Formation Survey on Social Media, *November 2018*

Monastery	Q1 Are postulants allowed cellphones?	Q2 Are novices allowed cellphones?	Q3 Are juniors allowed cellphones?	Q4 Do postulants have access to internet?	Q5 Do novices have access to internet?	Q6 Do juniors have access to internet?	Q7 Do postulants have access to social media?	Q8 Do novices have access to social media?
Collegeville	No, they hand in cellphones and use land-lines; they have access to mobile phone for emergency / travel	No, they too use land -lines	Yes, some on community plan; some continue on personal plan	Yes, but on common computers that are monitored	Yes, but on common computers that are monitored	Yes, since many are engaged in graduate studies but also on common computers that are monitored	Yes, but formator has full access, eg. one posts for community Facebook page	Yes, but formator has full access, eg. one posts for vocations
Latrobe	Yes, on their own plan	No	Yes, some on house plan for work, others on personal plans	No	No, unless for classes	Yes, but on college system and in common computer room; no limit on time	Yes, on abbey or college platform and according to abbey social media policy.	No.
Atchison	No	No	No, unless for assigned work	Yes, limited to one-hour per week	Yes, limited to one-hour per week	Yes, for study or work as per policy /covenant eyes filter	No	No
Morristown	Yes, often come with them	Yes , has not been a problem	Yes, put on community plan	Yes, with filtered access and individual login/password	Yes , with filtered access and individual login/password	Yes, with filtered access and individual login/password	Yes	Yes
Belmont	No	No	Yes, on community plan	Yes, for 45 min per day on community computers	Yes, for 45 min per day on community computers	Yes, on community computers	Yes, for 45 min per day w/ formator as 'friend'	Yes, for 45 min per day w/ formator as 'friend'
Cullman	No	No	Not normally, one available from prior	Yes, for 60 min per day only on community computers	Yes, for 60 min per day only on community computers	Yes, only on community computers	No	No
St. Leo	Yes, on personal plan	Yes, on personal or community plan as needed	Yes, on personal or community plan as needed	Yes, on abbey server up until 10PM	Yes, on abbey server up until 10PM	Yes, on abbey server up until 10PM	Yes, but discouraged	Strongly discouraged

Richardton	No	No	No	Yes, but limited time and on community computer	Yes, but limited time and on community computer	Yes, but limited time and on community computer	Yes, but reviewed prior to entrance and limited as per Q4	Yes, but limited as per Q5
Peru	Yes, until plan / minutes expire	No	No, but cellphone available from prior when needed	Yes, but in common room on community computer with filters from school	Yes, for academic work in common room with same filters	Yes, and have more freedom for use	Yes, a few times a week	Yes, but more limited
Cleveland	No, but may use land-lines with permission and for serious reason	No, but may use land-lines with permission and for serious reason	Yes, he may use one on the community plan but not required to have one	Yes, on community computer only and only once every two weeks	Yes, on community computer only and only once every two weeks	Yes, on community computer – IT system with individual login / password and that is monitored	Yes, on community computer only and only once every two weeks	Yes, on community computer only and only once every two weeks
Newark	Yes.	Yes, on community plan; completely up to novice master on use and frequency	Yes. Also on community plan	Yes, on community network and novice master determines how often	Yes, on community network and novice master determines how often	Yes, on community network but doesn't need permission to use it for work	Yes, but monitored by IT director	Yes, but monitored by IT director
Tepeyac	No, but may use formation director's phone	No	Yes, but with permission of formation director	Yes, but with supervision of formation director	Yes, but with supervision of formation director	Yes, but with supervision of formation director	No	No

Q9: Additional information on social media from the houses:

Latrobe: The response should be prefaced by the remark that at Saint Vincent, we have two types of **Postulancy**. The *first type* is that all incoming novices report on 1 July as postulants and make a pre-novitiate retreat, until their reception into the novitiate, which takes place at Morning Prayer on 10 July. The *second type* is a more protracted postulancy, perhaps four or eight months.

Those men who spend four or eight months as postulants follow the academic calendar and during this time they are registered for several classes (two or three usually) in the college or seminary.

   A) The **eight month postulants** report to the monastery at the end of August just prior to the beginning of the fall academic term. They are expected to go home during the fall recess in October, over Christmas break between the semesters, during spring break at the beginning of March, and at the end of classes at the end of the spring semester. If they are accepted into the novitiate (the chapter meets shortly after the completion of the academic year), they return on 1 July.

B) The **fourth month postulants** begin in mid-January just before the beginning of the spring semester. They are expected to go home for the spring recess and then again at the end of classes at the end of the spring semester. If they are accepted into the novitiate, they return on 1 July.

