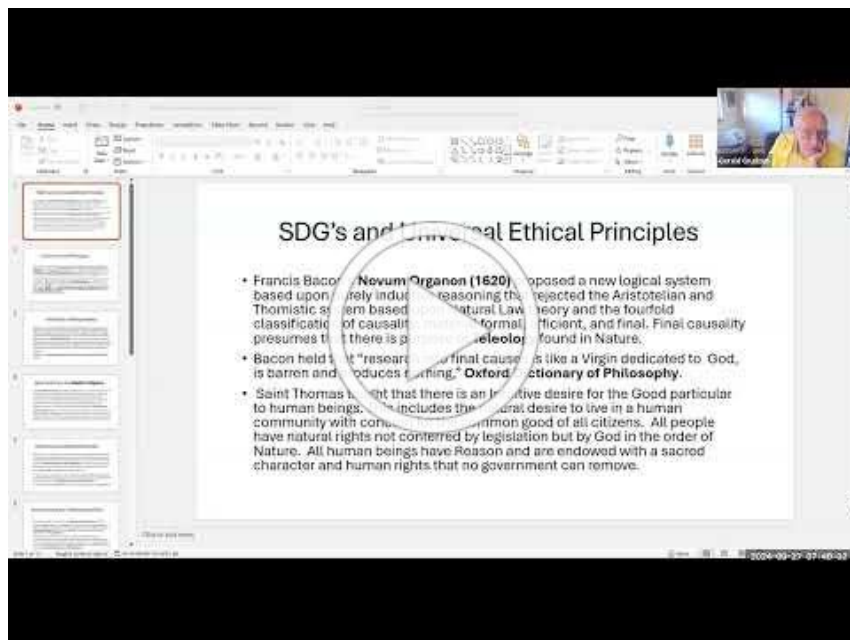




United Nations Development Goals and Global Ethics



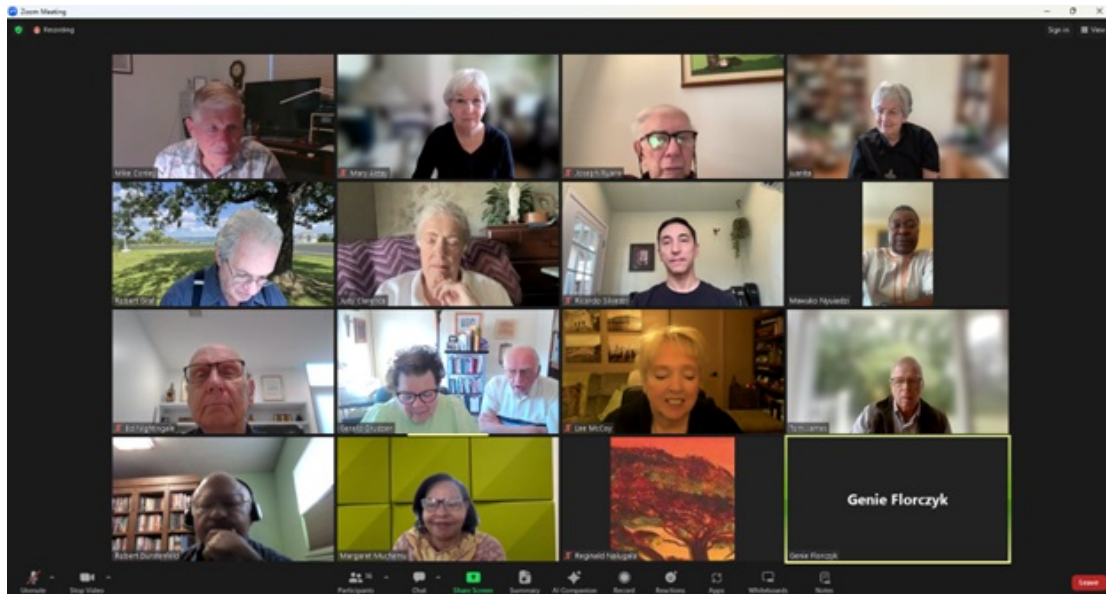
President Gerald Grudzen and others discuss UN Development Goals and Global Ethics.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

- The international authority on scientific information on climate change.
- Intergovernmental body of the UN whose purpose is to advance scientific knowledge about climate change caused by humans.
- The Nobel Peace Award: shared with Al Gore for "An Inconvenient Truth"
- Rules and Governing Principles of IPCC. It will assess:
 1. The risks of climate change caused by human activities.
 2. The potential impacts of climate change.
 3. The possible options for prevention.
- Assessment reports are prepared over 6 years by 3 working groups.
 1. Physical Science Basis of Climate Change
 2. Impacts and Adaptation
 3. Mitigation of Climate Change

Marita Grudzen takes us through the very real problem of the climate crisis as it pertains to UN Development goals.

