



DIOCESE of ALBANY
**Catholic
Schools**

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

April 8, 2020

Dear Friends and Families of the Diocese of Albany Catholic Schools:

Indeed, we are living in extraordinary times. Extraordinary disruption, uncertainty, and fear, yes. But, also extraordinary grace, compassion, and kindness.

From Herkimer to East Greenbush, and Glens Falls to Delmar, our school leaders, teachers, students, and families are coming to the aid of others and it is awe-inspiring. Some examples:

- teachers holding virtual field trips and singing online to their students;
- principals leading morning prayer and reading daily announcements on social media;
- deliveries of meals, laptops and textbooks to students;
- using 3-D printers to build facemasks for health care providers;
- parents, grandparents, and even older siblings supporting home instruction.

The list is endless and truly affirms that we never knew what we were capable of until we were called upon to inspire and comfort others.

Our spirits are buoyed knowing that the innovation, faith, and compassion practiced daily in our schools has become an added blessing — helping to prepare us all for these difficult days that no one could have predicted.

As we move forward in this Easter season, may we all have a renewed appreciation of the incredible importance of the little things in life — a kind word even if only by phone, or a smile even if only by video. We recognize more deeply the value of human connections when we are apart, and we will treasure the joy of those bonds more fervently when we are together again.

The dedication, creativity, and sheer determination that transformed our learning experiences for these last few weeks has been a herculean task, and all of you deserve a peaceful and prayerful respite. You have certainly earned it! The decision to move forward with our scheduled Easter recess next week was made with your well-being in mind first and foremost. I urge all to take time to celebrate this Holy season, to cherish loved ones and indulge in some relaxation — ready to come back to distance learning the following week, rejuvenated and prepared to achieve new levels of *Higher Powered Learning* once again.

As a symbolic means to connect us despite social distancing, **I also invite and encourage you to take part in the Diocesan-wide moment of solidarity on the Easter Vigil, by placing a light in your front window at 8 p.m. on Holy Saturday**, as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ — our Savior and the Light over darkness. Please post a photo of your light on social media using **#EasterVigilrda** and be sure to tag us.

As the Serenity Prayer reminds us, “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference”. What a true gift to ourselves and to God if we are able to embrace the social quiet today while also finding ways to reassure and support one another.

I am so impressed and invigorated by the tremendous work of everyone across our school community. Thank you for serving as bright, shining beacons of Christ’s love.

Sincerely,

Giovanni Virgiglio, Jr.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

