



Greetings! I hope you are enjoying the fall breeze and autumn leaves. We have some announcements to share with you.

We have our new Divisional Secretary, Sharee Romine. Her contact information is: sromine@shc.edu and phone number 251 380 4660.

I am please to announce that the Board of Trustees has selected Mary Van Brunt, Ph.D., as the 39th President of Spring Hill College. She will be the third layperson to lead the College and make history as our first female President.

Dr. Matthew Bagot will be presenting a paper at a conference in CT at Sacred Heart University on Friday. The conference is entitled Vatican II and Catholic Higher Education: Leading Forward. My paper is entitled "Helping our Students to Fashion this World Anew According to God's Design and Reach its Fulfillment: the Pedagogical Legacy of Gaudium et Spes.

Dr. Stephen Wilson spent the past summer doing research and writing of a piece entitled "Toward a Eucharistic Ecology," a chapter in revised and expanded edition of *Green Discipleship: Catholic Theological Ethics and the Environment*, which will be published by Wipf and Stock Publishers in 2024. It explores how the sacraments in general and the Eucharist in particular provide a basis for our understanding and use of creation outside the liturgy.

On October 29, His Excellency Jacques Fabre-Jeune, Bishop of Charleston, will preside at the 4 PM vigil Mass at the Chapel of the Holy Family, to celebrate the 12 recent graduates of the Certificate of Spiritual Direction program. Fr. Viscardi will concelebrate, give the homily and award the certificates.

Our first biblical tour to the Seven Churches of Revelation in Turkiye was a success. We will have our second tour to Israel, where we will study the important events of Christian origins and about the life of Jesus. We will visit the major sites where significant historical events occurred during the first three decades of Christianity. The brochure is posted on SHC social media and our Facebook page (Spring Hill College Graduate

Programs in Theology and Ministry). The space is limited; so, if you are considering joining us, contact me at nnaveroscordova@shc.edu.

We will have the Christus Hesburgh lecture, "The Qur'an and the Bible," by Gabriel Said Reynolds, Corwnley Professor of Islamic Studies and Theology at the University of Notre Dame. November 3, 2022, 7:00PM, Byrne Memorial, Hall Spring Hill College.

By the end of October we will post our course schedule for 2023-2024 academic year on our website at <https://www.shc.edu/academics/theology-graduate/>. We will like to have more students registering for classes next year. I will be contacting you to meet before registration starts in mid-November.

We are always happy to hear from our graduates. In this opportunity, I want to share with you news from Joseph Barker II, '21 MTS, on his own words:

I serve as the Executive Director of the Sister Thea Bowman Black Catholic Education Foundation. Our Foundation has been serving underserved African American and Afro Latinx scholars since 1989, when Sister Thea Bowman commissioned it's beginning with our Foundress Mrs. Mary Lou Jennings. I graduated from SHC in the spring of 2021 with a Masters in Theological Studies. I am blessed to be able to use my education as I mentor and work with students in Catholic universities.

Our Foundations serves those in need by offering scholarships to qualified students to attend post-secondary Catholic institutions that partner with us. These institutions work with us by matching our scholarship amount as well as diligently working with us to help our students mitigate the unmet financial need to attend. In this manner, our students can better focus on the academic rigor of the universities and the spiritual enrichment opportunities and not have to navigate the socio-economic trauma so many of them have had just to reach this point.

The three pillars of the Foundation are Academic Scholarships, as mentioned above, Community in Schools Mentorship, and Spiritual Enrichment. The Community in Schools Mentorship works to ensure the scholars have a community of scholars at each institution we partner with, a member of staff at the university that works as a mentor, and myself as well that all work together to ensure our students know they are surrounded with support and are never alone. The Spiritual Enrichment comes not only from the Catholic universities they attend, but also each summer we bring our scholars to one of our university partners campus and host a Symposium for five days where they can learn the roots of our Catholic Social teachings, our faith, and integrate in African American history so they can learn more about their own roots as well.

I am the father of three sons ages 21, 22, and 24 and blessed to witness their growth academically, emotionally, and spiritually on the three different journeys they each have taken. My two younger sons are in college studying African American histories and code/programming for cyber securities and my oldest works as a caregiver for the elderly.

