



**DIOCESE OF MONTEREY**  
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Dear Diocese of Monterey Catholic School Communities,

As we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord this coming Sunday, I pray that this message finds you and your families safe and healthy. While the initial events of this spring unfolded, I was on maternity leave with our first child, Abigail Anne. The Lord has blessed my husband and me with a healthy and joyful daughter. Upon my return, distance learning was well under way in our Catholic schools, and I am grateful for the tremendous work engaged by those in the Diocese of Monterey to ensure the continuity of our programs for our students.

**Gratitude**

My sincere thanks to Bishop Daniel Garcia and the diocesan team for supporting the schools in my absence. Deacon Hugo Patiño (Chancellor), Susan Mayer (Director of Human Resources) and Mimi Schwertfeger (Administrative Assistant) were instrumental in providing the necessary support for principals as the shelter-in-place orders were issued and our schools entered long-term dismissal.

Our principals, teachers and staff are gifts to our Catholic schools. I commend them for their quick action in transitioning to distance learning and for their continued dedication to our students. I am grateful for their vocation, now more than ever, as they walk with our children on this journey. Our schools are truly blessed by the love and tireless work from our Catholic educators.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our families for partnering with us to provide a quality Catholic education for our students. The continued commitment to Catholic education has made our distance learning program possible. Thank you to our families for making the necessary adjustments to home life to create a strong school-home partnership.

**Congratulations**

Special congratulations are extended to our graduates, the Class of 2020. Each school will take great care to celebrate their wonderful accomplishments. I pray that our graduates continue to rely on the Holy Spirit as they transition to the next stage in their lives.

**Looking Ahead**

The principals and I are currently working on plans for the 2020-2021 school year. The plans will be based on guidance from federal, state and county educational and public health agencies. While we cannot determine what public health conditions will look like in August, the health and safety of our students and staff remain our priority. We will prepare for new protocols and modifications to our campus environment and to our learning program. Our plans will be reviewed and approved by appropriate diocesan staff and county officials. I hope to be in contact with our school communities in the coming weeks and months as our plans progress. Should you have any questions about your school's efforts, please contact your principal directly.

Let us continue to pray for all those who are sick from this illness, those working on the front lines in all their various capacities, and those who find themselves experiencing financial hardships and emotional stress. We especially pray for all of our children, that they feel the love of their family, the love of their Catholic school community and the love of the Lord during these uncertain times. May we remain hopeful for the future and for the time when we can all come together again.

Prayerfully Yours in Christ,

Kimberly Cheng  
Superintendent