

May 1, 2020

From the Headmaster



On this May 1, we have recourse to the entire Holy Family to protect our school: St. Joseph the Worker, whose feast we celebrate today; our Blessed Mother Mary, as we begin her special month; and the Sacred

Heart of Jesus, on this First Friday.

I had hoped to report to you today on plans for the end of the school year later this month. But as I write we are still awaiting Governor Holcomb's announcement about restrictions going forward. I hope that teachers and students will be able to see each other, somehow, before summer begins, and I'll let you know when we work things out. Thank you for your patience – just two weeks of remote learning left!

By now, almost all returning families have received tuition worksheets for the coming school year. Please contact me if you have any questions or problems with tuition. I want to emphasize that we are moving full speed ahead to prepare for the new school year. We're focusing now on working out class schedules and interviewing candidates for the two remaining teaching positions.

Of course, we don't know for sure what will happen, but I strongly believe that we have to act on the assumption that life will go on. I've said before that I'm an optimist, and I do actually believe that things will return to a semblance of normal. But ultimately we depend not on optimism that things will go well, but on trust in God's providence and protection no matter what.

Last Saturday, the Archdiocese sent principals an invitation to join a nationwide call for Catholic educators with President Trump, so I listened in. Among the speakers were Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop Gomez, and other bishops. It became clear that Catholic schools, especially in big cities, face a very serious challenge from a double hit to parish collections and family incomes. And I believe that all private schools are being hurt by reckless speculation about months and years of closings. In my view, the focus should be on how schools will open in the fall, rather than speculating on whether they can.

The good news is that Lumen Christi is surprisingly well positioned to weather the storm. Because we are small, debt-free, and independent, we can be much more flexible. We are blessed with dedicated teachers, families, and benefactors. So I'm planning to open August 24 for a normal school year, but we'll also be ready to adjust as needed. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have suggestions or concerns.

I believe that it's more important than ever for us to stand our ground. During this crisis, I see growing hostility to Christian faith and religious freedom – for example, when officials impose added restrictions on worship or target pro-life demonstrators under stay-at-home orders. As followers of Christ, we can't be surprised by opposition in this world, nor should we be afraid of it.

We know that true freedom comes from Christ's sacrifice, breaking the bonds of sin and death, and that no one on earth can take away that freedom. But we also know that God made us to be free to love and serve Him, and we must defend freedom for our brothers and sisters and future generations. At Lumen Christi, we continue to be blessed with freedom to worship God and teach our children as we believe. We must do what we can to sustain the precious legacy we have received.

So I believe we are part of something bigger than we may have imagined. But our role is not so grand, just to do what has to be done each day to keep our school operating and true to its mission. I'm grateful for your faithful support of Lumen Christi and for your continued prayers for our school.

Teaching the unity of faith and reason, through the Light that is Christ Jesus, for the formation of young Catholics in truth and virtue.