GMU Board of Directors Meeting



The GMU Board of Directors convened online this October to delve into the heart of our university's current landscape and chart a course for a vibrant and sustainable future. The collaborative spirit and unwavering dedication displayed during this gathering truly exemplify GMU's commitment to fostering an inclusive environment that uplifts every student. This was more than just a meeting; it was a rallying cry for all of us to unite in our pursuit of excellence and social justice.

Librarian's Corner

**Misinformation vs
disinformation: what's**



the difference, and why does it matter?

In last month's column, I said I would talk next about writing a thesis statement. But because in the United States the presidential election looms closer and closer, and we're all being bombarded with emails, texts, "snail" mail,

TV ads, phone calls, and—most significant of all—social media postings spreading "information" about candidates, measures, or propositions, I think it's more appropriate to explore this topic. As I'm sure everyone understands by now, what you read, hear, or see online or in print may or may not be factual. Thus, we hear the terms "misinformation" and "disinformation," sometimes (wrongly) used interchangeably.

The terms *misinformation* and *disinformation* both refer to false or inaccurate information, but they differ in meaning:

1. **Misinformation:** This is false or inaccurate information that is spread without the intention to deceive.
2. **Disinformation:** This refers to false information that is deliberately created and spread with the intent to mislead or manipulate. It's intentionally designed to deceive or influence people's opinions, beliefs, or actions. We see much more disinformation during an election cycle.

Examples: Awhile back the local newspaper in our small town in rural, wildfire-prone Northern California published a piece about a guy who one evening, probably after imbibing "tee many martoonis" (as my dad used to say) looked over into the hills behind his house and felt certain they were on fire. He was convinced he saw a glowing, red ball of flames rising in the hills and called the emergency number, 911. After a few more sips of his martini, he looked again and realized—oops, it was the moon coming up over the treetops, the red color reflecting the setting sun. He quickly called 911 again and apologized. He'd given out **misinformation**. Unintentionally.

Now imagine that this fellow's young son, working reluctantly on a challenging homework assignment, looks out the window and sees the same thing. Knowing full well that the red ball is actually the moon, but thinking quickly, he devises a plan: he runs to his dad yelling, "Fire, fire! We have to evacuate!" in an attempt to avoid doing his homework. "Nice try," his dad calmly responds, "Now get back in there and finish your algebra assignment." The boy's false reporting is a case of **disinformation**. It was intentional.

And then there's **fake news**, which has been defined as "purposefully crafted, sensational, emotionally charged, misleading or totally fabricated information that mimics the form of mainstream news" (Zimdars & McLeod, 2020). Had the gentleman or his son in the example above written an article or posted a factual-sounding report on Facebook or somewhere describing a huge, raging fire consuming the foothills and threatening hundreds of

homes, they'd have created fake news.

All three of these forms of false information are dangerous and can affect the outcome of public policy, elections, and academic research. Don't believe everything you read or hear. Analyze, investigate, do further research. Check a variety of reliable sources before accepting questionable information. And don't drink "too many martinis!"

Questions? Comments? Need help with research? Contact me:

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

Interfaith

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful.
With sorrowful hearts and humble acceptance of Allah's
will, we announce the departure of our beloved teacher

Fethullah Gulen Hocaefendi
from this temporal world.

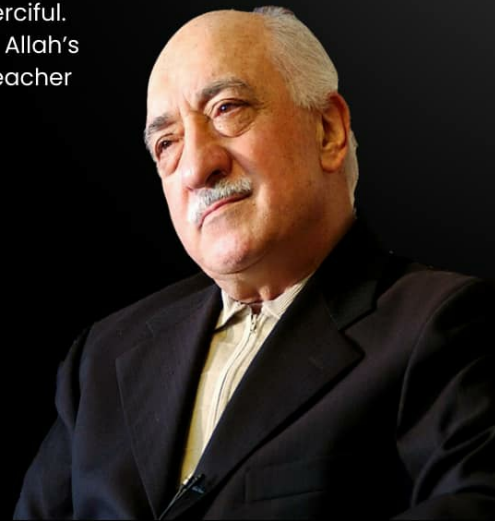
We stand comforted by our faith, knowing,

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

"Indeed we belong to Allah, and indeed to
Him we will return." [Qur'an 2:156]

This is a solemn time of mourning, reflection, and
prayer for the Hizmet community. Please join us in
prayer for his peace and tranquility.

October 20, 2024



GMU mourns the passing of Fethullah Gulen

President Grudzen had the opportunity to meet Fethullah Gulen several years ago in Pennsylvania at his retreat center. The Director of the Bay Area Pacifica Institute, Doctor Nurdin Kaparova, has asked President Grudzen to issue a video statement on the spiritual leader's passing.