These postulants of the *second type* have access to the internet because of their academic studies. This is generally on the community or college server; however, it is difficult to completely monitor where they use their lap tops. There is no policy on the amount of time they are permitted on the internet. If they access through the campus, they are both screened and protected by the measures undertaken by the school.

Collegeville: We are in the process of major transition right now vis-à-vis our phone system. Both campuses are going to an entirely new and, of course, more expensive and complicated phone system. Consequently we are moving more toward cell phone use, simply because more people have and are using cell phones today. In many cases, having the Abbey pay for a cell phone plan is far cheaper than providing room phones that would rarely get used (especially, as regards our guest rooms and rooms on our formation floor). And, our visiting students, including students from other countries, and our vocation guests typically arrive with a cell phone in hand; so, phones in rooms are on the verge of becoming obsolete, it seems. That being said, we do make a point of impressing upon men in formation, especially candidates and novices, that this time in their lives is a time that is different from their life before monasticism; so we encourage them to be more intentional and disengaging from texting, social media, etc.; and to that end we asked them to surrender their phones, laptops, kindles, iPads, etc. So, when they do need to use the Internet, etc., it's not as impulsive as when they have the devices in hand or even in their room. Those who do have a cell phone are absolutely forbidden to use it at table, at recreation or other similar venues (when they are around other people).

Atchison: the following excerpt from our formation manual:
Use of Media and Technology: The first years in community are crucial for integrating the basic orientation of the charism. Outside influence from social media, news resources, and the entertainment industry is not intrinsically evil, but it can unnecessarily complicate one's formation. St. Benedict himself recognizes the stabilizing force of the culture within the monastic enclosure (chapters 66 and 67) and demands his monks not violate the cloister by filling it with distraction. During the initial stages of formation, the candidates will receive more explicit parameters as to how to use multimedia and technology. Obedience to these policies (see page 21) is very important not in order to simply follow rules, but to receive guidance from a superior who is working to help one be introduced into the depths of monastic peace.
As highlighted above, the use of multimedia in the monastery requires boundaries in order to preserve the environment of the cloister. Upon entrance, new members are asked to close their social media accounts. For postulants and novices, non class-related computer use is to be limited to one day per week, for a moderate duration. Recreational television should be confined to once per week. Once in simple vows a monk may be allowed a personal computer for study or to fulfill an assignment. At this stage, the goal of advancing in the spiritual life should determine the monk's use of multimedia and he should make use of spiritual direction for guidance and accountability. Any monk in formation having possession of a computer will be required to set up a Covenant Eyes accountability system.
Communication with Family and Friends:
Postulants and Novices are free to communicate by phone with family members once a week, generally on the same day each week. Letter writing is permitted at all times.
Exceptions: All of these policies and boundaries are intended to help the candidate begin taking on the monastic observance well. If one feels he has a special condition and should, thereby, receive exemption or amendment of the policies, he is encouraged to speak with his superior. He should express his situation promptly and simply, and help his superior best address the circumstance.

Morristown: All internet access is with individual login/password on school/monastery server which is monitored by IT with the appropriate filters. Any problems are brought to the attention of the formator and abbot to resolve with the individual. We have not had many such problems.

Belmont: Most of our cell phones are flip phones, not smart phones. Only those monks receive smart phones who present a case for needing one. It is the community policy not to access the internet or watch movies or television in the monks' private rooms, whether in Formation or solemnly professed (with the exception of elderly monks who live in the care of the Infirmary).

Peru: Allowing novices limited access to internet and social media is probably "old school." On the other hand, those coming into the monastery need to adjust their internet/social media usage to what they are dedicating their life to. Not knowing what your friends had for breakfast will not do one any harm! St. Benedict is pretty clear about such matters when he told us that our way of acting must be different from the world's way of acting. It is best that postulants and novices learn the difference early on.

St. Leo: In our house, anybody in formation may have social media, access to the internet, and possess a cellphone. However, we must connect to the Abbot's accounts as well so he can keep track and censor if need be. We have discussed a new practice of collecting all accounts and passwords for the Abbot to catalog in the event inappropriate activity is suspected.

Newark: school and monastery share same IT server; everyone has individual login/password which the IT director monitors. How often postulants/novices use internet is up the formation director.

Tepeyac: Our argument for not having allowed Postulants and Novices to have access to cellular and internet, is because, if they have chosen to enter the monastic life, they need from the beginning to have experience of a change of life in all senses; introduce them to a formation that trains them from the learned monastic values (silence, solitude ...), which they can later use as juniors in a responsible manner. At least to plant these values in them, we always considered important in their training.