

11 January 2021

After consultation with the various stakeholders involved, the members of the President's Council and I discussed today how best to proceed with the delivery of courses for the start of the spring semester. As indicated in an earlier message, the Covid-19 rate of infection in the Milwaukee area continues to be quite high, the expected holiday surge of infections is estimated to manifest itself later this week or early next week, and adequate information about the new Covid-19 variant that has begun to spread through the country has not yet come.

Consequently, in order to continue to minimize exposure to our students, staff and faculty, I have decided to limit academic courses to the online modality of delivery for the first two weeks of the spring semester beginning on January 18, 2021. This approach will allow us to begin the semester in a safe manner, evaluate Covid-19 rates and variants, and then reassess course delivery before February 1st. I intend to let everyone know no later than Friday morning, 29 January how we will go forward.

In-house SHSST formation sessions, Wednesday practicums involving only SHSST residential seminarians, and English-language courses will be delivered in-person. I ask that those professors who do Practicums involving both SHSST and SFdSS seminarians organize their courses so that the first few sessions are able to focus on theory primarily if possible so that these can be delivered online and then move to the practice sessions in person after its determined it is sufficiently safe to do so. Please contact Dr. Russell if you have any questions (prussell@shsst.edu).

I am grateful that faculty and staff have been preparing for both online and in-person courses, so we are excited to see our students "in class" either way!

Many blessings as we prepare to start the spring semester,
In the heart of Christ,
Fr. Raúl

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YOUR SEMINARY