Catholic high school seniors look forward to graduation

By Steve Gust
The Sooner Catholic

When the coronavirus pandemic led to distance education, it was not the conclusion to the school year envisioned by seniors at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School or Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School.

Both schools recently held “drive through” robing ceremonies and will celebrate graduations in June and July. At Mount Saint Mary, graduation will be July 9 at the school’s football stadium. Bishop McGuinness will have its graduation June 16.

With the 2019-2020 school year becoming a unique senior year, graduating students shared their thoughts.

Joshua Cleary, The Mount
“During the pandemic, I found myself spending more time in the adoration chapel. Not receiving Christ in the Eucharist has made me find Christ more in a more spiritual way. I’ve learned to trust God and know he has it all under control, and he only gives the strongest people the hardest challenges. I am very grateful for a school administration that wants to give the seniors a special moment. Having one last Mount event at the school will be very special and I’ll remember it forever.”

Jacob Marino, Bishop McGuinness
“We weren’t expecting to finish our senior year like we did. We were robbed of our typical graduation ceremonies, regional and state competitions, and the social platform that going to school and seeing our friends provides for us. What kept me strong was recognizing that we were all in the same boat together, and that, as frustrating as it was, we were staying home for a cause that was bigger than ourselves.”

Sadie Harris - The Mount
“One of the major things I continue to remember about my faith is that it is so much more than the church building. Once the churches closed down, there seemed to be chaos, but to me it was an event that allowed people to grow spiritually. This past semester was something that no one expected and often times I found it hard to continue pushing myself. The staff at Mount Saint Mary did everything they could to make the rest of the year special for the senior class of 2020 and I think they did just that.”

continued on page 20

ARCHBISHOP COAKLEY CELEBRATED THE PENTECOST VIGIL MASS MAY 30 AT THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP. PHOTOS DIANE CLAY/SOONER CATHOLIC.
Workers spend time helping Enid community during pandemic

By K.S. McVatt
The Sooner Catholic

ENID — Abraham Alatorre usually works as a supervisor in the oilfield, but this spring he was supervising a crew of volunteers, tackling multiple repair projects at Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church and Saint Joseph Catholic School in Enid.

The crew members all are employees of Marsau Enterprises Inc., which despite the downturn in the oil industry and fallout from the coronavirus, has continued paying its workers.

“They have just done a marvelous job,” said Father Marlin Esau, president of Marsau Enterprises.

“They have just done a marvelous job,” said Father Marlin Esau, president of Marsau Enterprises.

Marsau Enterprises President Marion Eauu declined to talk about the company’s charity efforts, but Alatorre estimates the 270 employees at the company’s Enid location have provided free labor to more than 50 churches, schools and individuals.

Workers have tackled up trash along highways and cut down trees for homeowners who couldn’t afford to pay for the service. The company lets them choose the community service projects they want to do.

Alatorre is a member of Saint Francis Xavier and Saint Joseph Catholic School in Enid.

“We gave them a list of things that needed to be done. So far, they’ve tackled everything we asked them to do,” Eauu said.

Marsau, which has required hiring an outside contractor. Alatorre said he appreciates his employer giving the workers the opportunity to make a significant contribution to the community.

“We have the equipment. We have the manpower. We can do it,” he said.

“It feels good helping out,” K.S. McVatt is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

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Racism is a culture.

As a man of the Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church, Bishop Joseph N. Perry of Atlanta, has broken out in Minneapolis and in other cities in the United States. Bishop Perry of Atlanta, has broken out in Minneapolis and in other cities in the United States.

Bishop Joseph N. Perry, auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles, chairman of the Board of the Committee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development; and Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, bishop of the Diocese of Erie, said in a statement released the following statement:

“We are broken-hearted, sickened, and outraged to watch another video of an African American man being killed before our very eyes. What’s more astonishing is that this is happening within mere weeks of several other such occurrences. This is the latest wake-up call that needs to be answered by each of us in a spirit of determined conversion.

Racism is not a flaw of the past or a simply a throwaway political issue to be bandied about without thought to its consequences. It is a real and present danger that must be met head on. As members of the Body of Christ, we must stand for the most difficult right and just actions instead of the easy wrongs of indifference. We must see this blind eye to these atrocities and yet still try to profess to respect every human life. We serve a God who loves and justifies every person no matter their ethnicity. Alatorre is a member of Saint Francis Xavier.

