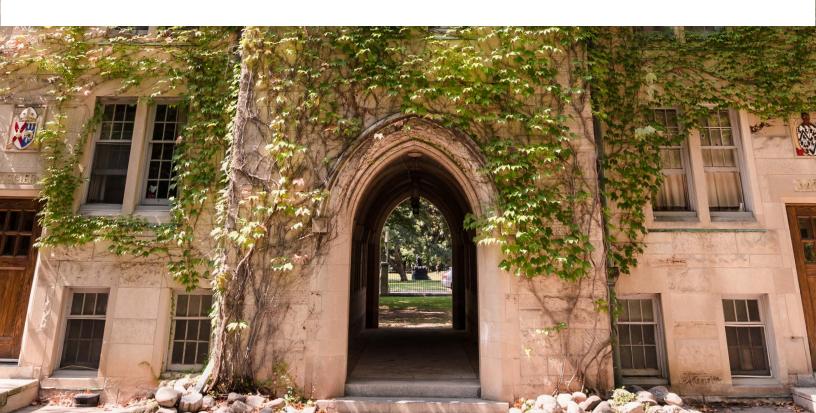


# Annual Report of the President to the Collegium 2024





# Annual Report of the President to the Collegium: 2024

Our fourth year of living into St. Mike's 180 has been one of consolidation and new beginnings. Exciting progress has been made in advancing the academic opportunities and community supports for students, in strengthening our institutional, programmatic and environmental sustainability, and in building strong relationships with our university and congregational partners. Specific successes include the ongoing development of the Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology (RSM), the systematic assessment of existing and new academic programming and supports in St. Michael's College (SMC), and the improvements in financial processes and transparency pertaining to budgeting and fund management. At the same time we celebrate the re-vitalization of the Division of Continuing Education, supporting life-long learners, programming for alumni and a variety of professional sectors, a positive new federation Operating Agreement with the University of Toronto, and bold property planning initiatives that look to the future.

As always, these organizational achievements have a common purpose: to provide every member of the St. Michael's community (from students to alumni, staff to trustees) the very best opportunity to learn and grow, to flourish during their time with us in order that they might continue to exercise transformative leadership in service to the common good and care of all creation.

St. Michael's continues on its path of institutional renewal in fulfillment of its 173-year commitment to educate servant leaders to take up the challenges of an increasingly complex world.

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David Sylvester, PhD President and Vice-Chancellor

# St. Mike's 180 Strategic Priorities

# Community

Providing a supportive and challenging community for all its members

# Sustainability

Stewarding our resources and relationships wisely in service to our University community and the common good

# Education

Empowering students, faculty and staff to develop their unique gifts and carry those forward in service to the world





### A New Future for the Loretto Sisters' 175year Legacy at St. Mike's

Just as the Loretto Sisters were concluding their 175th anniversary celebrations, USMC formally purchased the institutional rights of the future redevelopment of the Loretto College property. The purchase agreement commits USMC to design and build a new Loretto College women's residence in the new structure's podium. This partnership guarantees that the Loretto Sisters' legacy—encouraging love of God, love of self, love of neighbour, and care of creation, and empowering young women to challenge injustice and work towards just policies and laws—will be carried on in partnership with St. Michael's. USMC will continue to manage the current Loretto College women's residence until construction of the new development begins.



Every member of the St. Michael's community is invited to develop and contribute their unique gifts to campus life and to building up the common good.

~ St. Mike's 180

## Alumnae Initiative for Women brings St. Mike's Women's Voices to the Fore

The USMC Alumnae Initiative for Women (AI4W) was very active this year, convening conversations with women of St. Michael's—past and present—to reinforce their network of alumnae leaders and to envision spaces and initiatives that empower women and amplify their perspectives. AI4W importantly organized visioning sessions about a possible women's centre at USMC, and made



recommendations for the planned Loretto College residence based on consultations, architectural best practices, and cutting-edge research. AI4W also championed the legacies of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Loretto Sisters, and organized alumnae meetings at Alumni Reunion.

