



Annual Report of the President to the Collegium 2025



UNIVERSITY OF
ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



Annual Report of the President to the Collegium: 2025

Each year on Clover Hill begins with the promise of new undertakings and expanded opportunities for our students and extended university community. The achievements captured in this report chronicle the continuing renewal of St. Michael's, as imagined by *St. Mike's 180*, and highlight the work of the individuals and groups who helped to bring them to life. Despite the challenging headwinds currently facing Canadian post-secondary education, it was an incredibly positive year programmatically and financially. We completed the external reviews of our undergraduate divisions, and the reimagining of our St. Michael's College operations is now in progress. New processes are in place for tracking our ongoing sustainability commitments in facilities, operations, and investments, which will assist in identifying future opportunities to save energy and financial resources. There was also an intentional focus on mission integrity, through the creation of a new Office of Mission and Ministry, and the subsequent development of promising campus and outreach initiatives. And 2025 was marked by important advancements in our institutional planning and the completion of broad community consultations on our property initiatives and the impending new St. Mike's Campus and Landscape Plan. I invite you to take the time to explore the highlights in this year's Annual President's Report as they provide a snapshot of our collective efforts to advance the mission of our university.

~ David

David Sylvester, PhD
President & Vice-Chancellor



“

St. Michael's commits to ensuring it continues to grow and develop as a resilient and thriving institution that is led with transparency and integrity.

~ *St. Mike's 180*

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



FH
Founders House

Community

St. Michael's Chancellor Elevated to College of Cardinals

Together with the Canadian Catholic community, the University of St. Michael's College celebrated the elevation of its Chancellor, Archbishop Francis Leo, to the College of Cardinals on December 8, 2024. Representatives of USMC traveled to the Vatican to witness the beginning of its Chancellor's new role in the Universal Church. Following Cardinal Leo's elevation, a Mass of Thanksgiving was held at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica on January 15, 2025 with St. Michael's President, and members of its Collegium, faculty, and staff amongst its 1,200 attendees.



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



St. Michael's Celebrates Irish Heritage with Educational, Diplomatic Partners

With the help of diplomats and community leaders, St. Mike's partnership with the Irish community continued to expand with the creation of the Irish Heritage Award for elementary and secondary school students. The award — launched in conjunction with the Embassy of Ireland, Ottawa, and the Consulate General of Ireland—invited students to submit projects that explore and celebrate local Irish culture. The awardees attended the Canadian Association of Irish Studies dinner and were presented the awards by President David Sylvester, Professor Pa Shaheen, and Janice McGann, Irish Consul General of Ireland.



St. Mike's Donovan Art Committee Helps St. Mike's Appreciate "What Surrounds Us"

Bringing together the St. Mike's community and the Toronto artworld, the Donovan Art Committee's March 17th event reflected on the life and work of Denyse Thomasos. The event took place under Thomasos's towering painting *Babylon* in Father Madden Hall, marking the work's return to the Donovan Collection after its tour of Canada in *Denyse Thomasos: "Seeing What Surrounds Us: Denyse Thomasos and Babylon"* included an in-person conversation with Executive Director of the Art Museum at the University of Toronto Barbara Fischer, art educator John Armstrong, visual artist Linda Martinello, and Gail Luciano, Denyse Thomasos' youngest sister.



Catholic Religious Communities Archives Initiative

With the creation of the Catholic Religious Communities Archives (CRCA), USMC's John M. Kelly Library has taken on a national role in preserving and animating the legacies of Canada's religious communities. A reception and dinner was held on June 3rd to celebrate and thank the founding communities, namely The Scarborough Foreign Mission, The Sisters of Service, the Loretto Sisters, the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto, the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada, and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie.



[Dr. Mimi Marrocco \(left\), was added to USMC's Legacy Wall during Michaelmas festivities along with Former Prime Minister Paul Martin Jr., and the late Elizabeth Joan Smith.](#)

[Representing the Martin Family was son Paul and Lynne Cram on behalf of her mother, Joan.](#)

Flavio Volpe and Victoria Asikis Address Record-Breaking SMC Class of 2025



The St. Michael's College class of 2025 comprised 953 graduates—St. Mike's largest undergraduate convocation ever. Graduates convoked in two ceremonies, preceded by a Baccalaureate Mass and graduate award ceremony the evening prior. Lawyer and St. Mike's alumna Victoria Asikis addressed science program graduates in the morning ceremony, and Flavio Volpe, a distinguished alumnus and advocate for the Canadian automotive industry, addressed the arts and commerce graduates in the afternoon.

BursarFest

Risk Management was the theme of this year's BursarFest—an annual gathering of the Bursar's portfolio departments: Conference Services & Hospitality, Facilities & Services, Finance, HR, and IT.



