



COLLEGE OF  
**MOUNT SAINT VINCENT**

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

To: Faculty, Administration, Staff and Students

From: Charles L. Flynn, President

Date: March 22, 2020

Subject: Update 7 regarding Coronavirus Disease, COVID-19

First, I'm relieved to share that Fr. Chris Keenan, OFM, was released from the hospital last week, is much improved and recuperating on campus. He thanks you all for your prayers.

As we virtually return from a very strange break, I would like to thank everyone for their characteristic Mount Saint Vincent goodwill and resilience. Everyone really does mean everyone: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. We should all take pride in that College distinction. It is not true everywhere. It is one of the many ways we live our motto.

Beginning tomorrow, all lecture/recitation classes are meeting online during their regularly scheduled class hours. Computer Services made that possible. Faculty responded to the training sessions with enthusiasm and appreciation. VP Wichern successfully negotiated a major increase in our contract to facilitate conferencing. Faculty should be contacting students in their classes by email. Support for faculty and students is ongoing. Contact Computer Services if needed via email at [helpdesk@mountsaintvincent.edu](mailto:helpdesk@mountsaintvincent.edu).

All administrative offices are now functioning remotely, on-line. Facilities staff have deep cleaned the buildings we are closing and will be on rotation cleaning residence halls and food service spaces. Take out dining continues for those students and staff who have had to remain on campus. Security remains on duty, at a reduced staff level, as well.

Enormous progress has been made to ensure that students can complete clinical placements, internships, and student teaching. The biggest news: Dean Annemarie McAllister, our fantastic new Dean of Nursing, has earned state approval for our faculty and students to employ an array of simulation to complete clinical placement requirements. *This accomplishment is immense.* It will be complex fully to plan and implement, but it is now doable. Dean McAllister will be writing directly to nursing students tomorrow.

If you have an internship this term and have not yet contacted the Oxley Integrated Advising Program please do so promptly. [Oxley@mountsaintvincent.edu](mailto:Oxley@mountsaintvincent.edu).

Given state mandates, it is not currently permissible for students to return to campus to retrieve their possessions from residence halls. We will inform you when it is possible.

Commencement. I have received many questions about Commencement, especially because many colleges and universities are cancelling their commencement exercises. Commencement is symbolic. It is an important celebration of what our students achieve. This year as much as any year, our students and their families should be able to celebrate. At Mount Saint Vincent, Commencement is not cancelled. It has been rescheduled for Saturday, August 29. We will celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates and, in a sense, the full reopening of the College. A Commencement Ball will be held Wednesday, August 26. Details will be sent to seniors shortly.

Students, please share this email with your parents or guardian.

Questions? Please don't hesitate to email the appropriate office.

This message is from Pope Francis. Let's expropriate as our own:

Tonight before falling asleep  
think about when we will return to the street.  
When we hug again,  
when all the shopping together will seem like a party.  
Let us think about when the coffees will return to the bar,  
the small talk, the photos close to each other.  
We think about when it will be all a memory,  
but normalcy will seem an unexpected but beautiful gift.  
We will love everything that so far seemed futile to us.  
Every second will be precious.  
Swims in the sea, the sun until late,  
sunsets, toasts, laughter.  
We will go back to laughing together.  
Strength and courage.  
See you soon!