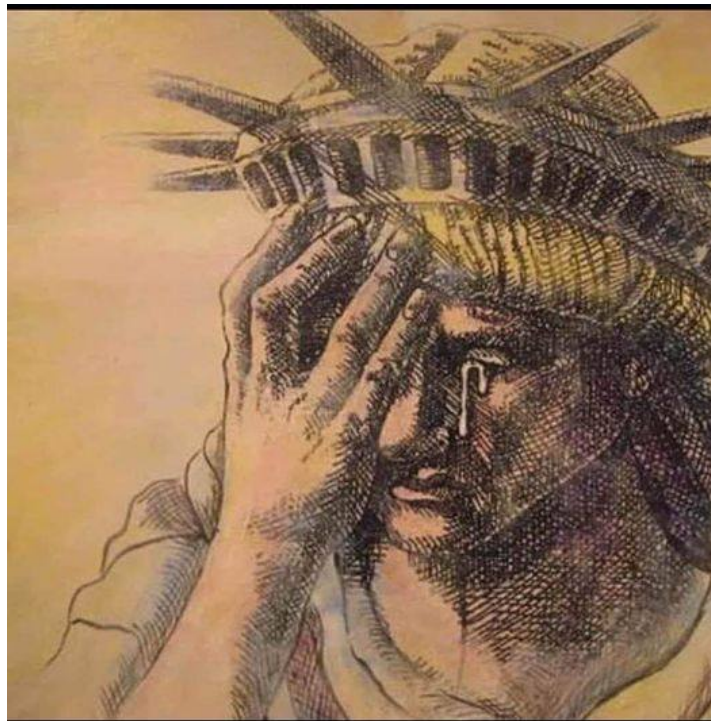




Photo by NASA on Unsplash

President Grudzen's Statement on the Election



The election of Donald Trump to the US presidency presents a challenge to people of faith on the key issues facing the US and the community of

nations. The Climate Crisis has only grown more imminent as we have seen its effects in recent weather events. Faith for Earth, the official faith-based environmental organization of the UN, has called for a renewed commitment to the Paris Accords (2015) and a sound environmental policy for all its member nations, including the US. The COP 28 meeting in Egypt in January 2023 stressed the importance of restoring nature and ecosystems to meet the temperature goals of the Paris Accord. The effects of the Climate Crisis are now threatening the livability of our planet Earth for future generations. GMU and the Laudato Si Movement urge the transition from an economy wedded to fossil fuels to one based on renewal forms of energy...

Read the entire statement.

Sincerest Condolences

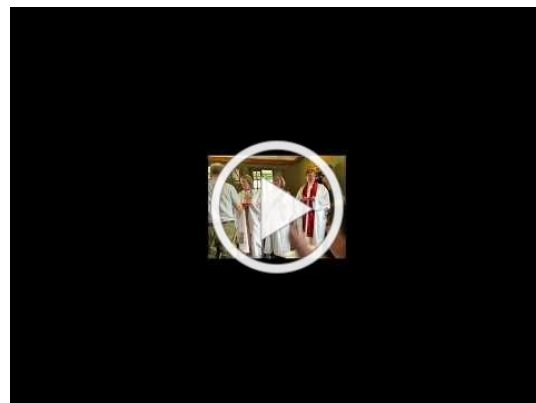


President Grudzen, the staff, and the faculty of GMU send our sympathy and love to Bishop William Manseau, one of the founding faculty members of GMU. His wife, Mary, died peacefully on Sunday, Nov. 17. She was at home with her family under hospice care.

Bill and his wife, Mary, were among the founders of the Federation of Christian Ministries, a sister organization of GMU.

GMU extends prayerful condolences to the Manseau family. Robert Graf, GMU board chairperson, will represent GMU at Mary's funeral in Massachusetts.

Women in Leadership



Bishop Bridget Mary Meehan, Dean of GMU's D.Min. and M.Div. Programs, and Mary Theresa Streck in Rome.

Now more than ever, we need women's leadership! Bridget Mary recommends seeing a new documentary coming out in Europe about our women priests movement. [The Forbidden Call: Women Priests.](#)

Visit Bridget Mary's
Blog.