Cultivating Community with Culture, Worship, and Service

Since 2021 the Office of Campus Ministry has been animating the University of St. Michael's College's Catholic Mission and Identity intentionally and strategically. It has done so by fostering relationships, increasing collaboration, and deepening curiosity about faith and the spiritual life on campus—all with the goal to invite those engaged to put their faith into action. Some examples of how Campus Ministry has deepened a spirit of belonging on USMC campus:



Campus Ministry Mass followed by dinner during the academic year.

- The Presiders for these Masses rotated with priests from the University campus thereby giving our community an experience of richness within our community.
- The choir was composed of students and some faculty with the invitation to receive mentorship and accompaniment in an area of interest/giftedness. Students who are part of the choir learned to conduct, increased confidence in sight reading, canting, and playing instruments.

Celebrating religious and cultural festivals bringing together and celebrating the richness of our cultural and religious diversity in collaboration with different cultural and faith groups and the Students' Union.

- Michaelmas, the Christmas Market, Diwali, Iftar, Lunar New Year, Holi, among others.
- These initiatives invite our student body to recognize that faith and spirituality hold an integral place in their intellectual and social formation.



[Celebrate the Lunar New Year at St. Mike's - University of St. Michael's College](#)

Blessed are you – A Taizé service with Br. Emile of Taizé

- An evening of prayer through music, scripture and silence organized collaboratively with St. Basil's, Ecumenical Chaplaincy, and Graduate Christian Fellowship that brought together over a hundred participants to celebrate All Saint's Day.

Reflections on Prayer and Meditation: An Interfaith Night of Conversation

- Hosted in collaboration with the St. Michael's College Student Union, and Residence Council. Students of different faith backgrounds were invited to share why faith, prayer, and meditation are important in their lives, and in their university journey.



USMC Awards Sviatoslav Shevchuk Honorary Degree for his Transformative Moral Leadership

In solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian Catholic Church and in partnership with the Sheptytsky Institute, USMC awarded an honorary degree to Sviatoslav Shevchuk, Major Archbishop of Kyiv-Halych and Primate of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, in recognition of his ongoing witness in the heart of war-torn Ukraine and his commitment to theological education. That same evening, the honour was announced to the packed audience of Archbishop Shevchuk's public dialogue with Timothy Snyder, Professor and New York Times best-selling author entitled "War, Peace, and Truth".



Sustainability

James Roussain promoted to Chief Librarian

James Roussain was promoted to Chief Librarian and Director of Special Collections at the John M. Kelly Library. Previously serving as the Interim Chief Librarian, Roussain has been instrumental in the redevelopment of the Kelly library's print studio, the integration of the Regis College library, and the inauguration of the CRCA. His appointment followed a positive external review of his leadership, and reflects his dedication to maintaining the library's extensive



collections and supporting the research and teaching needs of the university community. "It is an honour to be entrusted by USMC to move the Kelly forward in its mission of bringing people together in support of their intellectual pursuits," says Roussain.

"We have an incredible team of people at the library who are deeply committed to helping students succeed and I look forward to working with my colleagues on developing new and innovative programs attuned to the changing needs of both our patrons and of academic libraries more generally. I am bolstered by the incredible support received from across campus to centre the library within our students' academic lives."



“

I am bolstered by the incredible support received from across campus to centre the library within our students' academic lives.

~ James Roussain,
Chief Librarian

Sonal Castelino promoted to Director of Mission and Ministry

Sonal Castelino was appointed USMC's inaugural Director of Mission and Ministry. While continuing to oversee St. Michael's comprehensive Campus Ministry program, this new role expands her mandate to integrate collaboratively St. Mike's Catholic mission into more aspects of the university's life, such as employee onboarding, professional development, and retreats. She will also serve as a liaison to various institutional partners, from Catholic school boards and the University of Toronto's Multi-Faith Centre to religious communities and the Archdiocese of Toronto, strengthening relationships and finding opportunities for collaboration and experiences for students."



"A Catholic university has something significant to offer to the institutional Church. The very life of the university is creative and relational as students and faculty wrestle with finding meaning and their way in the world. We are the perfect place to engage in this challenging and rewarding work: weaving in faith and a deeper commitment to the common good. I want our students to recognize leadership potential within themselves. I want to equip them to ask themselves what it means to be a leader

—first at St. Mike's, and then in the broader world—all of this rooted in a deeper desire to serve and engage with the complexities of our world today.