### <u>Towards Reconciliation: The Importance of Uncomfortable</u> <u>Conversations, Accountability, and Institutional Leadership</u>

Cadmus Delorme, former Chief of the Cowessess First Nation, spent a day during Truth and Reconciliation Week with the University of St. Michael's College for a series of events, including conversations with students, faculty, alumni, staff, and Collegium members. In his conversations and evening lecture, Delorme highlighted how universities like USMC are places where the uncomfortable, informed conversations necessary for Reconciliation can be encouraged. He taught that by holding one another accountable, and by modeling dialogue between the Western and Indigenous worldviews in our institutional leadership and governance, we can become warriors for peace in this moment that "we all inherited."



### Making Connections through Mentorship

Throughout the year Alumni Affairs, Campus Life, and the Young Alumni Committee collaborated to launch St. Michael's micro-mentorship program, AMPlify, at a well-attended mixer in Charbonnel Lounge. Through the



AMPlify website, undergraduate students and recent graduates can reach out to over 60 alumni with careers in STEM-related fields, teaching, law, consulting, the civil service, and many others. SMC Career Month featured more in-person opportunities for St. Michael's students to engage with alumni who graduated from the University of Toronto with Honours Bachelor of Arts and Honours Bachelor of Science degrees, as well as events such as "Elevate & Connect: Bridging Generations of Black Grads"

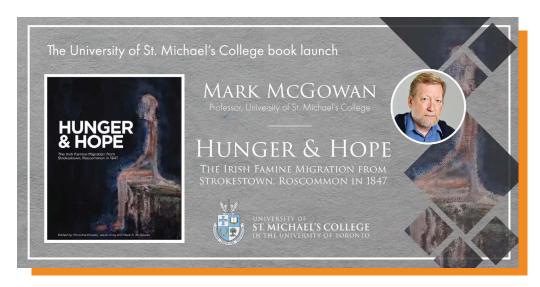


# Studies in Celtic and Italian Culture Earn St. Mike's International Recognition



In May, St. Michael's collaborated with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland, to organize and host the "Canada, Ireland & Transatlantic Colonialism Conference," where international scholars discussed migration, colonialism, and Irish engagement with the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island. During the conference, USMC awarded Dr. Eamonn McKee, Ireland's Ambassador to Canada, an honorary fellowship for his collaboration and

support of the College's Celtic Studies program. Earlier in the year, The Ireland Funds' annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon raised funds in support of Celtic Studies. Undergraduate student researchers from Celtic Studies were featured and honoured for their contributions at the book launch of St. Michael's Professor Mark McGowan's co-edited book Hunger & Hope: The Irish Famine Migration from Strokestown, Roscommon in 1847 last fall.



In April, President Sylvester received the 2024 International Dante Alighieri Society Award of Merit in recognition of USMC's distinguished teaching, learning, and community outreach in the promotion of Italian culture and history. St. Mike's campus is home to the University of Toronto's Italian Studies department and to the Dante Garden. This year, the annual St. Michael's Dante Lecture featured Dr. Deborah Parker, who lectured on "Dante in the World," and Continuing Education initiated a Dante workshop which included a tour of the Dante Garden and rare book collections in the Kelly Library, with a lecture St. Michael's Professor Giulio Silano.



### St. Mike's Honours Transformative Leadership

As St. Michael's celebrated the convocation of its theology and continuing education graduates this fall, it also bestowed its highest honour on three transformative leaders. Archbishop Donald Bolen was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity for his career-long dedication to promoting healing and dialogue in reconciliation and ecumenism. Professors Ann Hutchison and James Carley, distinguished scholars from the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies (PIMS), were awarded honorary Doctor of Sacred Letters degrees for their lifetime of scholarship and their support of students in the academic life of USMC. Roland Bertin was also made an honorary fellow for his pivotal role in establishing the Collegium's Investment Committee, which has since enhanced the university's financial sustainability.



