

04/17

Yesterday the Wisconsin safer at home order was extended by Governor Evers until 26 May. I'm sure the extension was expected by most of us given the still fluid situation of the pandemic. We here at SHSST had already anticipated finishing the semester by offering our classes online until Friday, 1 May, the last day of our regularly scheduled courses for MDiv and Lumen Cordis MA students. I am happy to report that the move to online delivery has been largely successful and the completion should be fairly smooth for both students and faculty. Thank God.

Most of the administrative and staff work required for the smooth operation of the seminary has also been accomplished remotely with all but essential employees working from home. Although many are beginning to feel the effects of being confined to home as well as the stress that comes from working there, I have heard from our staff and administrators that things are going pretty well. Nonetheless, everyone was hoping to be back to their offices in early May. Now it looks like late May and even then there is still a possibility that returning to work may be gradual rather than immediate. Zoom, Skype, Populi and other platforms have become very familiar to all of us! So we should be able to continue in the same mode for awhile longer.

I want to assure you that I am aware of how hard everyone is working and I am very proud of your dedication and commitment. Thank you. With God's help faculty, administration and staff will continue to do what we can remotely to tie up the loose ends of the spring semester as well as to begin the preparations for the coming fall semester. The Cor Unum MA students will continue their courses, albeit online for now; they finish at the end of June. And the ECS program will have some classes online during May and possibly June for the few students still here on campus.

We are extremely grateful that none of our students, staff, faculty, administrators or members of the local SCJ community have fallen victim to the virus. As far as I know neither have our sponsors and members of our Board of Directors. May that continue to be so with God's grace. Please check our website www.shsst.edu for daily postings of a prayer or thought for the day by our communications team as well as an organ selection of "music for social distancing" by our Director of Music and Organist.

Be assured of my prayers and concern. I will keep you posted as things go forward.

In the heart of the Risen Savior,
Fr. Raúl

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