



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 30, 2020

Dear Catholic School Families, Faculty, and Staff,

As we continue to advance our journey in the cloud of the COVID-19 CoronaVirus, we are experiencing significant changes, especially because we have had to transform our schools to be places very different from the buildings where we felt at home and enjoyed each other's company just a few weeks ago. Your homes have become classrooms where teaching and learning has continued with little more than a blink. To say that this is profound reflects a sense of disbelief. I look forward to the time when we will come back together in the true essence of our communities of parishes and Catholic schools. While we look forward to that time, we continue on our Lenten journey.

On Friday, April 3rd, we will pause from our academic online learning programs as we begin our faith passage through Holy Week. Our focus during Holy Week is on faith formation and the traditions of our faith. We begin with Palm Sunday, move through the Easter Triduum, then on to the joy that will be celebrated with the remembrance and celebration of our risen Lord on Easter Sunday. Please find all of our diocesan events surrounding this Holy Week at www.syrdio.org.

During this most important week in our Liturgical calendar, we encourage your family to come closer to each other and stronger in the practice of your Catholic faith by being together and praying together. In order to devote time and attention to Holy Week, our school communities will take a well earned change of pace from the challenge of remote academic studies that our Catholic school families have embraced with impressive results. Our schools will resume online instruction beginning on Wednesday, April 15th with a planning day provided for our teachers on Tuesday, April 14th.

Sr. Laura Bufano, CSJ, Director of Pastoral Leadership, recently offered a timely selection of prose, "How we are who we are can become a catalyst for change...lean into this opportunity to be transformed." I want to thank all of you for your commitment to Catholic school education in this time of change; let us embrace the opportunity to be transformed according to God's plan.





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I pray that good health and the love of God surrounds you and your loved ones this Holy Week and through the Easter Season.

Sincerely,

William W. Crist

March 30, 2020

