

**Question of the Month (QOM)**  
**An Opportunity for Personal and Community Formation**  
**The Iona School for Ministry 2020-2021**

Each month students and faculty at the Iona School will share one focus question for conversation, exploration, and relationship building.

- Each student will be invited to journal about the question in the month before the session.
- Each student will bring to the Iona weekend a brief written response to the question, 150-250 words long.
- Each instructor will know the question for the month in advance and will be invited to incorporate it into the class, if appropriate.
- On Friday night, Iona students will share Table Talk over dinner—focused peer-to-peer conversation about the Question of the Month, practicing skills of active listening and asking clarifying questions, to help each other 1) go Deep, 2) notice and consider Assumptions, 3) articulate the Meaning they ascribe to experiences, and 4) share Specifics to better reveal their intellectual and spiritual growth.
- After the weekend, students will have an opportunity to revise their written reflections in light of their conversations and further thinking. Students will send their revised reflection to their dean by midnight of the Saturday following the session.
- Students will keep a copy of their reflections in their notebook for reference in conferences with the dean or others.

**QOMs for 2020–2021\***

September:

What about your experience in the Episcopal Church helps you find hope in this time of pandemic and physical distancing?

October:

Describe the Christian disciplines you practice now and how you developed them.

November:

Where do you see an opportunity to grow in spiritual and psychological health? What are you doing to promote growth in that area?

December:

Tell a story about a time when you were involved in ministry or mission that you considered transformative for yourself or others.

January:

Which relationships have contributed most to your well-being since starting Iona? How have you invested in these relationships?

February:

Consider the opinions and convictions you brought with you to Iona. Describe one that has significantly changed or evolved. Describe one to which you have become even more committed.

March

Tell about a time you helped someone explore or overcome a prejudice.

April:

Tell a story about something you have figured out for yourself during your time at Iona so far.

May:

As you think about the communities you will be serving, what do you want to be sure that they know about Anglican tradition and practice?

June:

How have you grown in the areas of spiritual health, psychological health, and self-care this year?

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\*Questions are adapted from the Advising Questions of the Seminary of the Southwest, 2019.