



# ST. BERNARD'S

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear St. Bernard's Students,

Greetings in Christ!

Since my last update in March, the administration and staff at St. Bernard's have continued to closely monitor all developments related to the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Given the fact that we are a non-residential school and that our campuses are able to conform to the guidance offered by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) for educational institutions, we will continue to offer the possibility of attending our courses either via Zoom or in-person. The in-person option will remain available at the Rochester, Albany, and Buffalo campuses for the Fall 2021 semester. For those who are able to attend classes in-person, all students and visitors will be required to wear masks while in all public spaces on all campuses, regardless of vaccination status. Those who wish may remove their masks once seated in the classrooms. We will continue to follow local and federal guidance in order to maintain a healthy environment; physical distancing and classroom cleaning protocols will remain in place. Students who would like to opt-in to in-person attendance for their course(s) will be contacted by the Registrar to do so.

The policies concerning masking and social distancing have been put in place with a view towards ensuring that, given the circumstances, as many people can take advantage of in-person attendance as possible. Our community is one founded not simply on education, but *formation*, and the Christian vision of formation requires the cultivation of a concrete community. For those within geographical proximity to one of our campuses, it is therefore important to encourage the possibility of in-person community; for those farther away, our investment in Zoom videoconferencing technology and in our Canvas learning management system has done us well, allowing us to cultivate a community in its own right that draws from the entire country.

My team continues to stand ready to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have, technical or otherwise. Do not hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Kelly Brunacini ([Kelly.Brunacini@stbernards.edu](mailto:Kelly.Brunacini@stbernards.edu)), Executive Assistant to the President, who will be able to answer your questions or direct them to others who can answer them. Once again, we will continue to monitor the situation, and if there are any substantial changes, be assured that you will hear from us immediately.

Thank you for your continued patience during these trying times. General guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have been distributed through the various dioceses we serve and are helpfully articulated by the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* [here](#).

May we take this time to pray to the Lord, our harbor and our true hope, and may we remember all those who are most vulnerable: those with preexisting conditions, the elderly, the poor, and those who have no one to care for them. Be assured of our prayers for you and yours during this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Loughlin".

Stephen J. Loughlin  
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