

2023

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!



Global Solidarity

Journey with us!



*Walking Together in the
Light of Fratelli Tutti and
Laudato Si'*

**2-4
FEBRUARY
2023**

Join brothers and sisters who are committed to peace and ecological preservation from all religious traditions around the world as we continue the legacy of Pope Francis and Sheikh Ahmad Muhammad Al-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of al-Azhar, in this biennial, international, interfaith conference.



<https://fratellitutticonference.org/>



View and download the Hub of the Americas Program.

"Walk this Way"!

Connect with sisters and brothers from all around the globe as we share our dreams for a better world. GMU joins universities, interfaith organizations, and pontifical dicasteries in a free 3-day event on [YouTube](#) during the [United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week](#), culminating on February 4, 2023, [International Day of Human Fraternity](#).

The American "hub" conducted by GMU will offer a series of presentations on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, immigration, education, "Building a Just Peace," and "The Voices of Women."

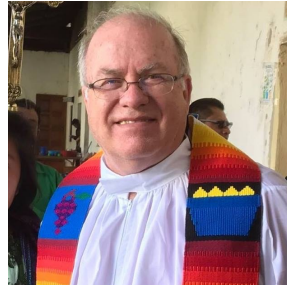
Keynoting the 3-day event will be Fr. Paulin Batairwa Kubuya, sx, Under-Secretary of the Vatican Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue. Featured presentations will be given by Dr. Azza Karam, Secretary General of Religions *for* Peace, Ela Gandhi, former member of the South African Parliament and granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, and Bishop John Stowe, OFM, Bishop of the Diocese of Lexington, KY, and Bishop-President of Pax Christi USA.

Essentials of Just Peace

within Catholic Social Justice Teaching



Bishop John Stowe, OFM, of Lexington KY, President of the National Council of Pax Christ USA, will be a featured presenter at the conference on February 3, 2023.



GMU faculty member, Father Bob Dueweke, OSA, former Augustinians' representative to the United Nations, will moderate this session.

Register for "Walking Together..."

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February



"Walking Together in the Light of *Fratelli Tutti* and *Laudato Si*" is listed as an event on the United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week Calendar..



...And as an official [Pre-Parliament of the World's Religions \(PoWR\) event](#) President Grudzen, Marita Grudzen, and Fr. Augustine Pamplany will present at this year's [PoWR](#) taking place in Chicago on August 14 – 18, 2023.



GMU Tuition Reduction

Now is the time to enroll in the degree or certificate program you have always wanted to pursue but put off because of COVID-19 or economic concerns. GMU is offering a 20% discount in tuition for all of its degree and certificate programs to those who apply during the month of February, 2023. Take advantage of this limited time offer which will end March 1, 2023. The low application fee of \$25 remains the same.

Don't wait a minute more. Apply today.

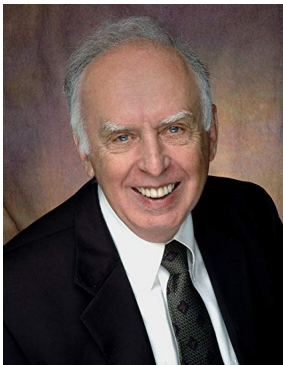
GMU Program Updates



Muslim theologian Dr. Recep Dogan has joined the GMU faculty. He will teach courses on the Islamic perspective on the compatibility of Religion and Science.

Visit GMU's Website to learn more.

President's Report



President Grudzen has been asked to participate in an international conference organized by the Department of Religious Studies of California State University on ["The Hizmet Movement: Responses to Contemporary Challenges"](#) on Feb. 16-17, 2023 at the Long Beach, CA, campus. He will take the opportunity to promote GMU's interfaith programs.

From the Provost

Progress in the Long-Range Planning Process



In the November 2022 issue of GMU's Global Update, I explained our Long-Range Planning Process and the work of its subcommittees in areas of **finance, institutional stability, marketing and visibility, academics, and community & (inter)faith initiatives**. The plan has the potential to revitalize our university and propel it forward in achieving its mission and vision.