Partnerships, collaborative programming with Religious Congregations

On June 4th, USMC hosted a gathering of leaders from Ontario ecology and spirituality retreat centres—Loretto Maryholme, Villa St. Joseph, Ignatius Spiritual Centre, and Stillpoint—to explore with faculty and staff what concrete collaborative initiatives might be possible to advance their “common call to offer spaces for experiential learning, contemplation, healing, and the integration of the whole person in all their dimensions.” The meeting was the most recent initiative of the Energy Rising network, whose statement begins: “There is an energy rising from many in our world for a greater connection to land, to water, to each other, and to all life. There is a desire for right relations with Indigenous peoples and with all our kin. We see this in our students and those who come to our spirituality centers.” USMC is one of the founding members of the network.

Kelly Library Rezoning and Campus Landscape Plan Open House

As a part of its wider consultations with the City of Toronto and interested parties within the university, USMC hosted an open house on October 3rd that invited alumni, governors, and neighbourhood community members to learn about—and comment on—St. Michael’s plans for its campus, landscape, and buildings. The principles of these plans were shared with those in attendance, namely a common landscape language; a home away from home; a connected urban campus; rooted in sustainability, and; honouring history and welcoming the future.



[Models of the redesigned Kelly Library site were also shared for feedback.](#)

Leading the Pack: St. Michael’s Hits Fossil Fuel Divestment Target Five Years Ahead of Schedule

The University of St. Michael’s College achieved full divestment from fossil fuels five years ahead of its 2030 target, marking a major milestone in its commitment to sustainability. Motivated by its mission and vision, its strategic plan, student support, and Pope Francis’s *Laudato si’*, the Collegium’s Investment Committee and USMC staff worked tirelessly to achieve the Collegium’s goal. This achievement builds on a legacy of St. Mike’s integral-ecological leadership, including the founding of the Elliott Allen Institute for Theology and Ecology, its Social Responsibility & Sustainability Diploma program, engagement with SHARE’s UNIE program, and becoming one of the earliest universities to become a Blue Community.

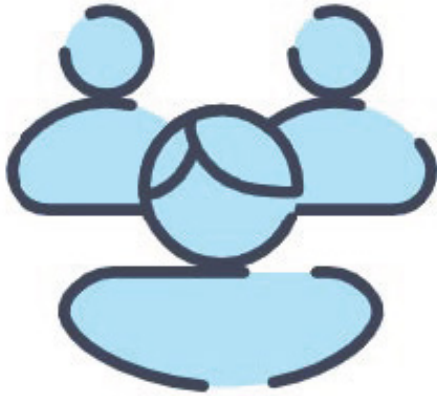
Advancement Achieving Goals and Bringing Together Alumni

\$9,753,663

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our community, the University of St. Michael's College raised \$9,753,663 last year in support of a wide range of transformative priorities. Donors made it possible for students to thrive academically and personally through initiatives like Being Well at St. Michael's, writing and research support at the John M. Kelly Library, Campus Ministry, merit based scholarships, residence scholarships, and student aid bursaries. This collective generosity also advanced USMC's academic mission, helping to establish the Catholic Religious Communities Archive, enhance the Dante Garden, and strengthen theological education through support for the Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology. Gifts to the President's Excellence Fund—including those raised through the annual USMC Golf Classic— provided the flexibility to invest in timely and high impact opportunities across campus. Together, our donors are shaping a vibrant, inclusive, and intellectually rich future for St. Michael's.



250 ALUMNI ENGAGED WITH USMC FOR THE FIRST TIME!



1,959 Alumni Engaged with USMC In 2024

Santa Claus Parade Party

Held on Sunday, November 24, 2024, the University of St. Michael's College Santa Claus Parade Party brought alumni, students, and families together in Father Madden Hall for a cozy and festive celebration. With hot chocolate, cookies, children's crafts, and a special visit from Santa himself, guests enjoyed a nostalgic holiday tradition just steps from the Toronto Santa Claus Parade, which passed directly in front of Carr Hall. The event offered a warm and joyful way to kick off the season and reconnect with the USMC community.

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

The Ireland Funds Canada St. Patrick's Day Luncheon, held on Friday, March 7, 2025, at Toronto's prestigious Fairmont Royal York, is a hallmark event and the official kickoff to Irish Heritage Month. Presented in support of the Celtic Studies program at the University of St. Michael's College, the luncheon featured traditional Irish music, dance, a spirited atmosphere, and flowing Guinness. Performances included the O'Donnell School of Irish Dance, Loretto Reid's musicians, and after-lunch entertainment by the O'Deadlys. Distinguished guests including Prime Minister-designate Mark Carney, the Ambassador of Ireland, Consul General, and members of Parliament while speakers from the University (including President David Sylvester and Professor Mark McGowan) shared how Ireland Funds' support directly enhances the Celtic Studies program's academic breadth at St. Michael's. The ballroom was packed, and the event brought together leaders in business, culture, education, and diplomacy raising over \$150,000 in vital funds for a program that celebrates Irish history, culture, language, and community engagement in Toronto and beyond.

