

Second Annual Symposium:
Faith, Science, Climate Change and Pope Francis's Encyclical
Laudato Si'

Saint Michael's College Science Association, the Interconnectivity Studies Working Group and the University of St. Michael's College will present a two-hour symposium on climate change and the Pope's encyclical *Laudato si'*.

The symposium will take place in **Alumni Hall on Thursday, April 6, 2017 from 4 to 6 pm on the St. Michael's College campus.**

The focus of the symposium is a discussion and a dialogue among scientists and theologians of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato si'* with its focus on global warming and climate change. In the encyclical Pope Francis calls for such a dialogue. In Paragraph 13 and 14 of *Laudato si'* he wrote: "Here I want to recognize, encourage and thank all those striving in countless ways to guarantee the protection of the home which we share. Particular appreciation is owed to those who tirelessly seek to resolve the tragic effects of environmental degradation on the lives of the world's poorest. Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded. I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet." Later in Paragraph 62 he wrote: "Science and religion, with their distinctive approaches to understanding reality, can enter into an intense dialogue fruitful for both." The purpose of this symposium is to enter into the dialogue between science and religion that Pope Francis has called for.

To that end the following panel with scientists, theologians and scholars has been assembled.

Mary Hess is Professor of Educational Leadership at Luther Seminary in St. Paul Minnesota. She is currently the Patrick and Barbara Keenan Visiting Chair in Religious Education at USMC Faculty of Theology. She is past president of the Religious Education Association.

David Nostbakken is a McLuhan Fellow at the McLuhan Centre for Culture and Technology. His PhD was supervised by Marshall McLuhan.

He is a co-founder of a number of initiatives in the field of ecology and religion including Vision TV, the Green Channel, the Ecology Global Network, Power of Peace Network (UNESCO sponsored) and WETV Network (on sustainable development)

Stephen Bede Scharper is a professor in the Department of Anthropology (UTM) and the School of the Environment. With graduate studies in theology and religion one of areas of his expertise is religion and ecology, and is a regular contributor to the *Toronto Star*. He has also engaged in urban studies and the importance of water as a vital resource essential for life.

Kimberly Strong is a Professor in the Department of Physics and is the Director of the School of the Environment. She is a research scientist whose expertise is in atmospheric remote sounding using ground-based, balloon-borne, and satellite instruments for studies of ozone chemistry, climate, and air quality.

Ron Swail is the Chief Operations Officer, Property Services and Sustainability at the University of Toronto. Ron has initiated sustainability projects across the university and at the same time saved the university millions and millions of dollars.

Prof. Robert K. Logan is a Fellow of St. Michael's College where teaches the McLuhan Seminar and the What is Information? Seminar. He is the Faculty Coordinator of the SMC Science Association. He is also the Chief Scientist of the sLab at OCAD University.

After the panel presentations and discussions among the panelists the student Interconnectivity Studies researchers from the Book and Media Studies program, Dalya Al-Bassam, Kate Gromova, Kalina Nedercheva and Olivia Penney will be introduced and they will read the abstracts of their research.

There will then follow a Q & A session with audience.