Corner



Need to Write a Thesis or Research Paper? Wondering Where/How to Begin?

First, explore the subject of the course you’re taking--read the required and recommended texts, with an eye to finding a topic of interest to you. Consult your instructor for ideas. The more fascinated you are by the topic, the better your paper will be as you do the research.

A helpful first step: formulate a Research Question, That is, a question you hope will be answered, at least in part, by the paper you write. This question, which identifies

the exact aspect of the topic you want to explore, will give your professor an idea of what you plan to research and write about, and to approve it or make further suggestions. And it will help you focus your research.

For many students, the subject of a new course is at least partially unfamiliar, so they innocently select a research paper topic that is way too broad. They haven't yet done enough reading and research to understand the subject's complexities.

Suppose you're taking a course on Interreligious Dialogue. You've always been intrigued by Vatican II and its effects, so you want to incorporate that idea into your paper somehow.

Here are some possible formulations of research questions on that general course topic, interreligious dialogue, incorporating your interest in Vatican II:

"How did Vatican II affect the Catholic Church?" Too broad.

"How did Vatican II's Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity affect interreligious dialog between Muslims and Catholics in Birmingham, AL in the 1970s?" Probably way too narrow.

"How did Vatican II facilitate interreligious dialog?" Maybe just right, but could be a little too broad:

To narrow it a bit: *"How has Vatican II facilitated interreligious dialog between Muslims and Christians?"*

You could experience a number of problems if your topic is too broad, including:

- You find too many information sources; you're overwhelmed.
- You find information that is too general.
- Your research question lacks focus; you lose interest.
- The information you find covers a wide variety of concepts or ideas that can't be integrated into one paper. In desperation, you trail off into unnecessary tangents.

If your topic is too narrow, you won't be able to find enough information on the subject to analyze, discuss, explore and write about.

Once you think you've decided on a research question, feel free to change, alter, reformulate, modify, or expand it. Or toss it out altogether, if the topic doesn't work for you--and, if it's OK with your instructor, start afresh.

Next month: What's the difference between a Research Question and a Thesis Statement?

Questions? Comments? Contact me:

~Judy Clarence, M.L.I.S., GMU Librarian
librarian@globalministriesuniversity.org

**Fresno State Honors Nelson Mandela with
Statue Unveiling**



Dr. Sudarshan Kapoor, a GMU faculty member and Professor Emeritus in Social Work Education & Peace Studies at CSU Fresno, California, founded the Peace Garden and is responsible for the first four statues, honoring Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Caesar Chavez, and Jane Adams. He addresses the assembly at 2:24 minutes in the video.

Explore GMU's Peace Studies Programs.

GMU Podcast



The second GMU podcast can be viewed as well as heard. Bishop William Manseau, the founding president of FCM, and Thomas Cusack, the current president of FCM, joined GMU students and FCM members, Esther Nditi and Michal Lewon to discuss the evolution of FCM from its founding era, present status, and future directions. President Grudzen moderated the discussion and showed how GMU emerged out of FCM. Click on the video above to view.

GMU Courses and Programs



"Interfaith Spiritual Advocates"

President Grudzen is working with the New York State Office of Faith and Non-Profit Development to pursue funding for GMU's Community Chaplaincy program, now designated as "Interfaith Spiritual Advocates," for outreach to the immigrant and refugee communities in the State of New York in collaboration with Mustafa Gokek, President of [Buffalo United for Peace](#). The program is scheduled to be launched in January 2025.

[Click Here to Read about Volunteer Chaplaincy Opportunities.](#)

[Learn More about GMU's Chaplaincy Programs.](#)

Religion and Science

GMU partners with the Institute of Science and Religion program in Cochin, India. You can view lectures on their [YouTube channel](#).



SCIENCE
WITHOUT
RELIGION
IS LAME,
RELIGION
WITHOUT
SCIENCE
IS BLIND.

-Albert Einstein

Theology for the 21st Century

A new cohort in the GMU's Religion and Science Program will begin in January 2025. Discover the compatibility of science, spirituality, and faith.

President Grudzen, Marita Grudzen, and Robert Graf will lecture on the ethical dimensions of the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in Education](#) in the Religion and Science curricula. Look for the lectures soon on the [GMU YouTube Channel](#).

Explore GMU's Religion and Science Program.

Apply here.

