



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD

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April 15, 2020

Dear Catholic School Families:

May God's peace be with you. Jesus Christ is truly risen, alleluia, alleluia. Indeed, He is risen, alleluia, alleluia.

Even though Easter looked much different this year, Jesus still rises. Jesus takes our suffering, our anxiety, our sins, and our deficiencies and nails them to the cross only to wash them all away at His resurrection. Even though it may be difficult, we need to continue to trust in the God who suffers not only for us, but also with us.

It is hard to imagine that we are in our fifth week of remote learning. Our teachers and our schools have responded to this new challenge in extraordinary ways. I know, too, that they are reaching out to support you in any way possible to make sure that your children are still learning and growing. Each school has responded differently to the challenge of remote learning. The Catholic Schools Office has worked with your schools to assist in professional support to teachers. The teachers have formed virtual communities across the diocese to share ideas and resources. Your principals have been meeting with us weekly to share their concerns, their desires, and their challenges.

To you parents, I am very grateful for the overwhelming support you have shown to your schools at this time. Remote learning, as you know, is challenging. While the teachers and schools have been doing their best to communicate with you, a greater responsibility is falling on your shoulders. Many of you are working and trying to balance providing time, space, and energy for your children to learn. This is no small undertaking, and we truly appreciate all of the work you are doing to continue supporting a Catholic education in this new form. I have heard repeatedly how much our schools miss your children. They miss their smiling faces, their joy, and the faith they share with us each day.

You are part of a community that continues to grow and learn. When you communicate with your schools, or about your schools, remember they are doing their very best. If you need support in providing for learning at home, are having financial challenges, or are just anxious at this time, reach out to your schools. Your principals and pastors know that these are trying times. They, too, are struggling with the same concerns; they are there to listen and to support you. We are one community comprised of educators, staff members, parents, grandparents, children, and many others. As a community we will, with the grace of God, persevere through this time and be stronger as a result.

We have just a few days left before April break. Our teachers, our families, and our school communities need this break. We will, nonetheless, be providing some family based fun activities that we can do as a diocesan school community. More information will follow about family competitions and activities at the end of the week.

At this time, let us continue to pray together, entrusting our schools to Mary, who suffers and rejoices with us. At the 12:00 o'clock hour, if you can, pray the following with your family. Let us together unite our prayers as one for an end to this pandemic and for the health of our entire school community.

Queen of Heaven rejoice, alleluia, for He whom you merited to bear, alleluia, has risen as He said, alleluia. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia! For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

May the Lord bless and keep us all in His tender loving care through this difficult time.

In Christ through Mary,
Daniel R. Baillargeon, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Springfield

Pax Christi,
Joshua Agnew
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Springfield