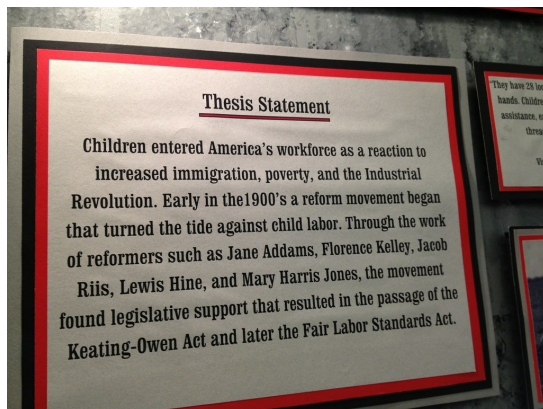
Empowering Women in Kenya

Your generous contributions to GMU enable GMU to sponsor many programs to help women in Africa. Together, we CAN make the world a better and safer place for women!

GMU is a leader in feminist theology and graduate degrees and supports all areas of women's studies.

View the curriculum
here.

Librarian's Corner



What's a thesis statement?

In the September Librarian's Corner, I discussed the research question; its purpose, and how to formulate it. In October, I planned to discuss another important step in the process of writing a term paper, research project or thesis—the thesis statement. However, as the U.S. election approached, I felt it

was more relevant to talk about misinformation, disinformation and fake

news. That's over, so, this month, it's back to the research question and how it develops into a thesis statement.

As discussed in the previous column, the **research question** is usually formulated at the beginning, or near the beginning of the research process. You've decided what you want to write about, more or less; the research question helps you to figure out what you want to learn, to discover, to investigate. Thus, it's formulated as an actual question.

The **thesis statement** can be presented further along in the process. It expresses the point or theory you will express as a result of your research and the conclusions you've reached.

How are they different?

- A **research question** (formulated as an actual question) guides the research process and helps to focus the study on a specific issue or aspect of a topic. It's developed early in the research process to help identify what the study will investigate.
- A **thesis statement** (formulated as an actual declarative statement) makes an assertion or presents an argument that will be supported with evidence in the paper, and is usually developed after some research has been conducted, and after the focus of the paper has been refined,

For example, a student interested in exploring the relationship between the Kabbalah and Reform Judaism might pose this **research question**:

- *"How has the incorporation of Kabbalistic practices and concepts affected contemporary Reform Judaism?"*

Using that query as a starting point, the student begins the research process. After doing a fair amount of preliminary reading and exploration, they see a **thesis statement** emerging. It might be something like this:

- *"The mystical practices of Kabbalat Shabbat and the new moon celebration of Tu BiShvat Seder have been incorporated, in some synagogues, into Reform Jewish rituals, resulting in deeper spiritual experiences for participants."*

In short, the **research question** expresses what you plan to investigate, while the **thesis statement** is your answer, or your position on the topic, the thesis that you will defend in the final paper.

You'll find that these two steps help a lot in planning your project, and in clarifying your research path.

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

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

Graduates Praise GMU

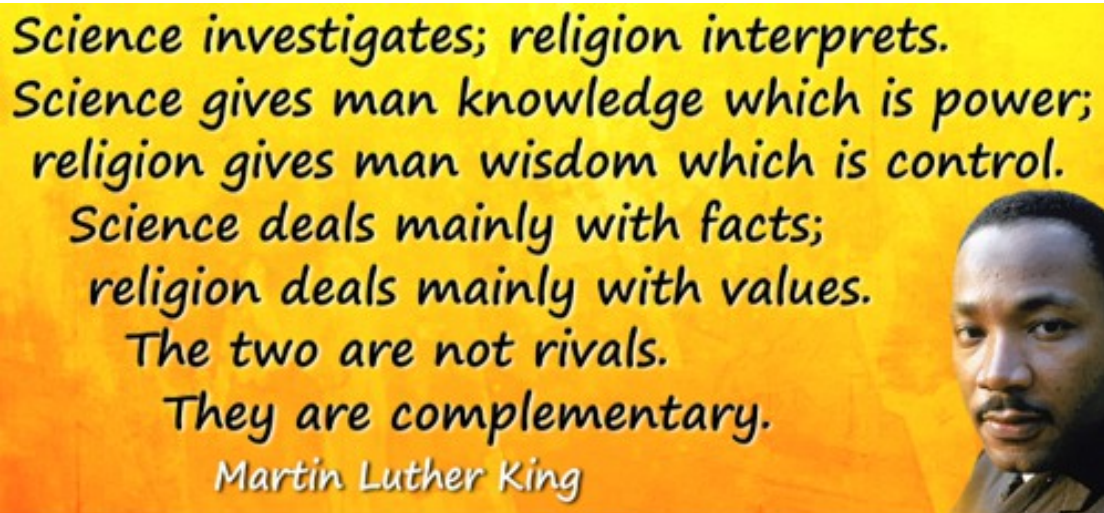


Graduates Tanmay Dave and Esther Kaleli discuss their time at GMU with President Gerald Grudzen.

