



Office for Schools

March 23, 2020

Dear Catholic School Families,

Blessings to you in this most extraordinary time.

It is extraordinary in its social and emotional impact, to be sure, but also in its impact on our spirit and psyche. What has been asked of each of us during this COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented. This Lent is calling us to make great social sacrifices. Children and many adults across the country are consigned to home, working parents are strapped to find childcare, households are stocking up for an unknown future, many jobs lie in the balance, churches are closed to congregations, and when we catch the eye of a stranger at the gas station or grocery store, there is understandable concern on their face.

Also extraordinary at this time is the continuing commitment and excellence of our Catholic school communities. Even as we are socially distanced, we have not turned inward. We are in communion with you and with our faithful God as much as ever. We continue to pray together. We are holding virtual morning assemblies. We are reaching out to parents regularly. We have created distance learning plans to ensure that education continues. We've created strong networks of teachers engaged in online professional meetups. Teachers have access to virtual instructional coaching. Our regional principal representatives are checking in weekly for virtual meetings and collaboration between schools. Your school can provide you with more information on how to support your children in virtual learning.

You got this!

You know firsthand that our Catholic schools are a gift to our Church and to our world, but where we stand today, the question of tuition is a real challenge for some families. With work hours either reduced, jobs eliminated or people furloughed, families are making difficult financial decisions. As you hit the reset on your household budget priorities, please remember that our Catholic schools are dependent upon tuition. In addition to maintaining general operations, tuition supports teacher/staff salaries and quality academic programming, including integrated faith formation. I ask that you continue to support your Catholic school with your tuition commitment. Your Catholic schools are here to support you and your children. Please work with your pastor and principal if the challenges of today become too much. It is our hope that the impending federal economic stimulus package will assist each of us in this commitment. As Church and as a global family, we are in this together.

Scripture tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of God (Rm 8:38-39). I pray that this same divine love companion your family and bring you comfort into the foreseeable future.

You remain and will always be in my prayers.

In Mission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Galvan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Galvan
Director, Office for Schools
Diocese of San Diego