



SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS SEMINARY

– ESTABLISHED 1885 –

A PRESTIGIOUS CENTER FOR CATHOLIC FORMATION, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, AND MINISTRY TO AMERICAN POLONIA

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OFFICE OF THE RECTOR

Please complete this questionnaire by Monday, December 20 and send it as an attachment in an email to: survey@sscms.edu

Questionnaire

At their respective meetings in November 2021, the Seminary Board of Trustees and the Orchard Lake Schools Board of Regents decided to suspend their prior decision to close the Seminary in order to give the Rector and his team time to prepare a plan for the future of the Seminary. The plan must be submitted to the respective Boards by April, 2022.

To begin work, the Seminary wishes to consult graduates, benefactors, friends, and all interested parties regarding their views and suggestions. We are conducting our consultation through this questionnaire. We would be very grateful to you if you could spend some of your precious time to complete this questionnaire and return it to us.

This questionnaire consists of two parts:

Part 1 contains general questions concerning the Seminary's performance in relation to its institutional mission.

Part 2 is a "SWOT analysis" intended to identify **strengths (S)**, **weaknesses (W)**, **opportunities (O)**, and **threats (T)** which might also be termed risks. This type of assessment tool is often used in strategic planning and management by organizations, especially businesses, to formulate an objective, fact-based picture of the present situation and to develop fresh perspectives and new ideas for the future. We hope that such an analysis will do the same for the Seminary.

PART 1: GENERAL QUESTIONS

The Mission Statement of Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary (SSCMS) spells out three main objectives:

1. The Seminary offers a formation program that prepares men, primarily from Poland, for the ordained priesthood.
2. The Seminary also offers theological degree programs for lay people.
3. Deeply rooted in its American and Polish heritage, the Seminary shares in the mission of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the Church to form evangelizers in the Third Millennium.

Our questions in this first part of the questionnaire have to do with these three objectives.

In regard to the first objective, we would like to ask you about SSCMS' recruitment programs.

Question 1: Are you aware of any vocational promotion programs conducted by SSCMS in the last five years? "

Yes No ☐

Please provide at least one reason for your answer.

Question 2: How would you evaluate SSCMS' efforts in recruiting seminarians in the last five years?

Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Bad ☐

Please provide at least one reason for your answer.

Question 3: Are you aware of SSCMS's efforts to publicize its degree programs for lay people in the last five years?

Yes No ☐

Please provide at least one reason for your answer.

Question 4: Are you aware that SSCMS offers **online** Masters' programs for lay students?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If you have any comments, please write them below.

Question 5: How would you evaluate SSCMS' efforts in recruiting lay students in the last five year?

Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Bad ☐

Please provide at least one reason for your answer.

Question 6: In your opinion, how could SSCMS improve its recruitment of both seminarians and lay students?

In regard to the first and second objectives, we would like to ask you about SSCMS' formation of priests. Such formation should cover four dimensions: 1) human formation; 2) spiritual formation; 3) intellectual formation; and 4) pastoral formation. In other words, this is a holistic approach to formation. Our next questions have to do with these dimensions.

Question 7: Do you agree with the following statements?

7a) The human formation provided by SSCMS in the last five years was excellent. (Human formation helps seminarians to be good human beings and develop a good moral character.)

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐

Please provide at least one reason for your answer.

7b) The spiritual formation provided by SSCMS in the last five years was excellent. (Spiritual formation helps the seminarian in his relationship to God through prayer.)

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐

Please provide at least one reason for your answer.

7c) The intellectual formation provided by SSCMS in the last five years was excellent. (Intellectual formation helps the seminarian to understand and communicate the Catholic faith.)

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐

Please provide at least one reason for your answer.

7d) The pastoral formation provided by SSCMS in the last five years was excellent. (Pastoral formation helps seminarians to develop the skills to work effectively with parishioners.)

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐

Please provide at least one reason for your answer.

7e) The English as a Second Language courses allowed international seminarians/students the opportunity to function comfortably in Pastoral settings

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐

Please provide at least one reason for your answer.

7f) SSCMS' acculturation courses allowed international seminarians/students the competency to understand and contribute in a pluralist culture and a diverse Church

Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐

Please provide at least one reason for your answer.

The third main objective in SSCMS' Mission Statement states the following:

Deeply rooted in its American and Polish heritage, the Seminary shares in the mission of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the Church to form evangelizers in the Third Millennium

This objective concerns two aspects: 1) service to Polonia in the U.S.; and 2) service in general to the Church in the U.S. We would like to ask you about these aspects.

Question 8: How would you evaluate SSCMS' service to Polonia in the last five years?

Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Bad ☐

Please provide at least one reason for your answer.

Question 9: How would you evaluate SSCMS' service in general to the Church in the U.S. in the last five years?

Excellent ☐Good ☐Fair ☐Poor ☐Bad ☐

Please provide at least one reason for your answer.

Currently SSCMS' main activities are the formation of Seminarians and of Lay people through Masters' programs. In order to serve more effectively both Polonia and the Church in general, which additional activities would you suggest should be offered by SSCMS? Please prioritize each of the activities.

10. Additional activities to be offered and their priorities	High	Medium	Low
10a) Diploma and Certificate programs (If they were offered which topics you would suggest? Please list some and prioritize them)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10b) Short courses and seminars (If they were offered which topics you would suggest? Please list some and prioritize them)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10c) Spiritual retreats for various groups and individuals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regarding the above activities, which modality would you prefer --- in-person or online?			
In-person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Online	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you have any comments, please write them below.			

PART 2: SWOT ANALYSIS

SWOT= Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (Risks)

Strengths describe what an organization excels at in comparison with similar organizations. Possible strengths could be reputation, uniqueness, quality of service. Some strengths can be related to opportunities or turn into opportunities, e.g., the international character of institution.

Weaknesses are areas where an organization performs poorly and needs to improve, e.g., a bad reputation, poor formation, low enrollment, high costs.

Opportunities refer to various factors that could give an organization the chance to develop and expand services provided, e.g., the possibility of offering courses online could be seen as an opportunity for higher enrolment of students and expanding activities.

Threats or risks refer to factors that have the potential to harm an organization. E.g., the COVID-19 pandemic could be seen as a threat limiting enrolment and activities.

1. What would you consider as **strengths** of SSCMS (SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary)?

2. How should SSCMS utilize the above **strengths**?

3. What would you consider as **weaknesses** of SSCMS?

4. How should SSCMS address the above **weaknesses**?

5. What would you consider as **opportunities** for SSCMS?

6. How should SSCMS utilize the above **opportunities**?

7. What would you consider as **threats** to / **risks** for SSCMS?

8. How should SSCMS address the above **threats / risks**?

9. Do you have any further comments?

We thank you for spending your precious time to complete this questionnaire. We have just one more question.

10. If we have further questions, would you be willing to be contacted by a member of the SSCMS team which is preparing the Seminary plan?

Yes No

If yes, please write your name:

How would you prefer to be contacted?

Email (please write email address)

Phone (please write phone)

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