

COVID-19 Update

From the Office of the President

May 1, 2020

Dear Members of the Aquinas Community,

With the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic keeping us in unprecedented territory, the Aquinas Institute of Theology administration along with the Board of Trustees continues to review the governmental and medical information and recommendations to best decide how to approach the summer months. With many of us being in different physical locations, most at home working remotely, the staff, faculty, students, and Board of Trustees remain connected through the now popular Zoom videoconferencing, telephone conversations, and e-mail communications.

We fortunately are healthy, busy, and anticipating a time when, with God's blessing, we can all be together again. Until then, we have information to share with you about our virtual commencement, the summer semester, and our space reconfiguration project.

Yours in Christ and St. Dominic,
Fr. Mark E. Wedig, OP

Listed below are important announcements pertaining to the next months at Aquinas Institute of Theology

COMMENCEMENT

- On May 8th, the 2019-2020 Commencement will be celebrated in a virtual ceremony where Board Chair Mr. David Wenzel, Aquinas President Fr. Mark E. Wedig OP, and Academic Dean Fr. Michael Mascari OP will officially confer degrees and certificates.
- The virtual Commencement ceremony will be available beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the Aquinas Institute website at www.ai.edu/commencement. Friends, family, and the Aquinas community are welcome to view the ceremony.
- Each graduate will receive an invitation and detailed information about the virtual ceremony.

Questions or Information: Erin Hammond at registrar@ai.edu

SUMMER SEMESTER, COURSEWORK DELIVERY, AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT

- Distance education will continue for all classes through the end of the Summer semester on August 14, 2020. Details for individual courses will be provided to students by each course instructor.
- The July Doctor of Ministry in Preaching program orientation will be adapted to accommodate distance learning.
- Most faculty and staff members are working remotely and will continue until social distancing restrictions are relaxed or lifted and there is encouraging data to support a return to a daily routine on site at Aquinas Institute.

Questions or Information: Mary Urbanek-Mueller at urbanek@ai.edu

23 SOUTH SPRING AVENUE SPACE RECONFIGURATION PROJECT AND BUILDING ACCESS

- Aquinas Institute has undertaken a building reconfiguration project that began in mid-April and is scheduled to be completed by August 1. Strict protocols are in place at all times to ensure the safety of the construction workers and anyone else in the building.
- Between now and the end of the Summer semester on August 14, there will be no access to the building by students and the external community with only limited access to faculty and staff. Faculty and staff needing access to the building during this time must strictly follow the documented protocols.

Questions or Information: Brother John Steilberg, OP at steilberg@ai.edu

OTHER NEWS

- The May meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held by videoconferencing on Saturday, May 9th.
- Classes will resume as regularly scheduled on August 24, 2020, unless circumstances require otherwise.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. ROMANS 8:38-39