Our Daily Bread

Prayer for graduates

Heavenly Father, Surround those who are graduating with your grace. Bless them with the hope so they may move into the future with eager and open hearts. Help them to put the knowledge, skills and insights gained through their education to use for the good of all humankind. Inspire them to believe in the goodness of life even when faced with challenges and difficulties. As they commence with their lives, may they grow ever more grateful and wise. May their beloved son, Amen.

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Employees of Marsau Enterprises Inc. have worked for weeks doing maintenance and repair work at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and St. Joseph Catholic School in Enid. The company is paying its employees to do community service projects in lieu of their regular work during the downturn in the oil industry. Photo by Dany Alatorre.

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The following events are part of Archbishop Cookley’s official calendar:

- June 7, 2020 - 7:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- June 9, 2020 - 7:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- June 10, 2020 - 7:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- June 11, 2020 - 7:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- June 12, 2020 - 7:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- June 13, 2020 - 7:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- June 14, 2020 - 7:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- June 15, 2020 - 7:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- June 16, 2020 - 7:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- June 17, 2020 - 7:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- June 18, 2020 - 7:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC
- June 19, 2020 - 7:30 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC

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**Lawton church repairs parish during pandemic**

By Joanna Schromen

The Sooner Catholic

LAWTON — Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Lawton took advantage of the public closing of Masses to repair the 119-year-old church with the help of funds raised through the “One Church, Many Disciples” campaign, and from generous parishioners. “I am glad for the opportunity to use a portion of the funds from our One Church Many Disciples Campaign for this local project,” said Father Bruce Buxteter, pastor. “Parishioners were overwhelmingly generous and are excited.”

The renovations began March 23 after public Masses were suspended in the archdiocese. Crews already were finishing the basement work and were planning on using the work order list from Easter to close the church for renovations. Father Buxteter said while he would have much rather had public Masses, the timing worked out well to complete the repairs. “We are finishing the floors and pews in our parish. We are also rebalancing the sanctuary risers as well as some structural beams and columns in the basement below the apse,” Father Buxteter said. The floor beneath the pews has already been refurbished. Sister Mary Miguel of the One Church, Many Disciples’ Campaign said there are 107 churches and missions that have participated in the campaign, and all of the churches and missions have received a portion of the funds collected to go toward local projects. “It’s not just one area of the state or one area of the archdiocese that gets to benefit from the campaign. It is very humbling to know we are so blessed, and people are sharing their faith and sharing their treasure for the greater good,” Miguel said. “We are going to see immediate impacts, like new carpet, new paint, new roofs, a lot of things happening in construction.”

He added that the impact from the capital campaign is going to be felt for many years to come. Some of the things the campaign will fund include priests’ retirement and helping to strengthen parishes. Archbishop Coakley is a freethinking writer with the Sooner Catholic.

**From the Archives ...**

A photo series from George Rigazzi, archdiocesan archivist

Mother Paula O’Reilly, from Creston, Iowa, is esteemed as the foundress of the Benedictine Sisters in Oklahoma. Under her guidance the transfer of the sisterhood from Creston to Guthrie (the capital of Oklahoma Territory) set the stage for these cloistered women and started a new place in the forming of the Church in Oklahoma. In her biography of the venerable superior, Saint Mary Louis George gave this description of Mother Mary Paula she received from an elder- nyum: “Tall, slender, stately. Nice-looking — very strict, especially about observances. Hands under her capuc, especially strict about silence. Not much public correction but gave instructions. Well educated. Wasn’t anything she couldn’t talk about.”

The Prefect Apostolic of Indian Territory, Father Ignatius Jean, petitioned Mother Mary Paula to send sisters from Creston to initiate a school for the young women in the area. As soon as our Lord announced it in the Gospel, the Lord said, “You have the words of eternal life. The Holy Spirit that was given to us and is an unending gift to us. He added that the impact from the capital campaign is going to be felt for many years to come. Some of the things the campaign will fund include priests’ retirement and helping to strengthen parishes. Archbishop Coakley is a freethinking writer with the Sooner Catholic.