President Grudzen will journey to Allentown, PA, with members of the Pacifica Institute to attend funeral services for the honorable Fethullah Gulen on Thursday, October 24. It is fitting since October 24 is **United Nations Day**, and Mr. Gulen was a strong defender of human rights and interfaith understanding in alignment with fundamental principles of the UN Charter.

Christian Spirituality and Pope Francis: An Interfaith Journey of Engagement



President Grudzen and Marita Grudzen participated in "Christian Spirituality and Pope Francis: An Interfaith Journey of Engagement" at Maryknoll Los Altos, CA, on October 19, at which President Grudzen spoke about interfaith spirituality.

GMU Courses and 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](#).



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.

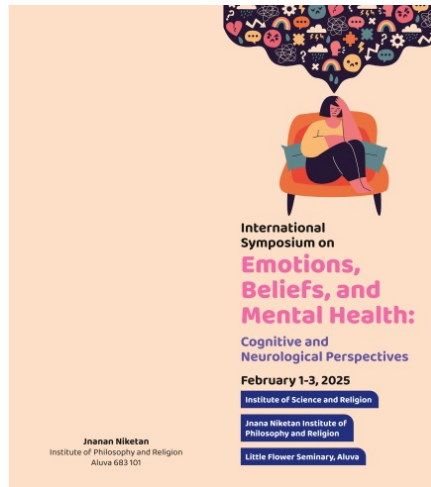
First Cohort Graduates

GMU congratulates the following students for completing their studies in the Religion and Science Master of Theology program:

Enos Kamau
Asoontha Mathew

Confirmed Speakers

1. Dr Miguel Farias (Oxford University)
2. Dr Louis Oviedo (Pontifical University Antonianum, Rome)
3. Dr Martha Helena Ferita (Catholic University of Brasilia)
4. Dr David Leech (Bristol University)
5. Dr Gerald Grudzen (Global Ministries University, California)
6. Dr Job Kochamthadam (Indian Institute of Science and Religion, New Delhi)
7. Dr Kuruvilla Pandikattu (XLRI, 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 Sangheetha Menon (Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore).



Emotions, Beliefs, and Mental Health

President Grudzen, Robert Graf, and Thomas James will present papers at the international Religion and Science symposium in 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.](#)

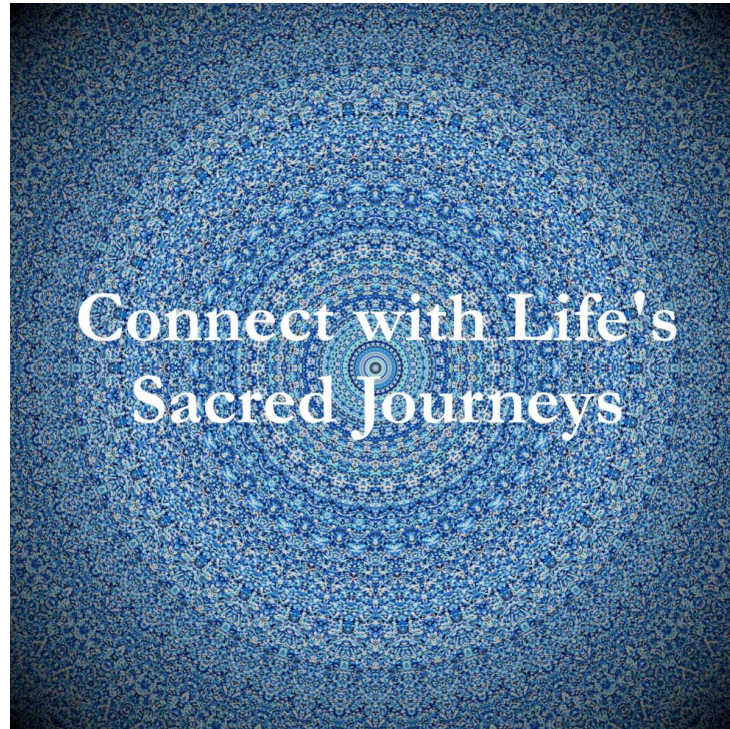
Bishop Bridget Mary Meehan, D.Min., ARCWP, Dean of GMU's D.Min/M.Div. Programs, has documented international response to the recent ordination of women

priests on the Tiber.

<https://bridgetmarys.blogspot.com/2024/10/article-on-tiber-ordinationn.html?m=1>



GMU Partners



Dealing with the milestones in people's lives is a huge responsibility. Rather than 'wing it,' you should be prepared to offer professional, quality service. We take you through your wedding ceremony and funeral service training with this goal in mind. We can provide you with the tools to make a difference in the world!

