



DIOCESE OF ORANGE
DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
13280 CHAPMAN AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, CA 92840

April 7, 2020

Dear Catholic School Parents,

Blessings to you during this Holy Week.

As we recall Christ's passion and prepare for the Easter Triduum, we find ourselves in a unique time in history. Instead of looking ahead to the joy of the resurrection, we are faced with burdens of uncertainty and the pain of loss. It is times like these that we rely on our faith more than ever.

Easter has always brought me immense joy, not only because of the Resurrection of our Lord, but because I love to host Easter dinner for my family and friends. I enjoy preparing food to share and games to play. Even though my children are 12 and 15 years old, we still enjoy our annual Easter egg hunt with cousins and friends. This year, our Easter celebration will look very different. I will miss my family and friends and the joy we share being together. I know that all of you are grappling with a similar sense of loss.

I know the past few weeks have looked different than any of us ever planned. Instead of field trips, open houses and spring sports, we have been navigating distance learning with our children. I am so grateful to our principals and teachers who continue to make our children's learning and faith formation a priority. I am grateful to the thousands of parents who companion us on this journey because of their commitment to Catholic education. I am grateful to our beautiful students who have risen to the challenge and continue to be engaged and on task. Throughout this crisis, our Catholic schools have been a bright light shining as a testament of faith, excellence, and community.

While we would love to return to our beautiful school campuses in May, we expect campuses to remain closed through the remainder of the school year. The health and safety of our students and teachers are of paramount importance. If, however, our public health officers deem it safe to return sooner we will adjust as needed. As we implement distance learning for the remainder of the school year, know that we are committed to ensuring that your children continue to achieve academically and grow in their faith.

While we do not know what the future holds, may we find comfort in knowing that we do not walk alone. Like the disciples on the Road to Emmaus, may we open our hearts to Christ in our midst and celebrate the risen Lord!

In mission,

Erin C.O. Barisano, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Orange