**The Sooner Catholic**


domestic rituals.

Church today, they pale in comparison to the feast of The Body and Blood of Christ will be celebrated on June 14. It is a reminder of a great gift from the Lord.

Jesus lost many of his followers over a truth that can be difficult to understand — people must eat his flesh and drink his blood. When many of his followers questioned him on this, Jesus remained firm and let them leave “to return to their former lives.” He asked Saint Peter if he also wanted to leave, and Saint Peter said, “You have the words of eternal life.”

The late Archbishop Fulton Sheen added to the above by saying, “The Eucharist is so essential to our oneness with Christ that we lose our Lord announced it in the Gospel, it began to be the test of the fidelity of his followers.”

When you love something, you are willing to sacrifice anything for it. I love the Church, and I am open to being one of its priests. God willing, of course.

**To learn more about seminar, contact:** Rev. Brian Buxteter at bbeutler@archokc.org or 405-721-1810, okcvocations.com

**Pastors to reschedule Confirmations**

Archbishop Coakley has delegated the pastors of affected parishes to confirm the young people in each parish who have been preparing for Confirmation. This gives each parish the freedom to reschedule according to the needs of their particular situation. Archbishop Coakley deeply regrets that he is unable to be with the young people around the archdiocese for this important event in their lives. Though he wishes he could be there in person, he is praying in a special way for them during this time.
You are not alone!

Real Life Disciples

On May 23 and 24, many Catholics experienced a return to the Eucharist after more than eight weeks of COVID-19 quarantine. It was a glorious day. They say, “absence makes the heart grow fonder,” which for me was most true.

The first time I was able to receive the Eucharist again was one of my biggest high points of the past several months. Then, beginning on May 25, many parishes resumed limited ministry activities. Is it possible we are beginning to get back to some semblance of normal? Only time will tell.

One of my concerns, though, is what is the true state of things across our archdiocese? Spiritu- ally? Emotionally? Articles and studies seem to be pointing to some dismal statistics nationally. Some cities have seen as much as a 350 percent increase in calls to substance abuse call centers, and an 800 percent increase in calls to suicide hotlines. Many cities are reporting significantly increased rates of domestic violence calls, child abuse reports and other family disputes. And, we are aware of the many people who are losing jobs due to the financial impact of the shut-down.

I’m not sure if these reports reflect our local situation. I actu- ally have been trying for weeks to get through to local hotlines and centers for assistance to ask that question and can’t get anyone to respond to me. Perhaps that’s an indication of an overwhelmed system. Without further vetting, we can’t be sure, but for now I think it’s safe to assume that we’re experiencing at least some of this reality here in Oklahoma.

This is what the Catholic Church is good at, and something Oklahoma-ans are uniquely poised for as well. Responding in times of great need is at the heart of our faith, and it is at the core of what it means to be a disciple. When Jesus says, “Come follow me,” he is meaning to be like him, do the kinds of things he did, allow our- selves to be drawn to the kind of people he was.

When we read through the Gos- pels nothing is more clear than the fact that Jesus was unique- ly drawn to the weak, the lowly, the sick and the downtrodden. He actually avoided the wealthy and the powerful and was somewhat ailed to those who didn’t have any needs.

Pope Francis once said, “Having faith does not mean having no difficulties, but having the strength to face them, knowing we are not alone.” When you study discipleship throughout the history of the Church, one of the characteristics that emerges is the strength of community. Strong dis- ciples, and even those who have been named saints in our faith, seldom come as isolated individu- als. They tend to come in bunches – hands of brothers and sisters, serving together, supporting one another, holding each other up in the face of difficulty and trial.

My prayer over the past several weeks has been for an increase in the spirit of empathy and concern among all of the Catholics in our archdiocese. We have just cele- brated the Feast of Pentecost. May the Holy Spirit stir up these graces in our hearts, in all our parishes and schools, that we would be drawn to each other’s needs. As Pope Benedict XVI once said, “We need to draw from the infinite love of God, through an intense relation- ship with him in prayer, the strength to live day-by-day with concrete concerns, like that of the Good Samaritan, for those suffer- ing in body and spirit who ask for our help, whether or not we know them and however poor they may be.”

