



*Go Make Disciples*

## EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

March 23, 2020

Dear Elementary and Middle School Catholic School Families,

I write to you today to provide you with updates regarding the Catholic school response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I appreciate how our school communities have been supportive, understanding, and flexible with school leaders as we all continue to monitor the effect that COVID-19 is having on our communities. When I wrote to you last week, I communicated that our schools would be closed through April 5th and that principals would be in touch regarding each school's specific learning plan. We are continuing to evaluate whether our schools will return to session on Monday, April 6th, but in the interim, our schools' leadership teams are working diligently to develop and implement distance learning plans that will begin serving students on Monday, March 30th.

PK-8 principals will soon be in contact with specific details about their site's learning plan. Please understand that as all schools move forward to continue to provide students with quality Catholic instruction, schools will need a few days to implement a solid and effective distance learning plan. Shifting from a traditional educational environment to a distance learning model will take a few days of training and preparation. This has been a smaller shift to make for our Catholic high schools who have been able to begin implementing distance learning with our 9th through 12th grade students this week. For those of you worried about any loss of instructional time, please know that our Catholic schools are in session for five more days than our public school counterparts. These days are built-in year after year and at times we must use them to provide our schools with flexibility in dealing with school closures that arise from weather, safety or in this unique circumstance, public health emergencies. These additional planning days this week will help ensure that our teachers and schools can have everything in place to be able to serve students when we return to instruction via a new educational model - distance learning - as a system of schools on Monday, March 30, 2020.

Please know that our principals and teachers are committed professionals, who will continue to work hard to provide your students with the highest quality of faith-based education possible. We are, primarily, a system of Catholic schools, and our mission is and continues to be doing all that we can to produce young people who are formed in God's love and mercy. Let that noble cause guide all of us in these stressful times and may we all grow closer to our Creator and Lord through our trials and victories. Thank you for your patience, prayers and support.

In Christ,

Diane Floyd, Ed.D.

*Superintendent of Schools*