GMU Courses and Programs

Religion and Science

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



More science quotes at Today in Science History todayinsci.com

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. Asian and African applications will soon be made directly on Fr. Augustine Pamplany's website. The applications will then be sent to GMU for follow-up

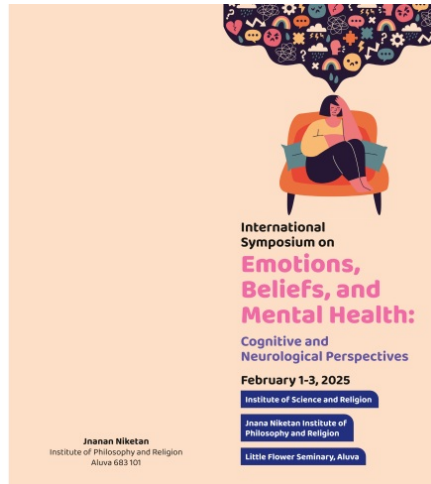
and enrollment. [Email Fr. Augustine](#) for information on when the applications will be available.

Explore GMU's Religion and Science Program.

Apply here.

Confirmed Speakers

1. Dr Miguel Faras (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 Kozhamthadam (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 Sangeetha 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.

GMU Partners



The Center for Celebrant Training is thriving, primarily because there has been a significant increase in applications for Funeral Celebrants in the past year. Coping with the holidays is part of the toolbox of resources trainees receive to provide caring, helpful services that lead to healthy paths for working on grief and acknowledging gratitude." . ~Michael Conley, D.Min.

Visit the Center for Celebrant Training.





Gathering of Celtic Spirits

Explore Celtic Spirituality through
the Celtic Wheel of the Year

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"



Join Us!

*Third Online Conference
Promoting the Ideals of
Fratelli Tutti*

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



6-8
FEBRUARY
2025

The human family is indivisible. Regardless of origin or residence status, people belong together. This international interfaith conference emphasises humanity's responsibility for mutual care, solidarity, and the fostering of inclusive communities.

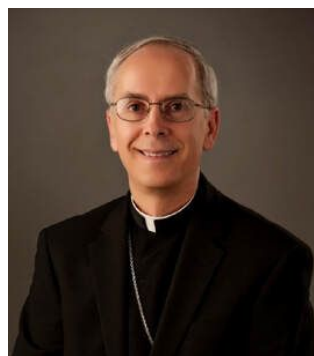
Join brothers and sisters from all religious and spiritual traditions as we continue the legacy of Pope Francis and Sheikh Mohamed Ahmed El-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of al-Azhar, in the tradition of *Fratelli Tutti*.

 <https://fratellitutticonference.org/>



GMU | Harmony Institute | IRDIS | Forum for Interreligious Dialogue | Globethics | ECASERY FOR PROMOTING INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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..

Visit the Conference Website.

Subscribe to the Conference on YouTube.

Follow the Conference Facebook page.

Technical Director of Conference Abducted in Kenya

Mustafa Genç, who led the technical operations of the biennial conference from Harmony Institute and the Institute for Religious Dialogue and Islamic Studies at

"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

Tangaza University (IRDIS) was kidnapped with other Turkish refugees in Kenya by gunmen on October 18. They have been repatriated to Turkey. The United Nations and international organizations are working for their release.

Learn more at these links:

[UN 'deeply concerned' Kenya returned Turkish refugees](#)

[Kenya's forcible return of UN-protected Turkish refugees follows armed drone sale](#)

[Kenya: 'Yes, we captured four refugees on behalf of Turkey'](#)

"Help Us Bring Them Home" petition.



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

Global Gratitude



Thank you for your generous response to GMU's fundraiser. Individual donors have provided scholarships for women students in the Religion and Science program and other GMU initiatives.

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.](#)

"If the only prayer you ever
say in your entire life is

THANK YOU,
it will be enough."
~Meister Eckhart

*GMU wishes all of our FAMILY of faculty, students,
friends, partners, collaborators, affiliates, and benefactors
a very Blessed Thanksgiving!*





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Honoring the Sacred in All!

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