Here are some simple principles that could lead us through this dif- ficult time:

1. Be aware of yourself – take your “temperature,” your emotion- al temperature that is. Be aware of how you are doing, be aware of your emotions and your physical limits, and when you are being stretched beyond those and need a break.

2. Stay rooted in your faith – re- member that our faith was made for this kind of stuff. There is no hardship or difficulty we can ex-perience that is too much for God. You can be confident that he will never leave you or abandon you in time of need; you can have no fear because we know that he is with us! (Isaiah 41:10). God is the source of all consolation, and when we allow him to comfort us when we allow him to comfort us in times of need, we find the grace and power to be a source of consola- tion to others, as St. Paul says, “The Father of mercies and God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction, with the consolation with which we ourselves are conso- led by God” (2 Cor 1:3-4).

3. Don’t hesitate to reach out for help – in times of difficulty it is common to isolate and pull away from friends and loved ones. That’s exactly the opposite of what we should do! Other people in our life can’t read your mind or know what is going on in your life and your heart. They will never know unless you tell them. If you are struggling, in any way, please – reach out to someone in your faith and ask them if they will walk with you through this difficult time!

And finally, help others – I have found over and over again in my life during times of great struggle and hardship, my prob- lems seemed to fade when I got out of myself and went out to help someone else. It’s counterintuitive, but it works. There’s just some- thing about stretching out of my own downstridden state to help another person that puts me in solidarity with them and helps me realize that I’m not the only one with troubles.

You are not alone! Even though we are all “social distancing” in response to this pandemic, let’s not relate- ionally distance ourselves from each other. Check in on your family and friends, your neighbors, your fellow parishioners and your kid’s classmate’s parents. Ask them how they are doing. Then, ask them again. “No, how are you really doing?” And, take the time to really listen. This is a time like no other! And, take the time to really listen. This is a time like no other! And, take the time to really listen.

We have developed a new page on the archdiocesan website that lists all kinds of resources for those who find themselves in need. You can check it out here: archdioc.org/notalone.

Holy Innocents’ Foundation and Adoration Chapel of Oklahoma

announced plans to reopen and resume perpetual adoration in War- r Acres the week of June 8, said Father M. Price Oswalt, president and chaplain.

The chapel has been closed since March due to the coronavirus pan- demic. “Plans are still being formulated, and the new adoration coordinators are working with our list of donors to make sure we can cover the nec- essary hours to have 24/7 adora- tion,” Father Oswalt said.

He indicated that the plan is to hold an opening Mass on Monday, June 8 and resume adoration fol- lowing.

As with many situations and institutions, our parishes and schools, Oswalt indicated that Holy Innocents has experienced a funding shortfall in the COVID-19 shutdown. “Our revenues, donations and contributions have declined, but our bills have not! It still costs us about $4,500 a month to operate and pay the mortgage on the building.”

Donations can be sent to Holy Innocents’ Foundation, P.O. Box 2217, OKC 73123 or online at Holyinnocentsokc.org by using Pay- pal. All donations are tax deduct- ible.

To volunteer for adoration, con- tact adoration@holyinnocentsokc. gmail.com.
Consecration to St. Joseph: The wonders of our spiritual father

By Br. Benet Eustas, O.B.B.
The Sooner Catholic

Our celebration of the Eucharist, the Mass, is one act of worship divided into two parts: Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This our act of thanksgiving where bread and wine are consecrated by Christ himself. 

The Body and Blood of Christ is our divine nourishment.

1406 Jesus said: “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; ... who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and ... shines in me, and in him.”

1407 The Eucharist is the heart and the summit of the Church’s life, for in it Christ associates his Church and all her members with his sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving offered once and for all on the cross of his Father; by this sacrifice he pours out the graces of salvation on his body, which is the Church.

Consecration to St. Joseph: The wonders of our spiritual father

By Br. Benet Eustas, O.B.B.
The Sooner Catholic

This book by Father Donald Calloway, M.I.C., is about preparing to be consecrated to Saint Joseph. One can do this, or one can use the book for accessing a lot of information and quotes from a lot of saints, popes and other Catholic authors on Saint Joseph. This book also could be used as a mini retreat.

