



# ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE

## UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

June 15, 2021

Dear STM Worshipping Community,

As we anticipate a time when COVID-19 restrictions begin to lift, I am sure that many of you are wondering when we will be able to resume Sunday liturgy in the STM Chapel. In other words, when will our community be able to gather in person to worship and simply be together?

Recently, President Carl Still wrote the following to the STM Community: *"As an increasing number of people in the province become fully vaccinated, we are working together to return to face-to-face learning environments. The Ministry of Health and the Chief Medical Health Officer support institutions developing plans for a return to face-to-face learning for Fall 2021.*

*However, it will be important to remain flexible as the COVID-19 situation in Saskatchewan remains fluid."* (Read President Still's full message here:

<https://stmcollege.ca/news/2021/president-still-shares-message-of-safe-return-plans-for-fall.php>.)

While it is clear that all our plans *remain tentative*, I would like to share with you some early signs of things to come regarding the resumption of liturgy in the STM College Chapel.

Throughout the pandemic, STM Campus Ministry has remained attentive to the College and University guidelines, the directives from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, and, ultimately, the Provincial Health restrictions. We remain committed to continuing this practice in order to ensure the health and safety of all our community members.

Like the University, STM is considering Fall 2021 as a transitional period, with some of our classes returning to in-person and others remaining in remote delivery mode. All things being equal, access to the building will begin returning to its more normal operations in September.

### **What does this mean for the STM Worshipping Community?**

In short, we hope to celebrate one Sunday mass per weekend starting on **Sept. 12, 2021**, following whatever Diocesan COVID-19 guidelines are in place at that time.

We are currently in discussions with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon regarding the appointment of a *part-time* Priest Chaplain to St. Thomas More College. Given that this pastor will have other parish duties, we will first resume our masses at **5:00 p.m. on Sundays**.

For those of you who are part of the 11 a.m. Worshipping Community, we know that this news will come as a disappointment. However, we need to respect the availability of the presider who will be generously sharing his gifts with us.



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### **Will Fr. Ron continue to be involved at STM?**

The answer is yes. Starting in September, Fr. Ron will continue to provide his weekly reflections to the STM Community. We know how nourishing these homilies have been and will continue to be in the days ahead. He will also continue to pursue his research into the Basilian heritage of St. Thomas More College. He will not resume presiding at the Eucharist until such a time as the pandemic is completely under control.

We thank you for your continued connection to and support of STM and the STM Worshipping Community during this most difficult moment in our history. We thank God for you and continue to keep you in prayer. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [grompre@stmcollege.ca](mailto:grompre@stmcollege.ca) or 306-966-8929.

Sincerely in Christ,

Gertrude Rompré  
Director of Mission and Ministry