St. Mike's has raised \$41,868,716 towards its multi-year U of T Defy Gravity Goal

- USMC's fundraising contributes to U of T's Defy Gravity Campaign totals, but is retained to USMC.
- This is 70% of our \$60 million Defy Gravity goal.
- Defy Gravity began on January 1, 2019 and is set to conclude in 2030.



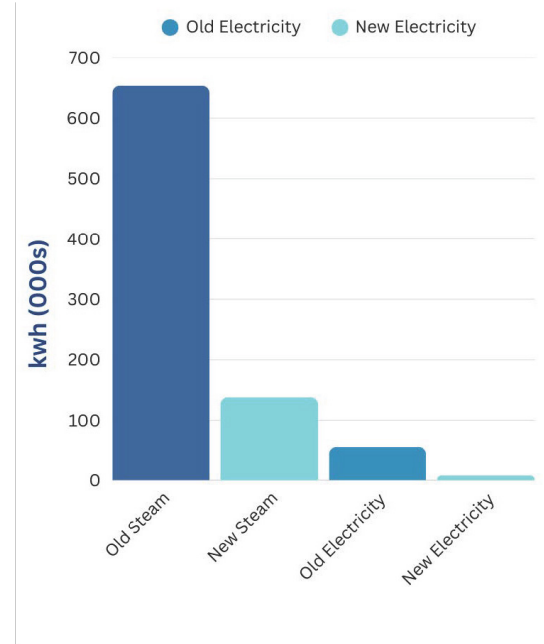
Sustainability Committee

USMC's ESG Committee, which has advised the President on matters pertaining to the Environment, Societal, and Governance reporting (ESG)—largely of USMC's invested assets—has become the Sustainability Committee with a broadened mandate. The Committee—made up of external members, faculty, staff, alumni, and students with experience in sustainability, broadly construed—now has an explicit mandate to strategically advise the President on how the university might meet its social, financial, and environmental sustainability goals beyond its shareholder engagement strategy.



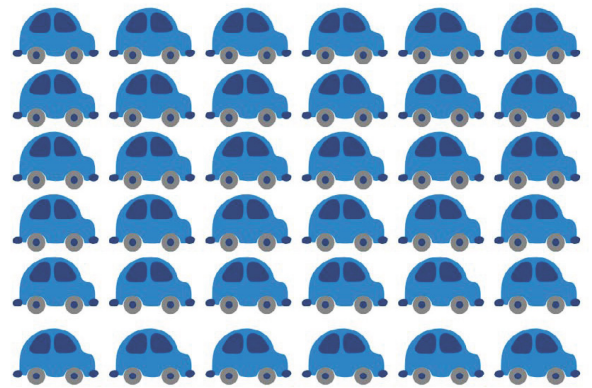
Electrical Upgrades Save Energy and Money

The Elmsley Hall Electrical Upgrades project involved replacing outdated receptacles in dormitory rooms and upgrading the associated wiring and distribution panels which brought several environmental benefits. The upgraded system reduces energy waste by aligning power distribution with current usage demands, resulting in more efficient energy consumption. As a result, the new system reduces the need for excess power generation, helping to lower greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy production. By improving the electrical infrastructure, we reduce the need for frequent repairs and replacements, ultimately lowering maintenance costs over time.



Elmsley Hall MAU Upgrade is State of Art

The Elmsley Hall Make-up Air Unit (MAU) upgrade employs the latest technologies to provide cooling ability, reduce energy use, and uses only electricity as an energy source. It was estimated that on a typical year the old MAU used 654,000 kWh of steam and 56,000 kWh electricity was used by the makeup air unit. With the new MAU, it is estimated that the typical annual energy use reduces to 138,000 kWh of electricity only plus another 8,000 kWh electricity to provide cooling that the old MAU was not able to do. Even with more energy used to provide cooling, there is almost 80% savings in the energy used and overall reduction of greenhouse gases and pollution dumped into the environment. Overall, the new unit is estimated to reduce the annual greenhouse gas emissions of the USMC and U of T St. George Campuses (water is boiled to make steam at U of T) by 118 metric tons CO₂e, **equivalent to taking 36 cars off the road.**



Bottle Filling Stations

Since the initial installation of eight (8) bottle filling stations in 2020, St. Michael's has successfully diverted nearly 950,000 disposable 591 mL water bottles from the waste stream. Presently, there are more than 30 locations across the campus to enjoy chilled and filtered water.



