



Office for Schools

May 5, 2020

Dear Catholic School Families:

As a fellow Catholic school parent, I know the last seven weeks have been difficult. This is hardly the way any us envisioned the school year when it began last summer. Thank you for your faith in our Catholic school communities, and thank you for enduring the hard work and frustration I'm sure you've experienced adding "teacher" to your list of jobs. I hope you and your family are in good health as we finally begin seeing the end of the coronavirus tunnel.

This week is "Teacher Appreciation Week" whereby we traditionally recognize the hundreds of committed Catholic school teachers and staff who serve the diocese with hard work, care and dedication to our children. This year it is only fitting to include all of our Catholic School Parents in that recognition, as well. Thank you!

Whether we are gathered together in virtual classrooms or participating in a live-stream school Mass, the past months have proven that our Catholic schools can continue to deliver quality learning, faith formation, and meaningful service experiences—even in a temporarily virtual world.

The key word here is "temporary." While we are steeped in the present moment with all of its challenges, frustrations, worries and doubts, we need to remind ourselves that this will not last forever. As summer approaches, California will soon be easing its large gathering restrictions for essential services, and with that, our San Diego and Imperial Catholic Schools are preparing to open as scheduled in the fall. [You can count on this.](#)

We have two priorities as we plan for opening the 2020-2021 school year: 1) maximizing student learning & integrated faith formation, and 2) minimizing any health risk. We are working closely with public health professionals and the respective San Diego and Imperial County Offices of Education in developing those plans.

Catholic school success is predicated on strong partnerships with parents. Never has this been more apparent than this school year. With you in mind, the Office for Schools has prepared a **short survey** to assess the year-in-review and to prepare for the year-to-come. We are working diligently with our schools to ensure your child(ren) receive a meaningful, relevant, and grounded learning experience integrated in our Catholic faith. You may complete the survey by clicking on this survey link: [Catholic School Parent Survey](#). Please complete your survey by Friday, May 15, 2020. Thank you in advance for sharing your voice and for assisting our planning processes.

In 2016, Pope Francis began a catechetical series on Christian hope. At the time, he wrote a line that strikes profound resonance during this COVID-19 crisis, "*Hope opens new horizons, making us capable of dreaming what is not even imaginable.*" Catholic schools are illuminating that same horizon with hope, to be sure, but also courage. As people of faith, may we be filled with the hope of the Risen Christ as we carefully plan and courageously dream for the future of our Catholic schools.

In Mission,



John Galvan
Director, Office for Schools

Cc: School Pastor, Principal, Bookkeeper