



August 9, 2022

Dear New and Returning Students,

First, I want to offer my sincere welcome to our new incoming students for the 2022-2023 academic year. We hope your time at the Faculty of Theology will be a fruitful experience, and we hope that you will take the knowledge and skills learned here with you into your future endeavours, whether that be ministerial work, further doctoral studies or wherever the Lord calls you. Secondly, I want to give a warm welcome back to our returning students, and to say thank you for being patient and understanding with us during the past two years. While this past year has slowly allowed us to transition back to in person classes, we know that fears and protocols surrounding COVID-19 continue to challenge the way we learn and the way we interact with one another, both in and out of the classroom. Our faculty and staff pulled together to provide all our students with the best learning experience under the circumstances, and I am happy to know that we are, hopefully, getting to brighter and safer days. It is great to know that we will be offering most of our courses in-person this Fall, and to know that we will be able to gather once more.

This year brings many exciting changes. As most of you read and heard, the Faculties of Theology at St. Michael's College and Regis College formally federated in July 2022. For the first time in history, a common Dean was appointed as the Dean of Regis-St. Michael's- Dr. Jerry Skira. While the details of the federation may bring forth many questions and changes, the staff and faculties of both these TST Institutions approach this new horizon with sense of great optimism. We truly believe the two faculties can complement each other while retaining their individual strengths and over time the combined faculties will be able to prepare theologians and pastoral workers more effectively than a single theological entity. While students will continue to be admitted to only one school and receive their degrees from their home school, a wider repertoire of courses will be available to students from both faculties. As you navigate your course selection, I will be happy to be your guide in understanding the courses and programs offered at Regis and St. Michael's.

I am new to the St. Michael's Faculty of Theology, I look forward to catching up with our returning students, and I am especially excited to meet our new students! Thank you for making my initial virtual meetings with many of you delightful. I completed my MDiv at Regis College in 2015 and had a fulfilling seven years serving as a Director of Campus Ministry. I have several fond memories of my time at TST and with the courses I took at St. Mike's. It was a time that

truly shaped my future intellectual, spiritual, and personal journey with Christ and the Catholic Church. I very much look forward to hearing more about the journey that led you to study theology and your hopes and dreams for the doors it can unlock in your life.

Please note that **ALL** students **MUST** speak with me regarding their course decisions for the upcoming academic year to ensure all the requirements of the degree are being met. The easiest and best way would be to send me an email and, if need be, set up an appointment to chat via Zoom or in person. If you are a new student, it is especially prudent you meet with me before registering for courses.

Course registration on the ACORN system is available beginning **Monday, July 19**. You may access ACORN through your own personal computer or any secure public access terminal. When you enter the data, you will be placed in a section called “invited.” Once payment for the course is received you are moved to the category called “registered.” Class lists for fall courses, drawn from the registration information on ACORN, will be printed on Friday, September 10 at 12:00 pm. It is therefore very important that you complete data entry before that time.

1. Before beginning the registration process please read the information pertinent to your particular program in the Faculty of Theology Basic Degree Handbook: <https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Handbook-combined.pdf> and on the Toronto School of Theology website (<https://www.tst.edu/>).
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.
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 **MUST** 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.

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.

Please keep in mind that all current U of T COVID guidelines can be found at <https://www.utoronto.ca/utogether> This should provide an update and a sense of ease with our return to campus, and I highly suggest all students attend. The details of the meeting will be forthcoming. Please keep an eye on your email.

I look forward to seeing you all in-person at our Welcome Day Event on **Wednesday, September 7, beginning at 4pm**. Details will be made available in the coming weeks. Again, I cannot wait to see everyone in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Erica Figueiredo, Recruitment and Enrollment Officer