### **Enhancing Community Through the Generosity and Genius of Our Students**

Thanks to the creativity of their peers and a matching donation from the President's Excellence Fund, SMCSU generously put the Student Improvement Fund to work on transformative projects across St. Mike's campus . The basketball court south of Elmsley Hall was re-paved and re-lined; free menstrual product dispensers were installed across USMC's campus; offices used by student leaders in Brennan Hall were soundproofed; water fountains were upgraded to bottle-filling stations (in support of USMC's status as a Blue Community); and the Elmsley Hall residence's electrical system was updated.



July 2023 – Effie Slapnicar and Greg Rupik participate in week-long Institute for Administrators in Catholic Higher Education in Boston, hosted by Boston College's Lynch School of Education and Human Development, meeting Catholic university administrators across North America and the World.





Orientation 2023



### Michaelmas 2023



Alumni Reception in Rochester



February 2nd, 2024- Ice Rink Opening



### March 17th, 2024 – St. Mike's Raises the Irish Flag at City Hall

May 30th to June 2nd – Alumni Reunion





June 13th, 2024 - FAS Convocation





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# Understanding and Mitigating Risk: A Community Effort

Under the leadership of the Bursar's Office, a risk register was compiled through inter-departmental meetings held in person and virtually from October 2023 through February 2024. Digital tools such as MS Whiteboard were used to brainstorm ideas and collaborate in real-time. Risks were evaluated based on their likelihood and potential impacts to the university, grouped into categories, and represented on an intuitive heat-map. The next steps involve assigning risk ownership and discussing risk mitigation strategies across the institution.

# Engaging Catholic Leaders on the Local and Global Stage

• In February, <u>USMC</u> joined the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU), whose aims are "to support global collaboration, binding the voices of our members in a global engagement for robust research and values-driven academic training" and "to provide answers to different constituencies, at a time when universities are facing a brave new world of opportunities and disruption." IFCU unanimously approved USMC's application as Canada's leading Catholic university at its meeting this spring in Rome.

St. Michael's will commit to orient itself proactively and lead as an institution that is dedicated to social justice and sustainability, whether environmental, social, or financial.

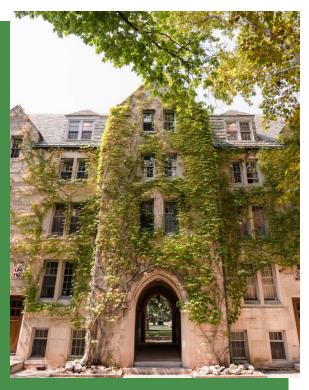
~ St. Mike's 180

- The President's Office has continued to engage with the leadership of Catholic spirituality and ecology retreat centres across Ontario, most of which are administered by Catholic religious communities. USMC has aided the group in hiring a researcher to develop strategies for these centres to continue their mission, protect their lands, and collaborate with universities like St. Michael's.
- In March, President Sylvester participated as a reviewer for the Mission Priority Examen (MPE) of Campion College, a Jesuit College federated with the University of Regina, Saskatchewan. The MPE is "a self-study and peer review process for reaffirming the Jesuit, Catholic mission of Jesuit colleges and universities."
- St. Michael's continued to convene conversations with the <u>Cloverhill Collaborative</u>, a consortium of Catholic leadership teams from the Loretto Sisters, Sisters of St. Joseph, Basilian Fathers, Regis

College and the Mary Ward Centre. In addition to facilitating the visit of Cadmus Delorme in September, the Collaborative also organized "Ministry with Migrants: An Evening with Sr. Norma Pimentel, MJ" in partnership with Becoming Neighbours, and The Festival of Women and Girls, hosted at Regis College.



### Beyond 175: St. Mike's New Campus and Landscape Plan



In early 2024 St. Michael retained the design and planning consultants Brook McIlroy to develop a comprehensive Campus and Landscape Plan for USMC after a competitive RFP process. Brook McIlroy has been tasked with creating a plan that integrates sustainable, eco-friendly design principles, identifies revenue generating opportunities, and adopts space utilization strategies fit for a changing cultural and pedagogical landscape. The plan, due to be complete by the spring of 2025, will draw from both wide-ranging consultations and an exhaustive study of USMC's property and context, and will be rooted in USMC's mission, vision, values, and Strategic Plan.

