



DIOCESE OF TRENTON

Department of Catholic Education

April 17, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As you are likely aware, Governor Murphy ordered that all New Jersey schools, public, private, and charter, will be closed at least until May 15, 2020 in an effort to curtail the spread of COVID-19. When the announcement was made on April 16, it was noted that 3,528 NJ residents had died from the virus and 75,317 individuals tested positive.

Principals continue to learn that family members in their school communities are testing positive with a number of serious cases involving hospitalization and confinement in Intensive Care Units. Thank you for keeping all affected by this virus in your prayers and for remembering those who have passed away as well as their loved ones.

During this time of confinement and social distancing, it is common that emotions give way to sadness and experiences of loss. That which identified our normal routine has changed. No one is immune from these feelings of uneasiness because we are hard-wired for connection. Stay close to loved ones through phone calls, facetime, or social media venues. Establishing routines may be helpful and talking about your feelings with a trusted loved one can be cathartic.

As closures are realized in the physical school buildings, our teachers continue with the commitment to educate students remotely. Our teachers teach the whole child and recognize the needs of children and their need for connectedness. Keep your child's teacher up to date not only with your child's academic progress, but also, with their social and emotional needs.

As we greet each new day, the words of Pope Francis are shared for the wisdom they contain:

"God asks us to view life as he views it, for in each of us he never ceases to see an irrepressible kernel of beauty. In sin, he sees sons and daughters to be restored; in death, brothers and sisters to be reborn; in desolation, hearts to be revived. Do not fear, then: the Lord loves your life, even when you are afraid to look at it and take it in hand. In Easter he shows you how much he loves that life: even to the point of living it completely, experiencing anguish, abandonment, death and hell, in order to emerge triumphant to tell you: 'You are not alone; put your trust in me!'"

May you know God's love each day,

JoAnn Tier
Superintendent of Catholic Schools