The book has an introduction and then is divided into three parts: the first part is a 33-day preparation for the consecration to Saint Joseph. Each day has readings from Scripture, saints, blessed, and others.

Some of the saints, blesseds and others are: Saint Paul VI, Saint John XXIII, Saint John Paul II, Saint John Neumann, Blessed William Chaminade, Pope Benedict XVI, Saint Teresa of Avila, Blessed Bartolo Longo, The Catechism of the Catholic Church and other people from various times and places.

The second part is entitled “The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father,” which presents 10 “wonders” as themes that are: 1. Delight of saints which has quotes and stories by several saints like Saint Andrew Beckett who founded the Oratory of Saint Joseph in Canada, and other saints. 2. Our Spiritual Father which talks about Saint Joseph being declared by Blessed Pope Pius XII as patron of the Universal Church. 3. Young Husband of Mary. 4. Virginal Father of Jesus. 5. Just and Devout Man. 6. Son of the Savor, which discusses the sorrows of Saint Joseph and how he saved Jesus and Mary from danger. 7. Adviser of Christ where Saint Joseph adored Jesus in the flesh whereas we admit him in the Eucharist. 8. Silent Witness that presents Saint Joseph terror of demons pray for us!

There are two appendices with the first being on how to make a group preparation for consecration and the second is on what one can do after the consecration is done. There are two additional sections. The first is two meditations on Saint Joseph and the second is a list of churches and shrines in the world dedicated to Saint Joseph. There is a bibliography and the book finishes with nine color illustrations.

Again, this book is a means to prepare to be consecrated to Saint Joseph or it can be used as a mini retreat. There are so many quotes from saints, popes and many other Catholic authors which alone makes this book a treasure trove. May Saint Joseph terror of demons pray for us!

Br. Benet Eustas, O.B.B., from Saint Gregory’s Abbey, is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.
La Ecuaristía en El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica

Selecciones de la sección “Resumen” con algunos pensamientos personales

Papa: la maravilla regalada a la oración de la creación abre corazones a la vida

Por Juanjo Archo Esteros

Cátedra Nueva Vida

La Ecuaristía, la Misa, es un culto, un acto de adoración, dividido en dos partes: la Liturgia de la Palabra y la Liturgia de la Eucaristía. Esta es nuestra acción de gracias, donde el pan y el vino son consagrados por Cristo mismo, a través de su instrumento, el sacerdote. El Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo es nuestro adorno divino.

A final de cada sección principal del Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, especialmente los más destacados de esta sección; y que nos hacen ver un visión general al rígido de las enseñanzas de la Iglesia sobre un tema determinado minimizando esta “Resumen” y se actualiza sobre esas verdades. Para terminar al Catecismo, comenzamos con un resumen integral de la oración de Cristo y Jesús, como una unión de dios y el hombre, como un acto de adoración. En el capítulo de la Liturgia de la Eucaristía, esta es nuestra acción de gracias, donde el pan y el vino son consagrados por Cristo mismo, a través de su instrumento, el sacerdote. El Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo es nuestro adorno divino.

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El Pan de Ángeles, la Ecuaristía, cuando se recibe adecuadamente, nos da una enseñanza sobre nuestra relación con Dios que nos une a todos con Cristo y todos los demás. Compartirnos y en y a través de Cristo, en la Eucaristía, nos unimos a un poder que única que solo se puede rumber a través de la ignorancia y el pecado.

El día 1418 El nuevo servicio para informar sobre abusos de Obispos Católicos.

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**Jobs Box**

**St. Stanley Rother Shrine executive director**
The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking an executive director for the St. Stanley Rother Shrine. The position is responsible for the operation of the shrine, which is located at the intersection of Donna and Driskill Avenues in Oklahoma City. Duties include leading and directing the shrine’s operations, overseeing all business and operational aspects of the shrine; providing executive leadership to all employees and contractors supporting the shrine; maintaining relationships with the facilities, programs, resources, research development and outreach; and serving as the assistant secretary of the board of directors for the shrine corporation as a non-voting member; seeking and promoting pilgrimages and other activities that take place on the shrine campus. Must be a faithful Catholic who is active in parish life and forms life around the teachings of the Church; possesses a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution; and has expertise in business or other disciplines using analytical processes. Five years in executive leadership with complete financial responsibility is required. Must be able to provide oversight to staff and maintain relationships with the shrine leadership preferred. Bilingual in Spanish strongly preferred. Submit inquiries and resumes to slangendorf@archokc.org.

