



CATHEDRAL SEMINARY

7200 Douglaston Parkway
Douglaston, New York 11362
718-631-4600

March 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Families:

In many ways, this year of formation at Cathedral Seminary House of Formation has been marked by many graces and blessings. As a faculty, we observe the growth and maturity in the men as they discern their vocation, and we are often inspired by their example and witness.

As you know, in these past few weeks there has been a growing concern around the world, in our nation, and in New York City about the impact of the newest strain of the Coronavirus. Fortunately, as of this writing, no one in our community here at Douglaston has shown symptoms for or been diagnosed with the Coronavirus. We have been following the directives of our local Church authorities and public officials regarding best practices during this time. The men have been very cooperative in avoiding unnecessary physical contact, particularly with the senior priests who also reside here, and they have helped to sanitize the public areas of the building, particularly the common spaces used by the seminary community.

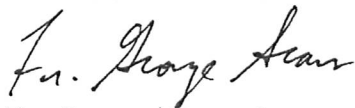
St. John's University, Fordham University, St. Joseph's Seminary (Dunwoodie), and Queensborough Community College have all suspended on-site classes and have adopted a "distance learning" protocol for the foreseeable future. Just last night, because of local concerns in the Yonkers area, St. Joseph's Seminary decided to send all students home and to temporarily continue other aspects of formation via phone and other means of communication.

In light of this, in cooperation with the local bishops who sponsor Cathedral Seminary House of Formation, we have decided to direct students to return home at this time and to continue to engage in their formation through keeping up with their classes at their academic institutions according to the provisions made at each institution, and to keep in regular contact with their spiritual directors and formation advisors. We feel this is a prudent decision at this time which has been made with an abundance of caution to help prevent the wider community here to be impacted by the virus.

For now, we ask the students to stay at home and to avoid public transportation and public places (restaurants, malls, etc.) until at least the last weekend of March. As circumstances change and as more information is available, we will communicate further directives regarding the remainder of this academic year. We ask the students to keep up their prayer life and to fully engage in their academic programs. Also, communication is very important, particularly if anyone in our community becomes infected with the virus. You can reach me at fr.george.sears@cathedralseminary.org or by calling 718-631-4600, ext. 2140. We will keep dioceses, parents and students updated as we move forward.

With an assurance of continued prayers during this holy season of Lent, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Very Reverend George Sears
Rector