

May 21, 2020

To the CTU Community,

We proudly share the list of 2020 Graduates of Catholic Theological Union here as today would have been Commencement Day 2020.

TO OUR GRADUATES

If it weren't for the COVID-19 emergency, we would be gathering today at KAM Isaiah Israel Synagogue for the most joyful and festive event of the school year: graduation. I have always loved CTU graduations — beginning with the procession of all of the national flags representing the home countries of our students; the presence of the graduates and faculty dressed in the colorful anachronism of gowns dating from the Middle Ages of Western Europe; hymns and instrumental music heightening the rejoicing and solemnity. My most favorite part of the ceremony is the enthusiasm and sense of accomplishment among the graduates who have worked long and hard to come to this moment. The presence of family and friends in attendance to see their graduate walk across the raised platform of the synagogue and receive a diploma is always a cause for rejoicing.

While we lament that we are unable to celebrate this momentous occasion together, we send to our graduates our heartfelt greetings and congratulations. We can still say that we give thanks to God for all you have accomplished — and for all that you will accomplish as you leave CTU and continue your service to the Church and the world in God's name. My thanks to you, CTU Graduates of 2020, for the marvelous way you have dealt with the challenges to your study posed by the pandemic. You have worked a long time for this moment! You have made it!

All of this happened because of God's help. It is God who called you and continues to surround you with love, caring and challenge. I know you are up to the task. I invite all graduates to return next year for the 2021 graduation ceremony to formalize the wonderful achievements that you would have celebrated today ... and to see the flags, sing the hymns and receive (again) the diplomas that we were not able to personally bestow this graduation.

We welcome you, our 2020 Graduates, to the ranks of CTU's beloved alumni/ae. In the coming month, please look for communications from CTU about ways for you to share the news of your graduation among your family and friends. We hope that you can join your first alumni retreat in a virtual format on June 13.

May you harness the resiliency gained throughout this experience to feed your ministry as spiritual first responders.

THANKS TO ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THE *A PEOPLE OF HOPE* SERIES

During the COVID-19 shelter-at-home order, CTU produced a wonderful series of webcasts under the auspices of the Bernardin Center titled *A People of Hope*. These presentations have been met with great acclaim and have given comfort and food for thought in this challenging time. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all involved in this endeavor: Steve Millies, Director of the Bernardin Center, and Associate Director Peter Cunningham, for helping to organize the series; Kellene Urbaniak and Ron Brown for their promotional and technical assistance. Thank you to faculty members Robin Ryan, CP; Richard McCarron; C. Vanessa White; Richard Benson, CM; Maria Cimperman, RSCJ; Dawn Nothwehr, OSF; Dan Horan, OFM; Laurie Brink, OP; Kimberly Lymore; Marco López; Marian Diaz; Christina Zaker; Richard Fragomeni; and Carmen Nanko-Fernández. The series finale will be presented this coming Tuesday evening, May 27, at 7p.m. If you have missed any of these presentations, I invite you to CTU's website where they are available to be viewed. <https://ctu.edu/event/a-people-of-hope/>

We also thank Carmen Nanko-Fernández and Eddie DeLeon, CMF, for presenting and presiding at CTU's inaugural virtual Sunday@CTU this past weekend. This lecture and liturgy series is an important way for the CTU community to come together for theological discussion and shared worship. We are grateful to Carmen and Eddie for sharing their experiences and talents with us, stretching all of our imaginations and practices.

The CTU staff members plan to return to our campus beginning in mid-June in accordance with the City of Chicago and State of Illinois guidelines. As we continue to experience this new order brought about by the pandemic, we will remain in communication with you, our CTU constituents.

For now, know that you remain in our prayers — prayers for safekeeping and in gratitude.



Rev. Mark R. Francis, CSV
President



Catholic Theological Union

2020 MAY GRADUATES

CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL SPIRITUALITY

Patrick Joseph Bergin
Stephen Duckett (*In Absentia*)
Jay R. Nawrocki
Susan Therese Switalksi

CERTIFICATE IN BLACK THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

Stephanie Kafui Nene Cherifatou Gado

CERTIFICATE IN HISPANIC THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

Maryvel Torres

CERTIFICATE IN INTERCULTURAL STUDIES AND MINISTRY

Francisco José Medrano Muñoz (*In Absentia*)
Sarahi Unzueta

CERTIFICATE IN LITURGICAL STUDIES

Linda Christine Novak
Marlon Bobier Vargas, SVD

CERTIFICATE IN MISSION STUDIES

Trieu Thien Cao, SVD
Khanh Minh Ha, SVD
Thinh Cuong Ngo, SVD
Marlon Bobier Vargas, SVD

CERTIFICATE IN PASTORAL STUDIES

Molly M. Gettinger (*In Absentia*)
John Gunther Michael Neuffer, OFM (*In Absentia*)
Vincent Tri Nguyen (*In Absentia*)
Evelyn Ovalles, SP (*In Absentia*)
Jhoanna U. Resari (*In Absentia*)

CERTIFICATE IN SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Susan Barber, OSB

MASTER OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL MINISTRY

Sarfraz Alam, OSA

Lidia Kunze

MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERCULTURAL STUDIES AND MINISTRY

Stephanie Kafui Nene Cherifatou Gado

Kathleen Ryan

Justin Paul Sengstock

MASTER OF ARTS IN JUSTICE MINISTRY

Patrick E. Dwyer (*In Absentia*)

James M. Whealan

MASTER OF ARTS IN LITURGICAL MINISTRY

David James Anderson

MASTER OF ARTS IN SPIRITUAL MINISTRY

Saskia Karina Alquina Cahuatijo

Susan Barber, OSB

Anne Fuller

MASTER OF ARTS IN PASTORAL STUDIES

Saskia Karina Alquina Cahuatijo

John Auram

Velma J. Barker-Hill

Molly Gettinger (*In Absentia*)

Marcial Gomez

Kenneth Hessemer (*In Absentia*)

Byung Su Ko

Atsushi Kuwahara

Guadalupe Alejandrina Mancilla Núñez

Rodolfo Mendez

Runu Mrong

Linda Christine Novak

Jennifer Corliss Reid

Susan Therese Switalski

Maryvel Torres

Sarahi Unzueta

Kenneth A. Velasquez

Jamie Anne Visser

Enxia Zhang

MASTER OF ARTS

Trieu Thien Cao, SVD
Cireneo Escobar Matulac
Jay R. Nawrocki
Herbert Quinde Vallderuten
Judith Zhang Cuimiao

MASTER OF DIVINITY

Patrick Joseph Bergin
Trieu Thien Cao, SVD
Susan M. Carlson (*In Absentia*)
Janina Castillo-Rojas
Luka Ćorić, OFM
Khanh Minh Ha, SVD
Saleha Jabeen
Abraham S. Joseph, OFM
Daniel Leo Madden
Jay R. Nawrocki
Thinh Cuong Ngo, SVD
John J. O'Grady
John Peter Thomas Pickering
Stipe Rotim, OFM
Roberto Serrano Salgado
Lovro Šimić, OFM
Nelson Eddy Sinchi
Jack Bayley Tierney, OSA
Marlon Bobier Vargas, SVD

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Chava Bahle
Mi Sook Han
Silas Henderson, SDS (*In Absentia*)
Ryan James Hoffmann
Rachelle M. Kramer
Eileen B. Maggiore
Ar Naing