

3/13:

Dear all,

An updated message to our students, faculty, staff, and sponsors regarding COVID-19

I would like to keep you informed about the situation at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology and Milwaukee Wisconsin regarding our response to the spread of the coronavirus.

1. There are at present no confirmed cases in Milwaukee County.
2. The City of Milwaukee is being very proactive. There are a great number of high-level medical facilities in Milwaukee. Medical professionals and civic officials have developed a sophisticated, proactive plan to deal with any developments.
3. Milwaukee does not anticipate the necessity to order the closing of the school system in the country due to the outbreak.
4. Sacred Heart has been vigilant to provide instructions regarding the advice of the CDC regarding basic health steps necessary to help protect against the virus.
5. We have increased our normal cleaning operations and are paying particular attention to areas frequented by faculty, students and staff, cleaning all surface areas.
6. We have facilities available for isolation and care of any infected students, if this proves necessary.
7. We have a committee representing all involved communities to monitor the present situation and a plan in place to address issues should the situation worsen.
8. There are no plans to close or shorten the semester at this time; we are evaluating online teaching options if needed.
9. We will inform you immediately of any changes. Updates will also be posted on our website: <https://www.shsst.edu/>

It was announced yesterday evening that Milwaukee will not close schools except for a school that has a verified case. It will be closed temporarily for deep cleaning purposes. However, the city and county health officials present at the news conference recommend that we engage in social distancing to the extent possible for now.

Milwaukee recommends cancelling events of 250 or more people; avoiding events and places where there are large crowds; staying home, especially if you are feeling under the weather or if you feel the need. Consequently, during the period from now until Easter if a staff member feels the need to stay home, please make arrangements with your supervisor. Staff will not be charged against their PTO. If you are able to do work from home you should also make these arrangements with your supervisors.

In the case of faculty, please consider alternative ways of teaching if you feel you are unable to be here on campus. Please make arrangements with the Dean.

For students who are feeling ill, please inform your formation advisors or professors to make whatever arrangements are needed for your well-being and to complete your coursework.

Thank you for your trust in Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. We are people of faith. As we take precautions we maintain a trusting, prayerful spirit throughout this period. The situation invites us to come closer to the Lord with a sincere heart full of faith, to remain steadfast in the hope which we profess, and with constant attention to work together as brothers and sisters in love and good works.

Fr. Raúl

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