Visit the Center for Celebrant
Training.



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.

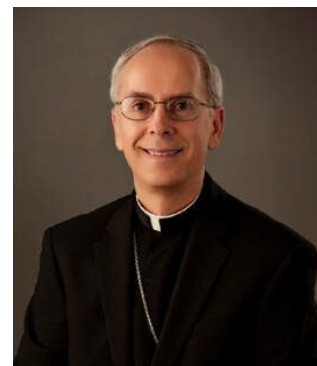
For those taking this course as an independent study or retreat, Bridget Mary will be available upon request to share with you in phone or Zoom conversations.

[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

Read the Globethics Draft of the Concept Paper for the Conference.

Visit the Conference Website.

“Abducted Person” Mustafa GENC

He dedicated his life to education and Intercultural Dialogue in Kenya for 23 years. He is a refugee. He was abducted at gunpoint together with his 15 years old son on the 18th October in the morning. He is still missing. His family is worried. We urge authorities to take immediate action.



Help Us
Find
Him



#BringThemHome #EmergencyKenya

Technical Director of Conference Abducted in Kenya

Mustafa Genç, who has led the technical operations of the biennial conference from Harmony Institute and the Institute for Religious Dialogue and Islamic Studies at Tangaza University (IRDIS) was kidnapped with other Turkish refugees in Kenya by gunmen on October 18.

Their refoulement to Turkey is feared.

Learn more at these links:

[Amnesty International Statement on the Abduction and Disappearance of Seven Turkish Asylum Seekers](#)

[Turkish citizens under UN protection feared to have been abducted by Turkish intelligence in Kenya](#)

[Help Us Bring Them Home: Demand Immediate Action for the Missing Victims in Kenya](#)

[As world mourns Gulen, Kenya departs refugees linked to his Hizmet movement](#)

INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF KENYA

P.O. Box 4352, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya Tel: 25471761 28022010 Fax: 1 2861297
Email: info@interreligiouscouncil.or.ke, www.interreligiouscouncil.or.ke

STATEMENT ON THE ABDUCTION OF SEVEN TURKISH ASYLUM SEEKERS IN NAIROBI FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nairobi, 20th October 2024: The Inter-Religious Council of Kenya (IRCK) is deeply concerned by the abduction of Seven Turkish asylum seekers on 18th October 2024 in Nairobi. The individuals -The individuals—Mustafa Genç, his son Abdullah Genç, Hüseyin Yeşilsu, Necdet Seyitoğlu, Öztürk Uzun, Alparslan Taşçı, and his wife Saadet Taşçı were reportedly kidnapped by unknown individuals. While Abdullah Genç, Necdet Seyitoğlu, and Saadet Taşçı have been reportedly released, Öztürk Uzun, Alparslan Taşçı, Mustafa Genç, and Hüseyin Yeşilsu remain missing and are at grave risk of refoulement— a serious violation of international law. Some of these individuals have lived peacefully in Kenya and are known to us, as well as many Kenyans, as peace-loving people who have been involved in philanthropy and humanitarian work over the years to assist vulnerable segments of Kenyan society.

This incident constitutes a breach of both Kenya and international refugee law. These individuals are refugees who have sought the protection of the Kenyan government. Their abductions underscore the growing concerns about the safety of all refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya.

The Kenyan government must urgently act to locate the missing Turkish asylum seekers, ensure their safety, and prevent their forced return to Turkey, where they are at grave risk of persecution.

IRCK joins hands with local and international human rights organisations that have spoken and issued statements on this tragic development to call on the United Nations and the international community to remain aware of its implications. It is deeply concerning that this is happening in the month that Kenya has successfully applied to become a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

This incident marks a disturbing trend in Kenya. A country once regarded as a safe haven for refugees is now becoming a hostile and dangerous environment for those seeking protection. We appeal to the Government of Kenya to ensure that all asylum seekers and refugees are protected from criminal abduction and unlawful return to countries where their lives and freedoms are in danger. It must uphold its legal obligations under the Kenyan Constitution, refugee laws, and international human rights treaties.

Signed:

Rt. Rev. Willybard Klotgho Lagho
Chairman
Inter-Religious Council of Kenya

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



GMU has received a major donation of \$20,000 from the estate of Frank Pisciotta, a GMU board member, GMU graduate, and member of our Kenya interfaith educational faculty.

GMU has been asked to designate \$5,000 of the donation for support of the Maryknoll education project for orphan children in Mombasa. GMU will provide financial support for the Hope Project in the month of October. [The Hope Project](#) is led by Rich Tarro, a Maryknoll lay missionary in Mombasa, Kenya.

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.](#)



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