



COLLEGE OF  
**MOUNT SAINT VINCENT**

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

To: Faculty, Administration, Staff and Students

From: Charles L. Flynn, President

Date: March 29, 2020

Subject: Update 8 regarding Coronavirus Disease, COVID-19

**Students, Faculty, Staff, and Administrators:**

With glitches and challenges, the College is operating remarkably well under the strange new, temporary normal.

All courses have moved online.

Oxley Integrated Advising Program and ARC have moved online.

Administrative Offices are all functioning online.

Counseling Services are available for students online. Schedule using the portal or by emailing [counseling@mountsaintvincent.edu](mailto:counseling@mountsaintvincent.edu).

The employee assistance program is available. Contact E4Health/New Directions at [www.helloe4.com](http://www.helloe4.com) (username-mtsaintvincent, password-guest) or (800) 227-2195

Campus Ministry is available to us all at [matthew.shields@mountsaintvincent.edu](mailto:matthew.shields@mountsaintvincent.edu) or 914.548.9820.

We all share plenty of anxieties. The College is working very hard to stay in touch with members of this community, including students, faculty, and staff who are ill or who are trying to manage illness in their families. It is very important that we all stay in touch. When we can be of assistance, we will try to be, just as we must always be there for each other.

All in all, classes, Oxley, and administrative offices are functioning well. Thank you for that. It is a big adjustment for everyone, but it is being handled with aplomb.

**An Address to the College** On Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 4:00, I will be making a short address to the College and answer questions you have. Information about that address and how to log on and see it will be sent to you at the beginning of the week. Please send your questions to [Questions@mountsaintvincent.edu](mailto:Questions@mountsaintvincent.edu). Yes, it is April Fool's Day. . . . No comment.

## **Registration for the Fall**

A reminder to all students and advisors, Registration for the Fall Semester runs April 14-23.

The **Summer Session Course Schedule** is being published. Of course, no one knows how long current restrictions will apply. Our assumptions and the schedule are subject to change. However, the schedule should allow students and advisors to plan next steps together.

**Aquino Hall** By order of the Governor of New York, non-emergency construction has been suspended. We do not know when construction will resume.

**Student Government, Student Activities, Clubs, and Athletic Teams** are gearing up online. It is as true now as always, while each of us fights isolation, purposeful engagement gives us life. Maybe it is life. These activities tie us together. Congratulations to SGA and the clubs, organizations, and athletic teams that have taken the initiative to engage.

## **The Plague Diary**

The College is going to start a group project, The Plague Diary. We'll all be invited to write and submit short stories. Entertaining each other is one of the ways we can stay connected. An announcement with particulars soon. This project will join a long tradition of works where characters seek to stay or become well while threatened by the plagues and craziness that course around them.

Giuseppe Boccaccio's Decameron is an example. (<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/23700>) It is sometimes called the Human Comedy to compare it to Dante's Divine Comedy. Ten young women and men are in a villa outside Florence, Italy. They are "social distancing," escaping the plague (peak 1347-1351) just as we are holed up at home now. They tell 100 stories to entertain each other. The stories have characters absorbed with sex, enthralled by love, subverted by foibles, afflicted by tragedy, and redeemed by acts of kindness and hope. In other words, it describes us all through stories that entertain and provoke. Warning: the stories feature a surprisingly large number of greedy and libidinous priests and nuns.

## **Admission**

Our admission and advancement staffs are working very hard to develop new online events and other strategies to engage prospective students and their families to convey the quality and character of the College. They will be calling on faculty and students, departments, clubs and organizations, to take part in new ways. Please help them and thank them.

We hope to be able to offer opportunities for prospective students and their families to be able to visit campus this summer and spend time with students, faculty, administrators, and staff. We will share information about those plans as they are available.

## Retrieving Items from Campus

By order of the Governor of New York, it is only possible to have registered "essential personnel" on campus. and they must follow standard protocols (social distancing, handwashing, etc.). At this time, it is not legally possible to have students, faculty, or staff retrieve personal items from campus. Under extraordinary circumstances, we have made arrangements for "essential personnel" to retrieve important items. Medication, for example. If you face extraordinary circumstances:

Students, please contact [kelli.smith@mountsaintvincent.edu](mailto:kelli.smith@mountsaintvincent.edu).

Faculty please contact [sarah.stevenson@mountsaintvincent.edu](mailto:sarah.stevenson@mountsaintvincent.edu).

Administrators and staff, please contact [abed.elkeshk@mountsaintvincent.edu](mailto:abed.elkeshk@mountsaintvincent.edu).

## Planning Ahead

Faculty, Administrators, and Staff: **All College Day** has been rescheduled for 9 am, August 25. (This is rescheduled. It's a change.) Please remember, this meeting is required. Anyone who has to miss should apply to their Senior Administrator.

For Seniors and their guests, **Commencement Ball** will be the evening of Wednesday, August 26. After seniors and their guest have made reservations, an invitation will be sent on a space-available basis to all faculty, administrators, and staff to come and celebrate our graduates and, in a sense, the reopening of campus for the new school year.

The **Pinning Ceremony** for Nurses will be August 27. Dean McAllister will be writing to nursing students about that.

**Baccalaureate, Hooding, and Commencement** will be the morning of August 29.

The College is immensely proud to celebrate the accomplishments of its students. This tumultuous spring will make Commencement additionally meaningful for students, their families, and for faculty, staff, and administrators. For faculty and administrators, this celebration is required. Anyone who has to miss is should apply to Provost Stevenson.

Please note: just as students who complete their requirements in January receive their degree in January, so also students who complete all requirements in May will receive their degree in May. Commencement is the ceremony through which we celebrate August, January, and May degrees.

Peace and All Good,

Charles Flynn