



UNIVERSITY OF  
**ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE**  
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

Summer 2020

Dear new and returning students,

The end of the 2019-2020 academic year had a different feel since the university had to make the difficult decision in March of moving classes online, closing its doors and finishing off the year remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Through these challenging times our Faculty were able to provide everyone with the best learning experience possible despite having to do so from a distance. Thus, I begin to write this letter of welcome in the spirit of hope; that we will be able to gather together again come the Fall term, even if in a different way to learn and grow. I look forward to catching up with our returning students, and I am especially excited to meet our new students! I completed my MDiv here at St. Mike's in 2016 and have fond memories of my time spent on campus. Amidst the craziness of papers and coursework, I was able to engage with my fellow colleagues outside of the classroom setting and form friendships that have positively impacted both my professional and personal life. My hope is that you too will find St. Mike's to be an inviting and stimulating environment, regardless of whether we are together on or off campus.

If you are a new student or we haven't yet had the chance to meet, please note that all new students along with those who still need to have their courses approved for the coming semester/year, should contact me prior to [or during] the Fall advising days before selecting courses on ACORN (Student Web Service). The purpose of this is to ensure that you are taking courses that meet your program requirements, but also allow you to pursue theological topics that are of interest to you. You are free to take courses that are "outside" of the program requirements; however, these would only count towards your program electives, if applicable. My office door is always open - both physically and virtually.

Course registration on the ACORN system is available beginning Monday July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. You may access ACORN through your own personal computer or any secure public access terminal. When you enter in your information, you will be placed in the "invited" category. Once payment for the course is received you are moved to the "registered" category. Class lists for Fall courses, drawn from the registration information on ACORN, will be printed on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 12:00 pm. It is therefore very important that you complete your course selections and finalise your details on ACORN before that time. I hope that the following instructions will assist you as you begin [or continue] on your journey with us here at St. Mike's for this upcoming academic year:

1. Before beginning the registration process, please read the information pertinent to your particular program in the Faculty of Theology Basic Degree Handbook available at the following link:  
<https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Handbook-combined.pdf>.
  2. Please pay special attention to the dates when tuition payment must be made. Failure to meet these financial deadlines will result in your being “financially cancelled,” giving rise to serious problems, as well as a \$50.00 penalty. Remember: though you enter the data yourself, your registration is not considered complete until it is confirmed by the university, and it is not confirmed without payment.
  3. New Students: prepare a tentative class schedule for yourself based on the information in the enclosed sheets: “Course Selection Information for Basic Degree Students.” Please make an appointment with me to discuss and approve your program during the September Welcome Back Days. Newly admitted students must meet with me before entering courses on ACORN. If we have not returned to in-class instruction for the Fall, arrangements can be made to meet with me over the phone or via Zoom.
- Now and throughout the year, you will find important information posted on the Basic Degree Bulletin Board, located in the corridor to the right of the entrance to Faculty offices, on the third floor of Muzzo Alumni Hall.
4. Returning Students: If your course selection was approved during the spring or summer, you may proceed to enter this data on ACORN. If you change your course selection, you should contact me to have the change approved. Remember: your data entry will not be converted into a registration without payment of your fees.
  5. All Students: Please follow the directions for registration, sending me your course selection for review and approval in advance of entering it on ACORN. In case of a discrepancy, only those courses approved and on file with your faculty advisor will be considered official.
  6. Follow us on social media to stay on top of news and events. You can find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @usmctheology.
  7. Please pay special attention to Dean McLaughlin’s directive regarding portfolio submissions, as submitting a select range of assignments is required as part of your program. Please feel free to contact the Faculty of Theology with questions or concerns. All of us here at the Faculty want to help in any way we can, both at the beginning of your program and throughout your time with us.

I hope you all have a wonderful and restful summer. I look forward to gathering together and seeing everyone again and meeting the new faces. Let’s hope that we will be able to be together this upcoming academic year and face the challenges this new “post-pandemic” world brings.

Sincerely,

Anthony De Feo  
Programs Coordinator, Faculty of Theology – University of St. Michael’s College