### Principles of Federation Affirmed with Renewed Operating Agreement

In June, USMC and the other Federated Universities (Trinity and Victoria) signed new Federation Operating Agreements (FOAs) with the University of Toronto, significantly increasing the funding USMC receives from the University of Toronto. The new funding in the FOAs accounts for the proliferation

and evolution of student services since the last agreement (signed in 2008), and more accurately reflects the increasing costs borne by the Federated Universities to deliver these and other services in partnership with the University of Toronto. The success of these good-faith negotiations with the University of Toronto was the culmination of over five years



of collaboration between USMC, Trinity, and Victoria, advocating together—as academic centres themselves—on behalf of their students and governing boards. The FOAs provide for the financial and accountability arrangements under the principles of the 2008 Federation Framework Agreement. This new FOA, and the 2008 Federation Framework Agreement, may be revisited again in 2028.

# Archiving Our Past, Enhancing our Present, Envisioning Our Future: John M. Kelly Library

**Past:** As a testament to USMC's positive reputation as a trustworthy steward of Canadian Catholic history, the Sisters of Service (SOS) have signed a donation agreement with USMC to transfer their institutional archives to the John M. Kelly Library. Their collection, which totals close to 75 linear metres of physical materials and a significant amount of digital records, is a meaningful addition to the Kelly Library's Special Collections: Archives and Rare Books' holdings.

**Present:** The transfer of physical monographs from the Regis College Library to the Kelly Library began in September 2023 to conveniently locate the full Regis St. Michael's Theology collection in one place for students and faculty. By the end of June 2024, the vast majority of items had been delivered to the Kelly Library and are again available for loan. This project will be completed May 2025.

**Future:** As a way to sustain the work of the John M. Kelly library, and the entire university, well into the future, USMC has begun a <u>process of rezoning</u> the site of the Kelly Library to allow for the



development of a new, improved, state of the art library with programming, conference, and residential spaces. St. Michael's has assembled a project team including project managers Turner & Townsend, architects KPMB, landscape architects Stevens Burgess Architects, planning consultants MHBC, and legal counsel Aird & Berlis. With the help of community engagement consultants Bousfields Inc., students,

faculty, staff, alumni, Collegium members, and neighbourhood stakeholders have been consulted to begin to imagine the form and possibilities for the new structure, in concert with the Campus & Landscape Plan and Loretto projects.

### **Creatively Engaging the Climate Crisis**

In their project "Critical Conversations in Catholic Education: Climate Change and Eco-Social Resilience," Regis St. Michael's professors Cynthia Cameron and Hilda Koster have engaged with local school boards and teachers to offer them tools and strategies to address the negative impacts of climate change on the mental health of adolescents. The project, assisted by graduate student

Rosemary Boissonneau and funded by a grant from the Association of Theological Schools, has included delivery of two workshops in the Halton and Durham Catholic District School Boards, and will culminate in a conference in October at Regis College. By engaging with educators in and around Toronto, the project advances USMC's mission to "exercise transformative leadership in service of the common good and care of all creation" by simultaneously offering sustainable solutions and strengthening our relationships with Catholic schools.



### Collegium's Sustainable Succession Planning

In the fall, Collegium approved a new succession planning process for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair developed and recommended by the Appointments Committee. The process better aligns with Collegium member term lengths and builds in a year of preparation before the elected leaders begin their terms.

In December, alumna Susan Helstab was appointed Chair-elect and CSR graduate Mike DeGagné was appointed Vice-Chair-elect according to this new process, and promptly began their preparation for the beginning of their leadership terms in 2024.





