

i. Rector of Seminaries:

1. What are they doing? What are they telling guys? How do we support our seminarians if/when they return home?

Region 4

One VD has moved into an old convent with 10 or 12 of his seminarians while the deacons are in parishes. They have an horarum, daily Mass, Lit of Hours, Adoration etc...Most of us have our guys in parishes. Sending daily youtube videos with reflections on the readings of the day or the saint/feast day

Region 6

The Diocese of Grand Rapids

Both of our seminaries have sent men home for the semester. Mundelein Seminary is working with Microsoft Teams to continue with online classes. The University of Saint Thomas has also moved all of their in person classes to online. Our seminarians for the most part have all returned to their parents home. We do not have adequate space in rectories to house guys. Finally, Michigan has a shelter in place order right now so we are unable to gather at all with the men. I am thinking about ideas to get the men together for some type of formation after and would love to read your ideas.

ii. Seminarians:

1. Regular virtual meetings, expectations moving forward as a seminarian outside of seminary (reinforce seminaries policy)
2. No private "special group" Masses
 - a. Go to your parish and respect the determination of your pastor. Strengthen the relationship.
3. Phone Check Ins once a week for 15 minutes--have them give you a thought or two about how they are living out each of the 4 pillars at home

Region 4

Cleveland has stayed, they have a full staff, but they've put together a check in system, zoom evening prayer and morning prayer that's led by seminarians. Seminarians keep a journal to share with their FA. John 23rd is still functioning as its an isolated community, the other in boston either went to local rectories or home if they couldn't stay.

Region 6

The Diocese of Grand Rapids

CLE is preparing for a large amount of content and group meetings via Zoom and live-streaming. We have a virtual XLT this Thursday via CLE Priesthood/Facebook. The band will be seminarian-led. I have communicated with all major seminarians via video calls. The expectations are for them to continue to the best of their ability to maintain a life of prayer (liturgy of the hours and hour of prayer). Attend all online classes. Continue communicating with their formation and spiritual advisors from the seminary. Since our men are staying at their homes, they have been asked to respect the shelter in place order from Michigan. Unfortunately this means they are currently not attending Mass.

Region 11

The Diocese of Las Vegas

All of our seminarians (5 from Mt. Angel, 2 at Mundelein) are "home" in our diocese; all are living with family, and 2 are in rectories. In addition to most of the things Fr. Sam mentioned, we are doing the following:

- 1) Knowing the seminarians were going from a very structured lifestyle, to one less structure, I required each of them to give me their weekly schedule: class times, study times, prayer, exercise, free time. It was a way to ensure they continue to live a disciplined/ structured life.
- 2) They continue to have their regular meetings with their seminary formation director and spiritual directors - but via Skype/ Zoom etc.
- 3) We are meeting at least once every week via Zoom to check in with each other.
- 4) They are required to pray morning and evening prayer together as a group, via Skype/ Zoom at least 6 times a week.
- 4) They are encouraged to be connected with their "home parish" - e.g. help with livestream liturgies, etc.

Region 11 is sheltering in place, as of April 3 they can either go home or to the rectory, and if they stay they have to stay till end of semester. Deacons/elect will stay through Easter on canonical retreat. Concern is if they go home for Holy Week, they won't have access to triduum services. College men went home except for 3 who couldn't, staying in house of formation.

Region 12

The Diocese of Spokane

We are all aware that many seminaries have had to send their seminarians home in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. While the mode of pastoral formation of many seminarians has *de facto* changed, the fact of it has not. On this Vigil of the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, I am writing to propose a common pastoral initiative especially suited for priests and seminarians for these dramatic times which demand that the Mercy of God be proclaimed and lived.

As of this writing, 18,605 people have died. That number is certain to rise dramatically. As you may be aware, on March 19 the Apostolic Penitentiary issued a [Decree on the granting of special Indulgences to the faithful in the current pandemic](#).

My proposal is simple: engage each seminarian in the US and beyond (and any priests as well) to fulfill the conditions to ensure that each person in the world who has died from the coronavirus receives a plenary indulgence. I will be sharing this with our seminarians here at Bishop White, and encouraging them to allow this work of mercy to inform their lives and actions.

iii. Parents of seminarians:

1. What is going on? What are our expectations?
2. What are the expectations of their sons while at home?
3. Ask if they are willing to have seminarians join them.

Region 6

The Diocese of Grand Rapids

Only additional thing here is I have sent a few informational emails and made myself available by phone if they have any questions.

iv. Pastors of seminarians:

1. What is going on? What are our expectations?
2. Can a few seminarians stay with one pastor to form a community?
3. Invite seminarians/discerners from your parish to help serve and be involved in the parish (no school, no work, etc.)

Region 6

The Diocese of Grand Rapids

I have pastors concerned about housing men right now. They are worried about guys coming from other states who may have the virus. They want to protect themselves from getting sick as well. This has made it challenging to place men in rectories.

v. Organizations that support seminarians:

1. What is going on? Pure information.
2. How can they support them?

vi. Discerners:

1. Continue the process and this is a time to dialogue.
2. Virtual discernment
 - a. Now is a good time to start
 - b. Who is doing this well? Can they be a resource?
 - i. VD from Oklahoma (Fr. Brian Buettner)
 - c. Simply just check in with them
 - i. Maybe a simple Exodus 90 model:
 1. Thirty minutes/1 hour
 2. Prayer
 - a. What has your relationship with Jesus been like?
 3. Asceticism/Discernment
 - a. 1 grace + 1 struggle
 4. Fraternity
 - a. How are you helping others? How are your friendships deepening?
 5. What is going on in the world/Church?

Region 4

Calling/FaceTiming discerners, having small (less than 10) number of discerners over for Mass. Making a motivational video (a fishers of men type) based on the experience of not having access to the Sacraments as means to inspire young men to consider the call and lay people to support, cultivate and pray for vocations. Reaching out to vocation support groups to let me know what is going on (where the seminarians are, what the future may look like) and asking them to double up on prayers for the men discerning/working on applications.

Region 11

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Last night in L.A. we did an Uber Conference for our discerners and had 15 participate. We kept it simple with a Lectio on yesterday's Gospel and a discussion on how everyone is coping with the situation, especially how their prayer lives have been adapted to the circumstances of no daily or Sunday Masses. It was a great night. We also answered questions and gave information to the men

in the midst of applying for this Fall. Admissions Interviews are on hold of course. Perhaps it would be helpful to compile and send to all VD's best practices and options for processing applications at this point. California and L.A. are essentially on lockdown as of yesterday and the Chancery is now closed. Of course we still have application documents coming in, Psychological Evaluations have been postponed, and final Seminary Come & See Retreats postponed, etc. For instance, we already have one applicant who will have to delay applying until Fall 2021. He is stationed in Germany in the U.S. Air Force and will not be able to travel to L.A. in the coming months. For St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, the new men begin on July 5 with a Summer Spiritual/Human Formation Program so we have an even shorter time period to work with.