Education

Invocation

A Visionary Start to Orientation Week

Amidst academic fanfare and regalia, the St. Michael's College undergraduate class of 2028 began Orientation Week with a formal Invocation Ceremony, presided over by USMC's Chancellor, Francis Cardinal Leo. The President and Principal welcomed students to Convocation Hall, encouraging them to take full advantage of the community and resources at St. Michael's throughout their studies at U of T. The event culminated as Victor Dodig, (SMC 8T8) alumnus received a Doctor of the University, honoris causa, for his transformative and generous leadership. Mr. Dodig addressed Invocation, reflecting on his experiences as a St. Mike's student, motivating students to make friends and expand their horizons, and inspiring them with his exemplary leadership at CIBC and advocacy for new Canadians.



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

St. Michael's College

Welcome Day

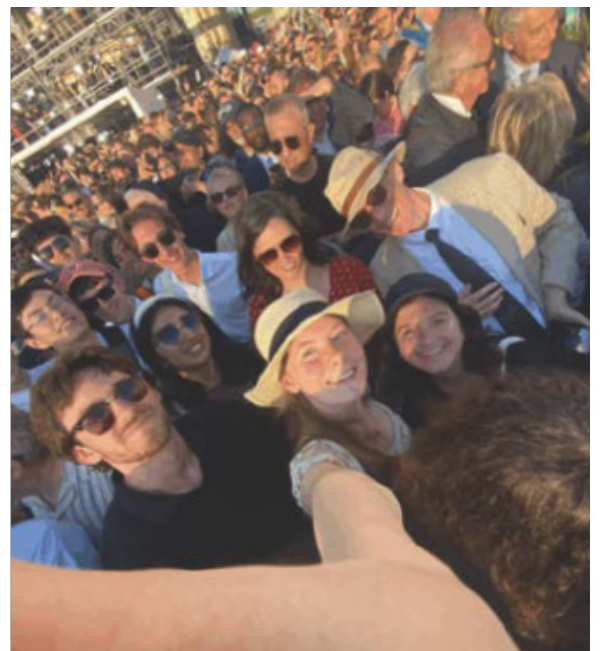
On June 21, St. Michael's College welcomed over 400 attendees to a Welcome Day in which newly admitted students and their parents were treated to a full day of informative talks from the Registrar's office and other student-facing offices, to an information fair in the Coop with over 30 separate booths, to Campus and residence tours were conducted by faculty and senior students, and a lunch in the Kelly Library was provided to the newest members of the St. Mike's community.

New Courses and New Faculty

St. Michael's College continues to build its curriculum in key areas to strengthen and enrich its offerings across its sponsored programs and to introduce incoming students to the breadth and exciting possibilities of interdisciplinary study. The College was delighted to welcome Professor Kit MacNeil and Professor Francesco Moriello to the Book & Media Studies program. Professor MacNeil introduced a number of new courses into the Print Studio, which saw students across all years studying and working with a variety of historical printing presses and collaborating with graduate printing apprentices from the Book History and Print Culture collaborative specialization program. Professor Moriello was awarded a Fellowship by the Royal Historical Society shortly after beginning at St. Michael's and introduced four new courses to the curriculum that range in breadth from a world history of newspapers to the history of fake news. A few of the new course offerings introduced in the past year include: *Playing with Fire: Alchemy, Astrology and Magic*; *The Printed Book*; *Fortune Telling and Media*; and *Celtic Mythology*. And the popular *Gilson Seminar in Faith and Rome* returned in a reinvigorated form following constructive review.

[The Gilson Seminar in Faith and Rome](#)

The course trip to Rome, coincided with a historic moment in the Church, the conclave that elected Pope Leo XIV. The students were among the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square, witnessing the white smoke. The Elsa Amadio Travel Assistance Award enabled two first-year students from St. Mike's to participate in the SMC One Program.



One of the award recipients reflected on the experience: “How beautiful it was to be in an enormous crowd, stretching out farther than I could see—to be so excited when the white smoke left the Sistine Chapel. From everywhere, I could hear chants of ‘Habemus Papam!’”

October 24th Langan Lecture

The 2024 Langan Lecture on Jesuit Missionaries & Mandarins in Ming and Qing China: Faith, Science and the Arts was delivered by M. Antoni J. Ucerler a Jesuit priest and Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. The annual Langan Lecture was followed by a reception as well as a manuscript and rare book exhibit hosted at the Kelly Library.



The Christianity and the Arts Lecture

Delivered on October 2, 2024 by award-winning playwright, librettist, musician, and director Tomson Highway. It was followed by a lively reception in which the speaker continued to regale the company and treated attendees to an impromptu concert on the piano in Fr Madden Hall.

The Alway Symposium

This year's theme was *Bridges and Boundaries: Religious Diversities in the 21st Century* and featured Marianne Moyaert, Professor of Theology at Leuven, Belgium, as the keynote speaker.