### Golfing for Excellence Sep 20th, 2023 – Eagles Nest Golf Tournament

The USMC Golf Classic raises money for the President's Excellence Fund, which has been used to match generous donations from SMCSU to enhance the student experience at USMC. From 2000 to 2019 the USMC Golf Classic was hosted annually and raised over \$2.5 million. After a two-year hiatus, the tournament returned in 2022. Funds are raised through sponsorship, golfer registration, raffle ticket sales, and silent auction bids. The 2023 Golf Classic raised more than \$55,000.





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### **Continuing Education**

In October, <u>Dr. Michael Salvatori was hired as USMC's</u> new <u>Director of Continuing Education</u> with a mandate to revitalize and expand the university's Continuing Education (CE) division. Under Salvatori's leadership, CE has widely engaged stakeholders, enhanced long-standing CE offerings, and onboarded an enthusiastic new team to explore possibilities and deliver exciting educational opportunities—all within the space of 9 months.



### **Enhancing Current CE Programs:**

With the advice of a reconstituted Continuing Education Council of Senate—which comprises CE students, alumni, Catholic education leaders, and CE instructors— CE began to once again administer the Diploma in St. Mike's focusses on empowering students, faculty and staff to develop their unique gifts and carry those forward in service to the world.

~ St. Mike's 180

Interfaith Dialogue, continued its oversight of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program, and augmented the Social Responsibility & Sustainability program (SR&S) with two brand new courses: the Social Impact Measurement Professional Certificate, and Climate Change for Social Impact Leaders. There were six final projects that were awarded the <u>President's Capstone Award</u> in the flourishing SR&S program this past year:

- "A Social Impact Guide for Changemakers" Jessica Bermudez
- "University-Government Collaboration for Ecological Solutions in Ecuador" Ignacio Loor-Colamarco
- "Embedding Equity in our Social and Environmental Responsibility Practices" Jessica Aviva Anderson
- "NSLC Path to Corporate Sustainability Applying an Embedded Strategies Framework" Marley MacDonald
- "Creating Shared Value in Construction Projects" Nicole Monaco
- "Creating Shared Value in the Music Industry to Drive Artist Sustainability" Dan Scarcelli



### **Expanding CE's Horizons**

Going forward, Continuing Education will include a variety of delivery options—such as on-campus courses, online courses, and courses delivered off-site— and is set to evolve into three distinct streams of offerings:

- 1. Professional learning certificates and diplomas;
- 2. Stand-alone courses for professional development, often tailored to a specific need; and
- 3. General interest courses aimed at lifelong learners.



Early examples of the kinds of general interest courses on offer were both mounted in June, namely "Exploring the Arts of the Book," which featured hands-on exploration of book arts in the Kelly Library's recently refurbished Print Studio, and the "Dante Garden Lunch and Learn" which featured a <u>lecture-enhanced tour of USMC's Dante Garden</u>.

### Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology

### Big Changes and Big Moves for Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology

In the summer of 2023 all RSM faculty and staff moved into new offices in the Regis College building at 100 Wellesley Street East, completing one of the major tasks mandated in the RSM Implementation Memorandum. This move into a "common home" signaled the concrescence of the federated faculty of theology, and facilitated the creation of new bonds of unity, common projects, and shared dreams through the academic year:

- **Common Worship:** the RSM faculty, staff, and students celebrated their Communion as a single worship community through the year, often in the St. Joseph Chapel.
- Academic Collaboration: the shared course schedule in the Regis College building was the
  result of months of faculty and staff work eliminating duplication and harmonizing two previously
  separate programs.
- Service Agreements: contracts were finalized between Regis College and USMC in the fall, clearly articulating the service and space needs of the RSM Faculty of Theology, including their costs and parameters.
- Budget and Financial Plan: a new budget and financial plan for Regis St. Michael's was
  developed, largely thanks to the transparency and clarity of a common financial language and
  budgetary framework that was developed by collaborating Regis and USMC staff.