Emotions, Beliefs, and Mental Health

President Grudzen, Robert Graf, and Thomas James will present papers at the international Religion and Science symposium in

Confirmed Speakers

1. Dr Miguel Farias (Oxford University)
2. Dr Louis Oviedo (Pontifical University Antonianum, Rome)
3. Dr Martha Helena Ferita (Catholic University of Brescia)
4. Dr David Leech (Bristol University)
5. Dr Gerald Grutzen (Global Ministries University, California)
6. Dr Job Kozhamthadam (Indian Institute of Science and Religion, New Delhi)
7. Dr Kuruvilla Pandikattu (ILRI, Jamshedpur)
8. Dr Shamsur Rahman (Dhaka University, Bangladesh)
9. Dr Reginald Nalugala (Tangaza University, Kenya)
10. Dr Robert Graf (Global Ministries University, California)
11. Dr Johnson Thomas (KE College, Mannanam)
12. Dr Plus Vazhappilly (Assam University, Silchar)
13. Dr Saji Varghese (North East Hill University, Shillong)
14. Dr Augustine Pamplany (Institute of Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies, Kochi)
15. Dr Sangeetha Menon (Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore)

Jnanan Niketan
Institute of Philosophy and Religion
Aluva 683 101



International Symposium on Emotions, Beliefs, and Mental Health:

Cognitive and Neurological Perspectives

February 1-3, 2025

Institute of Science and Religion

Jnanan Niketan Institute of Philosophy and Religion

Little Flower Seminary, Aluva

Kerala, India, from February 1 to February 3, 2025. Father Augustine Pamplany is the director of this conference in collaboration with GMU.

[Read the brochure.](#)

Collaboration with People's Catholic Seminary



GMU seeks to meet the needs and aspirations of those who wish to start Intentional Eucharistic Communities. Together with PCS, GMU is now offering:

Creating Inclusive Eucharistic Communities in an Emerging Synodal Church

5 sessions \$475 + \$25 App Fee

Women in the Bible and Christian Tradition

5 sessions \$475 + \$25 App Fee

Credit for these courses can be applied towards a GMU graduate degree or certificate.

[Apply Today.](#)

GMU Partners



At the rustling of the leaves and the beauty of autumn, we remember the brilliance of every human life from birth to death. If you are one who feels empathy and gratitude, consider training to become a celebrant of life's changes. Many students find purpose and meaningfulness by becoming a celebrant, even part-time.

~Michael Conley, D.Min.

Visit the Center for Celebrant
Training.



Lisa Ling of CBS Mornings interviewed Bridget Mary Meehan and Mary Theresa Streck about Roman Catholic Women Priests.



You are most welcome to gather with other Celtic Spirits on a journey around the Celtic Wheel of the Year. The Celtic Wheel offers a framework to explore Celtic Spirituality, the cyclical nature of the seasons and the eight

festivals of the year, observed throughout the Celtic lands.



PCA 721-Gathering of Celtic Spirit

Instructor: Mary Coffey

I'm a creative soul, laughing. I'm also a mixed-media artist, teacher, a certified spiritual director, and a priest ordained in the independent Catholic movement. I'm curious to see how the Divine shows up in and through creative expression both on the canvas and in real life.

[Learn More.](#)



Retreat/Independent Course: Celebrating the Sacred Feminine in Your Life with Dr. Bridget Mary Meehan

"Celebrating the Sacred Feminine in Your Life" invites you to explore the beautiful mosaic of names and images that depict God's all-embracing, inclusive love for us. Each section provides imagery of the sacred feminine in Scripture, in Christian mystics, and in contemporary life. Open yourself to your *belovedness* as an image of the Divine Feminine in prayer and action, and explore new paths to spiritual healing, nourishment, and transformation in our world.

Celebrating the Sacred Feminine in Your Life is available as a private retreat, an independent study, or as a course for sharing in a cohort model.

Cohorts meet in a Zoom video conference to share insights on their meditations.

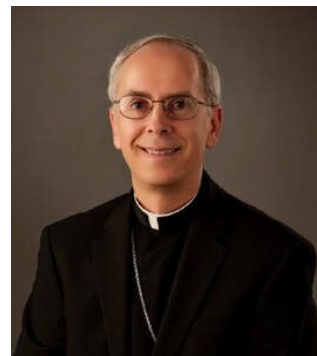
For those taking this course as an independent study or retreat, Bridget Mary will be available upon request to share with you in phone or Zoom conversations.

[Enroll here.](#)

"Belonging Together: Migrants, Refugees, Displaced People and Global Solidarity"



Mark your calendar for [World Interfaith Harmony Week, February 6 - 8, 2025](#). GMU is once again collaborating with [Tangaza University](#), [IRDIS](#), and the [Harmony Institute of Kenya](#) on a third international online conference dedicated to fostering the precepts of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*. Titled, "Belonging Together: Migrants, Refugees, Displaced People, and Global Solidarity," the conference will focus on "the inseparability of the human family—people belong together regardless of their origin and residence status. At the same time, the title alludes to the irrevocable responsibility of humankind for mutual care—being human and being in solidarity with others, especially the most vulnerable, belong together."



Keynote speakers for the conference include [Rev. Daniel G. Groody, C.S.C.](#) author of [A Theology of Migration: The Bodies of Refugees and the Body of Christ](#), which won first-place honors from the Catholic Press Association; [Cardinal Michael Czerny, S.J.](#), Prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development; and [Most Rev. Mark J. Seitz, D.D.](#), Bishop of El Paso, Texas..