Dante Lecture



The annual Dante Lecture, established by Alberto Di Giovanni and Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni, was held on November 6. This year's lecture, 'Dante and Beatrice,' was presented by Prof. George Corbett, Professor of Theology, School of Divinity, University of St. Andrews, U.K. He spoke about Dante's Beatrice. The lecture drew scholars and Dante enthusiasts into a profound exploration of literary, theological, and historical themes. The lecture was followed by a reception in the John M. Kelly Library where guests enjoyed an exhibit curated by Kelly Library's Theology Librarian Noel McFerran. The exhibit focused on illustrations of Dante and Beatrice found in early manuscripts, 19th century engravings, and contemporary works.

Undergraduate Colloquium and Research Fair

At the beginning of March, St. Michael's College hosted an undergraduate colloquium and research fair that saw over 80 SMC students submit proposals to present either a poster, lightning talk, or conventional academic paper over two days in the Kelly Library. Winners of research prizes adjudicated by a committee of faculty and librarians were celebrated at an event later in the month.

Faculty Promotions

Professor Reid Locklin (Christianity and Culture; Religion) was promoted to full Professor in the Department of Religion and Professor Jean-Olivier Richard (Christianity and Culture) was promoted to Associate Professor (teaching stream).



[Michael Higgins Lecture on the Unique Nature of the Synod on Synodality](#)

Honouring Leaders Transforming the University, the Church, and Society



USMC Chancellor Frank Cardinal Leo bestowed the University's highest honour on three transformational leaders this year on behalf of the USMC Senate. Sr. Nathalie Becquart was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree, *honoris causa*, recognizing her leadership in the Roman Catholic Church. Her work as a member of the Congregation of the Xavières has been shaped by walking with youth and learning from them, an approach which—as undersecretary of the General



Synod in the Vatican—profoundly inspired the Church's multi-year Synod on Synodality. Alumnus Tony Comper (SMC 6T6) was awarded a Doctor of the University degree, *honoris causa*, for his visionary support and leadership of his alma mater. Driven by his passion for the study of the medieval world, he endowed the Comper Professorship in Mediaeval Studies in 2020. Mr. Comper has generously aided the University with his advice—informed by his many years guiding BMO—and has served on the boards



of St. Michael's Hospital and the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies. Mr. Victor Dodig, (SMC 8T8), received a Doctor of the University, honoris causa, for the student scholarships, experiential learning programs, and space—the Dodig Family Student Commons—supported by his generosity and that of his wife, Maureen. Mr. Dodig has used his platform as leader of CIBC to advocate for and support new Canadians, applying values he learned as a student leader at USMC.

[Exhibition Highlights Scarborough Foreign Missions Archives- University of St. Michael's College](#)



[The “Honouring Indigenous Aid” exhibit moves to Ottawa](#)

“Honouring Indigenous Aid” exhibit, which acknowledges the aid provided by Canadian First Nations during the Irish Famine, has moved from Toronto to Ottawa. The exhibit pays tribute to the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Huron-Wendat First Nations for their financial contributions to Irish famine relief in 1847.

The exhibit, a collaborative effort between the National Famine Museum, Strokestown Park, the Irish Heritage Trust, the University of St. Michael's College, and the Embassy of Ireland in Ottawa, highlights the generosity of these First Nations during a time of hardship. The exhibit was initially launched at Regis College, University of Toronto, in November 2024 and has since moved to Ottawa. The move to Ottawa coincides with “St. Patrick’s Month,” a significant period for Irish heritage celebrations. The exhibit is funded by the Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme and is based on newly discovered archival records. The exhibit aims to honour the compassion and generosity of these Indigenous communities, particularly in the face of their own challenges and hardships, according to the Irish Heritage.



Continuing Education

Partnerships:

The Continuing Education Division organized several Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) certification sessions for Toronto Catholic District School Boards senior high school students. These sessions focused on book repair and event planning and were led by Faculty and Staff.

The SHSM program is a specialized high school program that allows students to earn their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and focus their learning on a specific economic sector at the same time.

Recruitment:

An experienced marketing and recruitment specialist was been engaged by the CE Division on a short contract to provide strategic advice and practical tactics to enhance the promotion of five of our professional programs:

- Diploma in Interfaith Dialogue
- Diploma in Catholic Leadership (program under development)
- Diploma in Social Responsibility & Sustainability
- Certificate in Social Impact Measurement
- Climate Equity: Building Resilient Social Impact Strategies in a Changing World (Micro-Credential)



It is anticipated that the advice provided will inform the Division's acquisition of paid media as well as our social media presence to enhance exposure of these programs and increase enrollment.

New Course Development:

Leadership for Transformative Changemakers in Catholic Organizations

This four week micro credential program was developed in response to key themes identified in discussions with senior leaders in education, healthcare, charities and lay ministry. The course explores issues of direct relevance to Catholic communities, provide opportunities to learn concrete, applicable skills for effectively leading diverse teams, and allows for cross-pollination of ideas through the intentional creation of interdisciplinary learning environments.