# Experiencing Jesuit History, Interfaith Realities, Food Justice, and Ecumenism Firsthand

Early in the summer of 2024, the Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology mounted four experiential learning courses in Toronto, Midland, and Rome:



A Journey Through History: Jesuit Missions in Canada



Interfaith in the City



Food/Justice, Farming, and Eco-Theology in the City



Catholic Perspectives on Ecumenical and Interreligious Movements

### St. Michael's College

### A Nexus of Collaboration in Mediaeval Studies

In collaboration with the Pontifical Institute for Medieval Studies (PIMS) and the University of Toronto's Centre for Medieval Studies (CMS), St. Michael's Mediaeval Studies Professor Alison More organized the sixth Medieval Women Workshop on the topic of "Power and Piety." This year a lively tea social was held in the Shook Common Room of St. Michael's Queen's Park Buildings, where faculty, fellows, postdoctoral researchers, graduate students, and undergraduate students from USMC, PIMS, and CMS came together to share interests and enforce academic community. We look forward to these community teas becoming a more regular tradition.

### Letterpress Print Studio (re) Launches

On March 21st, St. Mike's celebrated the relaunching of the Kelly Library's expanded Print Studio. The occasion was marked with a guest lecture by Professor Angela Esterhammer titled "Stranger than Fiction: Scottish Emmigrants and Print Culture in the 1820s" and with a printing demonstration by Kit MacNeil.

The Kelly Library's Print Studio is dedicated to the teaching of the global history and practice of letterpress printing and



book making. With its collection of 19th and 20th century printing presses and type, the Print Studio offers students a hands-on opportunity to learn the intricacies of letterpress printing and design while studying the rich social, political, and cultural history of its practice. Through the generous support of the Friends of the Kelly Library and the USMC Office of the Principal, the Print Studio now hosts intensive undergraduate courses in the Book and Media Studies program as well as courses in Continuing Education for those interested in learning about the book arts.



# Thanks to Donor Generosity, an Inaugural Lecture Exploring Christianity & the Arts

In November, Christianity & Culture Professor Michael O'Connor delivered a lecture entitled "What is the Point of the Drunken Sailor? Michaelangelo's Noah on the Sistine Chapel Ceiling." Professor O'Connor is the first holder of the W. J. Bennett Family Chair of Christianity and the Arts, funded by alumnus John Bennett (SMC 677).



### Gilson Seminar to Resume in 2024

After a thorough review, the Gilson Seminar in Faith & Ideas and the Gilson Seminar in Faith and Rome resumed in the fall of 2024. Professor Michael O'Connor, W. J. Bennett Family Chair in Christianity and the Arts, will lead students through the seminar, which will culminate in final classes being held in Rome.

### **Christianity & Culture Program Found Healthy and Thriving**

After a routine external review, the St. Michael's Christianity & Culture Program was found to be in very strong shape, and reviewers commended the research strengths and teaching dedication of its faculty. Programs like Christianity & Culture in the University of Toronto's Faculty of Arts & Science must undergo these routine quality assessments every eight years as part of the University of Toronto's Quality Assurance Program (UTQAP).

### St. Mike's Project Looks at Lonergan's Connection to Residential Schools

An ambitious new research project shepherded by St. Michael's Professor Reid B. Locklin aims to re-examine the life and work of the Jesuit theologian Bernard Lonergan through the lens of his connection to the Indian Residential School System, the first such study conducted of the renowned Canadian philosopher and theologian. Locklin's co-applicants on the two-year project, which has been awarded a prestigious Insight Development Grant from the Social Science and Human Research Council (SSHRC), are Professor Darren Dias, O.P., a member of the Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology (RSM) and the Executive Director of the Toronto School of Theology, and Concordia University's Prof. Christine Jamieson. Students from St. Michael's Christianity & Culture program will lend research support to this project alongside graduate students from RSM.

### Education, continued...

### Talented New Faculty join the St. Michael's Academic Community

This year, St. Michael's College celebrates the addition of three wonderful new professors who will contribute to our sponsored programs. Professor Riccardo Macchioro joins the St Michael's Mediaeval Studies program and the graduate faculty at the Centre for Medieval Studies. Professor Kit MacNeil joins the Book and Media Studies program to offer exciting new courses on print history and culture; the former Chief Printer at Massey College where they ran the Book History and Print Culture Apprenticeship Program, they also join with an internationally respected artistic portfolio. Professor Francesco Morriello, an historian with many interdisciplinary areas of specialization, joins USMC with a PhD from Cambridge, a specialized MTS in Religion from Harvard University, and with numerous publications already to his name.