Read the Globethics Draft of the Concept Paper for the

Third International Conference on Fratelli Tutti

CALL FOR PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

Belonging Together: Migrants, Refugees, Displaced Persons and Global Solidarity

6-8 February 2025 International Interfaith Online Conference during the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week

Interested participants are invited to submit papers for short presentations and mini-lectures on topics related to the conference's overarching theme and influencing the fields of the three thematic tracks. Possible topics may include but are not restricted to the following:

Thematic Track 1: Being Human, Being Migrant

- Migrants' identity, resilience and agency
- Negotiating migrant self-understanding, reception and integration in host communities
- Gendered migration experiences and transnational belonging

Thematic Track 2: Living Together in the Age of Migration, Caring for One Another

- Hospitality and practices of inclusive community by and with migrants
- Migration, border politics, citizenship and nation-building, using legal framework in concert with the United Nations Global Compact
- International migration, mobility, families and community engagement

Thematic Track 3: Ethical Principles and Shared Values for Shaping Migrant-Sensitive Societies

- Moral obligations toward refugees and vulnerable migrants
- Protecting migrant women, children and unaccompanied minors, equipping for self-reliant futures
- Interfaith solidarity, human dignity and human rights for peaceful societies

Submission

Abstracts of 300 words are to be submitted until **1 October 2024** to

- Hub of the Americas: americas@fratellitutticonference.org
- Hub of Africa: africa@fratellitutticonference.org
- Hub of Europe: europe@fratellitutticonference.org

Communication on accepted papers and presentations will be made by **15 November 2024**

Presentations during the parallel thematic sessions of this online conference shall not exceed 10 minutes, and each session is designed for a maximum number of three presentations to allow sufficient time for interaction between the attendees.

Organizers

GMU, Forum for Intercultural Dialogue, IIRDIS, Harmony Institute, World Interfaith Harmony Week

info@fratellitutticonference.org
www.fratellitutticonference.org

A "Call for Papers" for the February conference has been issued. Interested parties can submit proposals for inclusion in the conference proceedings and publications to the three "hubs" in Africa, the Americas, and Europe.

Download the "Call for Papers" flyer.

Visit the Conference Website.



President Grudzen has pledged GMU's support of the Proposal for Nature and Climate to the **Bezos' Earth Fund** as a "Contributing Interfaith Organization."

GMU will partner with Omeriey Foundation as the focal point in Kenya, and participate as the USA mentor for Makerere University Kampala and Nairobi University in the EARTH FUNDS AI for Climate and Environmental Challenges in September 2025

GMU Scholarships and Donations

One thousand dollars in donations have been received from Pacifica Institute Global Cultural Connections and the Bay Area Cultural Connections for scholarships for African and Indian students in the M.Th. in Religion and Science.



GMU operates under the corporate umbrella of the Federation of Community Ministries of California (FCM of CA), originally formed on October 30, 1997, when we gained the status of a 501c3 nonprofit corporation. GMU is registered in Santa Clara County, CA, as a DBA of FCM of CA. The two entities have the same Board of Directors.

Help Our Global Family

Donate to GMU.

Season of Creation

SEASON OF CREATION

Prayer Service for Creation Day

1 September 2024

09:00 New York | 15:00 Geneva/Brussels | 18:00 Istanbul | 21:00 Manila

Rev. David JIM Coleman
Environmental Chairman
of the Evangelical Alliance
Scotland

Rev. Gailly Astor
Pastor in the
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Jordan
and the Holy Land

Rev. Paul Mash
Co-Chair of the
International Season of
Creation Steering
Committee

**Rev. Bishop Ernesto
Almendra**
General Secretary
Conference of the
Philippines

**Rev. Bishop Arnis
Thomas**
Coptic Orthodox
Church

Rev. Pamela Ndemande
Praying Bishop of the
Methodist Church of
Southern Africa

Dr. Alexander Emeriti
Secretary of the Season
Initiatives for Promoting
Integral Human Development

Suzanne Morano
Co-Chair of the International
Season of Creation
Steering Committee
(United States of America)

Rev. Archbishop Marinko Basicic
Highway Deacon of the
Serbian and Roman Bishop
of the Episcopal Synod
of the Autocephalous
Church of Black



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

In the letter of Paul the apostle to the Romans, the biblical image pictures the Earth as a Mother, groaning as in childbirth (Rom 8:22). Francis of Assisi understood this when he referred to the Earth as our sister and our mother in his Canticle of Creatures. The times we live in show that we are not relating to the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but rather as a resource to be used...

Learn More.



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Honoring the Sacred in All!

<https://www.globalministriesuniversity.org/>

info@globalministriesuniversity.org

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Touch!



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