



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

Department of Education

March 31, 2020

Dear Diocesan Families:

Today has been a truly exhilarating experience. Throughout our Diocese, our teachers and students began virtual instruction and distance learning. The enthusiasm and spirit of engagement were so palpable. I am sure that there will need to be some adjustments along the way, but our teachers and students are resilient and willing to adapt as needed. Thank you for the love and support that you have given to our schools during this challenging time. Please be assured of our prayers and support in the coming weeks.

In line with Governor DeSantis' announcement on March 30, 2020, all activities and classes on the campuses of the schools throughout the Diocese will remain suspended through May 1. All of our schools will continue to deliver instruction through distance learning through this date.

In a special way, I want to express my gratitude to the students and families who are eager to learn in some new and exciting ways and to the talented people working in our schools.

To all of our students, you have waited patiently to get back to learning, and we are excited to deliver an engaging Catholic education that you will love, so thank you.

To all of our teachers, you have demonstrated incredible creativity, collegiality, and compassion as you have prepared for today and the weeks ahead, so thank you.

To all of our school counselors and student support staff, you have remained a positive source of support, love, and concern for our students, their families, and our teachers, so thank you.

To all of our technology teachers and coordinators, you jumped right in to find resources, to offer tech support, and to be available, so thank you.

To all of our administrators and our support staff, you have been working day and night to ensure that our schools and our teams were prepared to launch our eLearning, so thank you.

Most importantly, to God, we have been blessed beyond measure and put our faith and trust in you, so thank you for always being there for us especially in this time of need.

Yours in Christ,

**Ben Hopper, MA
Interim Superintendent of Catholic Education**

cc: Dr. Volodymer Smeryk, Chancellor

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