At this point, the work of the subcommittees is complete, and their recommendations are in my hands. I am compiling these recommendations into a single document intended to guide GMU's directions – including important decisions about the areas highlighted above – over the next several years. By the end of this month, a draft of the document will be in the hands of the Long-Range Planning Committee for suggested revisions; once those are implemented, the final version will be presented to GMU President Gerald Grudzen.

The hard work of all who have participated in this process will help to ensure that GMU's light will continue to shine for years to come!

~ Mary Ann Cejka, M.Div., M.S., Ph.D.

Librarian's Corner



Why Do We Need a Librarian?

Good question.

Stereotypically, librarians are thought of as clerks who put books on the shelves and check them out to people, so what's the point, in an online environment? Why does a totally online university like GMU have any use for a librarian? We have no brick-and-mortar library, no books to check out, no periodicals to browse.

The GMU librarian (that's me!) is here to assist students and faculty with the required academic research by helping to hone and refine possible research topics, select and effectively utilize the many online resources available, and navigate them efficiently. Just Googling a topic rarely produces reliable, scholarly, authoritative results. How do we evaluate resources found in a Google search?

Online databases that index scholarly journals can be confusing. There are so many! Which ones will be the most useful? How can you find them? How do you use them? They can be tricky to maneuver around in, especially for newcomers. And what happens when you find a citation for the perfect article, but it seems impossible to find and read the whole thing?

Perhaps you've gotten wind of a book or two that would be helpful. You don't want to buy them. How can you find out if they're available electronically, full-text? Or, how you can borrow them through your local library, even if they don't have them on their shelves?

Here's where a librarian can help out. And that's why I'm here.

Please [contact me](#) whenever you're beginning a research project—or even later on, when you're stuck. Through email, Zoom, or FaceTime sessions, I can work collaboratively with you as we explore online resources. We librarians do much more than shelf books.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

~Judy Clarence, M.L.I.S., GMU Librarian

GMU Partners



The Center has been dedicated to serving those who desire to be competent certified celebrants for close to twelve years. We will continue to do so in 2023!



Visit the Center for Celebrant Training.

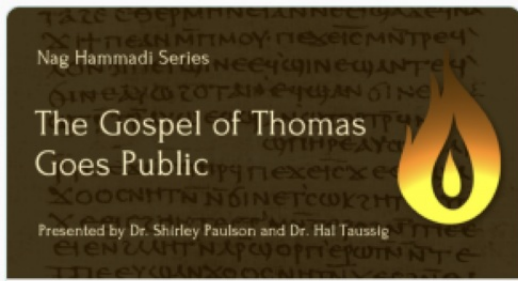


PCS 710 – Celebrating Celtic Spirituality

Presented by Rev. Dr. Bridget Mary Meehan

Begins February 1, 2023
Noon to 1 PM EST (meets every Wednesday for four weeks)

[Click here to Enroll.](#)



PCS 508 - The Gospel of Thomas Goes Public

Presented by Dr. Shirley Paulson

Begins March 1, 2023
7:30 PM to 8:30 PM EST
(meets every Wednesday for seven weeks)

[Click here to Enroll.](#)

Global Citizenship



"Global citizenship is how we talk about the social, environmental and economic actions of people and communities who know that every person is a citizen of the world. It is about how decisions in one part of the planet can affect people living in a different part of it. And about how we all share a common humanity and are of equal worth. It means being open to engaging positively with other identities and cultures and being able to recognize and challenge stereotypes. It is also about how we use and share the earth's resources fairly and uphold the human rights of all." ~Oxfam UK

Learn more from
UNESCO.

Be the change
you wish to see
in the world.

~Mahatma Gandhi



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Honoring the Sacred in All Religions and Spiritual Traditions

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