

March 19, 2020

Dear friends and benefactors of Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary:

To say that COVID-19 has had an impact on our world would be the height on understatement. As we have watched the progression of this virus and its steady spread, all of us have been affected in various ways and to various degrees. It is pivotal that we all do our part to mitigate the havoc the virus is wreaking.

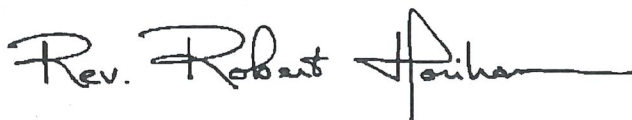
That being the case, it is my unfortunate duty to inform you that the 2020 Bishops and Rector Dinner benefiting IHMS has been cancelled. National, state, and local health agencies have consistently advocated for limiting the number of people gathering together at one time, and we have watched the threshold for the recommended maximum decline steadily over the past several days. Given the number of people the dinner draws, it is thus the prudent and responsible option to cancel the event. Also, the Rochester International Event Center has cancelled all events until further notice.

As you know, the ticket sales, donations and sponsorships for the dinner serve as a substantial source of funding for our work in aiding men in their walk of discipleship and discernment. Thus, even though the event itself will not be occurring, I invite you to prayerfully consider maintaining your intended contribution to the event. If you have already sent in funds and would like a refund, please contact Monica Herman, Executive Director of the Catholic Foundation of Southern Minnesota, and we will certainly honor that desire. Monica can be reached at (507) 858-1276 or at mherman@catholicfsmn.org.

In any event, my gratitude goes out to you for your support and your willingness to encourage us in our work of formation.

In these days of rapidly changing circumstances, the Lord invites us to fix our eyes on something that never changes—the gift of divine love that comes to us from the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit. God is truly with us and will carry us through the crosses we are carrying into the glory of new life. Know of my prayers for health, peace, and grace as the days and weeks go by—and know, too, that I look forward to seeing you on April 16, 2021 at the 2021 Bishops and Rector Dinner!

In Christ Jesus,



Rev. Robert Horihan