**Principal - OCR**
The Oklahoma City Catholic School in Oklahoma City is seeking a principal for the 2021-2022 school year. Must be a practicing Catholic and an outstanding educator with a minimum of five years teaching experience. Administrative experience and bilingual in Spanish preferred. Applicants are expected to meet archdiocesan requirements. Salary and benefits will be commensurate with experience and archdiocesan guidelines. Postion effective July 1, 2021. Applications must be submitted. P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, 73123 or call (405) 721-4202.

**Office manager - OCR**
St. Joseph Old Cathedral has an opening for an office manager. This position will serve as staff resource in support of the pastor, fulfilling parish administrative needs in finance, fundraising, building, grounds and personnel. Experience in business management, including accounting and office management, preferred. Position requires attention to detail with great accuracy, flexibility and adaptability. Use of Microsoft Office applications and Excel and PowerPoint required. Must be familiar with database management. Spanish language preferred. Submit inquiries and resumes to Lauren Gallagher, principal, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School, P.O. Box 510, Edmond, OK 73013 or lgallagher@seasok.org.

**Art teacher - Edmond**
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School, Oklahoma City, is seeking an art teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. Interested applicants should hold at least a bachelor’s degree with teaching certification. Send resume, cover letter and copy of credentials to Laura Maggio, principal, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, P.O. Box 510, Edmond, OK 73013 or lmaggio@seasok.org.

**Math/English instructor**
Bishop McGuinness High School in Downtown OKC is accepting applications for a mathematics/engineering instructor in the STEM department. The successful candidate would be responsible for teaching sections of Principles of Engineering, Pre-Calculus, and STEM II, as well as coaching the First Tech Challenge Robotics team. For the full job description and to apply, visit www.bms.okarchdiocese.org/employment.

**Middle school administrator - Oklahoma City**
Christ the King Catholic School is interviewing middle school administrators for the 2021-2022 school year. A bachelor’s degree in education and state teaching certificate required. Send resume, cover letter to Amy Forney, Christ the King School, 1905 Elmhurst Ave., Oklahoma City 73120 or afluegner@christthe kingschool.org.
Ellie Franks – Bishop McGuinness

“This semester was unexpected and unusual for sure. As seniors, we didn’t know that our last day of school before spring break would be our last day of school ever. Before school ended, a couple of my friends started a Bible study and we would meet Wednesday before school. We continued to meet through Zoom during the beginning of the pandemic and they helped me to stay optimistic and positive. This break from reality has really allowed me to notice God’s presence in the little things all around me. I’m thankful for the friends and family God has placed in my life who help me get through challenging times like these.”

Katherine Gallagher – The Mount

“This semester has definitely shaken up my life. I honestly don’t know how I would’ve gotten through it if I didn’t lean on Christ. God was the only constant. I am so grateful to attend Mount Saint Mary, especially at a time like this. MSM has made us seniors feel special through multiple different senior events and made sure we knew we were a priority. I don’t think there’s a member of the MSM class of 2020 who doesn’t know the love this school has for us.”

Clare Jordan - Bishop McGuinness

“My faith during this time has greatly assisted me in staying motivated. I firmly believe that everything happens for a reason and that God will have a plan for us that will later be revealed. With this belief in mind, I try to focus on what I can do to continue living. For example, each year at Bishop McGuinness we have a tradition where we host ‘Olympics Week.’ This is an event that the whole school looks forward to each year and sadly we couldn’t have it in person. But, fortunately we were blessed enough to host the event online. Myself and a small group of students found a way to host talent shows, trivia, gaming events and more virtually. It was a lot of fun and the majority of the school was really invested in participating. I also have been making masks, writing letters to all my friends and even preparing for an online national speech and debate competition. God has blessed me in many ways and the pandemic does not take that away from me. It’s still my responsibility and pleasure to find ways to give back even if things look a bit different this year.”

Steve Gust is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.