Additional Qualification (AQ) courses for teachers

The CE Division received accreditation to offer a second AQ course (Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Part 1) in English and submitted a third proposal for accreditation to offer Éducation religieuse en milieu scolaire catholique partie 2 in French.

The Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 courses and programs can be found on our website:

[Continuing Education Programs and Courses - University of St. Michael's College](#)

Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology

Making the Case to Sustain Our New Vision of Theological Education

A robust case for support was developed in partnership with the Regis St. Michael's Theology Foundation in order to help drive philanthropic support for RSM. A collaborative result of the work of the Dean's Office, Advancement, Communications, The RSM Foundation, and President's Office teams, the case for support weaves dynamic classroom images, inspiring faculty and student testimonials, and program innovation descriptions, into a compelling narrative for \$15M of philanthropic support to galvanize RSM's new vision of theological education guarantee its sustainability in the medium and long term.



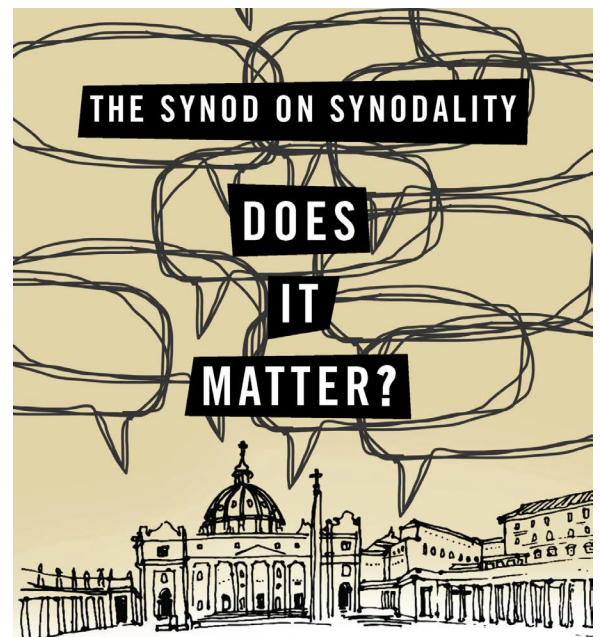
New Academic Offerings

The Regis St. Michael's Faculty of Theology has introduced a new Master of Psychospiritual Studies (MPS) degree and an online version of the Certificate in Theological Studies (CTS) program. The new MPS focuses on spiritual care, spiritual direction and social justice ministries and is geared towards those interest in leadership in faith community ministries or careers in public institutions. The online CTS extends the reach of RSM beyond the Greater Toronto Area.

USMC Receives \$50,000 USD Lilly Endowment Grant to Support the Formation of Congregational Leaders at RSM

In February, USMC received funds from the Lilly Endowment's Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative to research and write a grant proposal for a major project to bolster RSM's long-term sustainability and educationally support Catholic parish leaders. These funds were used to hire a researcher and grant writer, and to run comprehensive consultations with priests, deacons, and lay and religious parish leaders across the GTHA and Canada. The resulting proposal, submitted in May, requested \$1M from the Lilly

Endowment to fund the creation of the Canadian Centre for Catholic Pastoral Leadership (CCCPL). The CCCPL would be a collaborative project of the RSM Faculty of Theology and USMC's division of Continuing Education offering flexible, accessible, and modular programming in three focus areas: Pastoral Formation, Theology for Ministry, and Synodal Formation. The CCCPL would also foster Communities of Practice to combat ministerial isolation and support lifelong vocational growth. USMC will learn the results of its submission in the fall 2025.

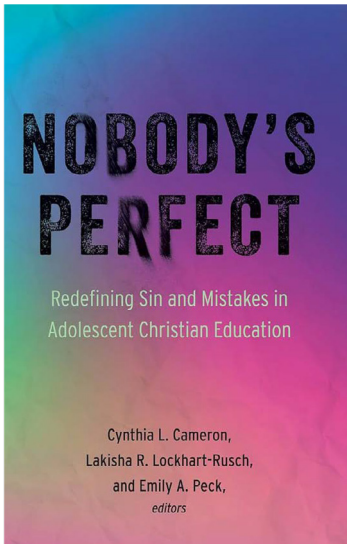


[RSM Synodality Lecture](#)



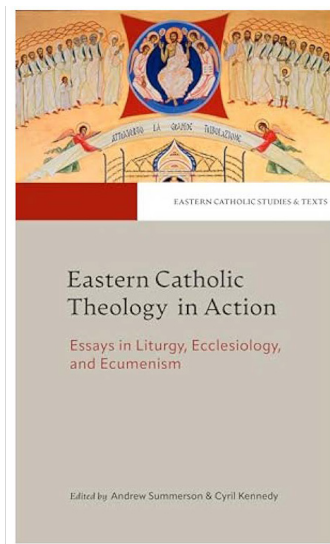
St. Mike's Celebrates New Publications

The following books were published by faculty across the wider USMC and RSM communities between July 1, 2024 and July 1, 2025.