Fr. Andrew Summerson was appointed a full-time, tenure stream member of Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology, where he will serve as an Assistant Professor of Greek Patristics and continue to raise the profile of its Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute.

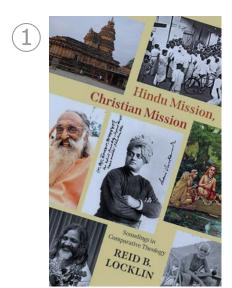
The Kelly Library welcomed two new librarians this year: Dr. Stacy Reardon joined the library as Instruction Librarian and Director, St. Michael's College Writing and Research Help Centre from the Doe Library at the University of California, Berkeley. Francesca Rousselle joined in January as CLTA Processing Archivist charged with the records of the Sisters of Service and the Scarboro Foreign Mission Society, who have generously funded the position.

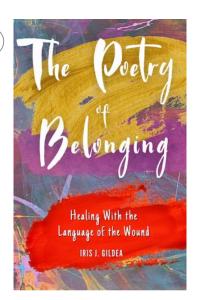
### St. Mike's Celebrates Scholarly Publications

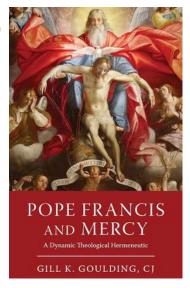
The following books were published by faculty across St. Michael's College between July 1, 2023 and July 1, 2024:

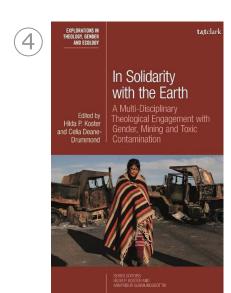
- 1. Hindu Mission, Christian Mission: Soundings in Comparative Theology by St. Michael's Professor Reid B. Locklin.
- 2. The Poetry of Belonging: Healing With the Language of the Wound by St. Michael's Professor Iris J. Gildea.
- 3. Pope Francis and Mercy: A Dynamic Theological Hermeneutic by Regis St. Michael's Professor Gill K. Goulding, CJ.
- 4. The Wisdom of Order: An Exploration of Lonergan's Method in Theology by Regis St. Michael's Professor John D. Dadosky.

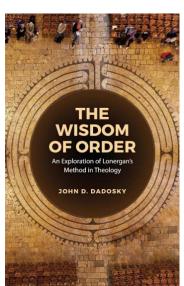
- 5. In Solidarity with the Earth: A Multi-Disciplinary Theological Engagement with Gender, Mining and Toxic Contamination co-edited by Regis St. Michael's Professor Hilda P. Koster.
- 6. Remapping Biology with Goethe, Schelling, and Herder: Romanticizing Evolution by Director of the Office of the President Greg Rupik.



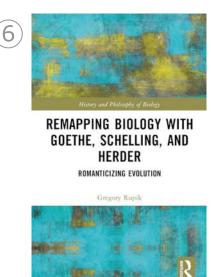








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Alumnus Professor Adjetey
Launches Book at St. Mike's



### Work Begins on a New St. Mike's Website

This spring, Foster Interactive was hired to assist in an update and redesign of the USMC website after a competitive RFP process. Current and prospective students of the College, the Faculty of Theology, and of Continuing Education approach the St. Michael's website with different questions and needs. This redesign—including a new web architecture, visual identity, and enhanced accessibility—will ensure that students in each of these groups will find the resources they are looking for, and will like what they find. In addition to enhancing USMC's recruitment efforts, the new site will also feature easier navigation for alumni, Collegium members, and the general public. Under the guidance of the Website Steering Committee and informed by diverse consultations across stakeholder groups, the new website is due to launch in 2025.