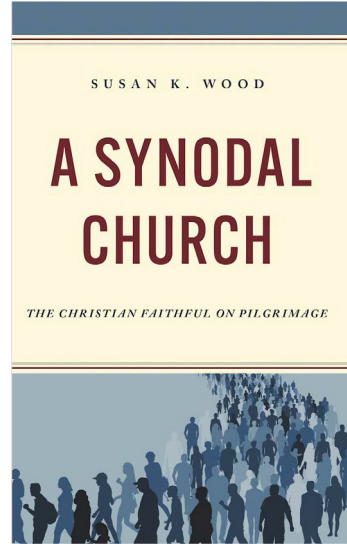
Cindy Cameron

Nobody's Perfect: Redefining Sin & Mistakes in Adolescent Christian Education (Fortress Press)



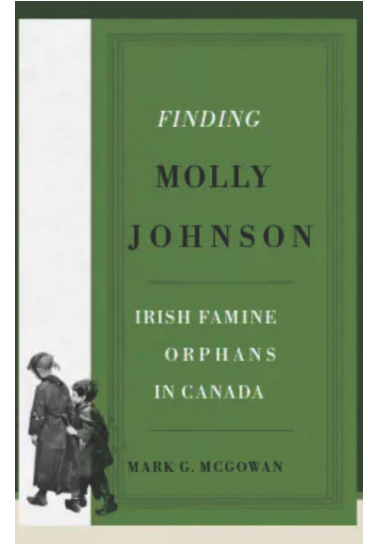
Andrew Summerson

Eastern Catholic Theology in Action: Essays in Liturgy, Ecclesiology & Ecumenism (CUA Press)



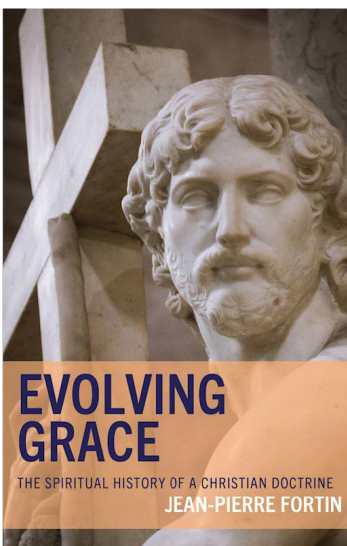
Susan K. Wood

A Synodal Church: The Christian Faithful on Pilgrimage (Bloomsbury)



Mark G. McGowan

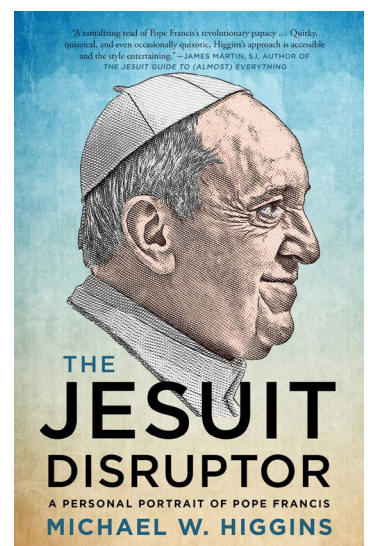
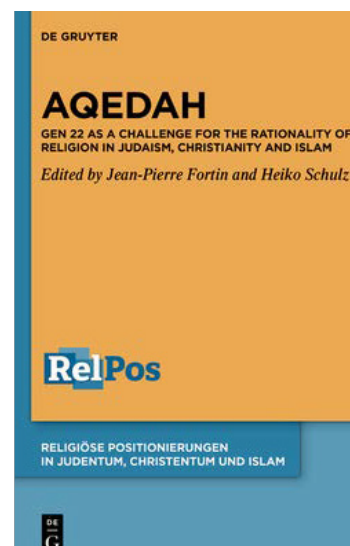
Finding Molly Johnson: Irish Famine Orphans in Canada (MQUP)



Jean Pierre Fortin

Evolving Grace: The Spiritual History of a Christian Doctrine (Rowman & Littlefield)

Aqedah: Gen 22 as a Challenge for the Rationality of Religion in Judaism, Christianity & Islam (De Gruyter)



Michael W. Higgins

The Jesuit Disruptor: A Personal Portrait of Pope Francis (House of Anansi)