



THE NEWMAN SCHOOL

March 20, 2020

Dear Newman Friends:

Wherever you find yourself right now, I hope you are well. Whether we consider our challenges from the perspective of our country, our city, our school, our family, or individually, we certainly are in the midst of what is for us an unprecedented time. Some of us are experiencing illness, and at such times of great personal anxiety and difficulty in my own life, I never found any greater consolation than faith and prayer. For others among us, and I count myself and my family in this larger group, the challenge is emotional: perhaps boredom, perhaps loneliness, perhaps anxiety.

Let's lift one another's spirits, both through prayer and through encouraging acts. Patty and I have organized daily zoom chats with our grandchildren, with our brothers and sisters, and with friends. It is all a bit crazy and a lot of fun. Hoping that we are soon out of this situation, but preparing for the possibility that it could be a long haul, I am going to create more of such groups. You can do the same! Suddenly we know all about our god-daughter's college search process, our niece's graduate school plans, my sister's grandchildren. While some things have been taken away from us, we are fortunate in that we have found other treasures. When we're online with our grandchildren, it is a teacher's nightmare of jostling for position in front of cameras, seeing who can yell the loudest to gain attention, and sibling rivalries on open display. It's a bit crazy but once one decides to embrace the madness, it's something everyone looks forward to each day! You can do the same!

Cardinal Newman said, "I am a bond of connection between persons." What a great thought for our lives these days, that are at the same time disconnected, and yet more connected than ever.

We've been on spring break, and classes resume on Monday. But of course I cannot say "we come back into school on Monday." All classes will be online. There is plenty of learning to go around this time: students learning and mastering new material, and teachers learning how to convey their classes over the internet. It's back to September for everyone. Probably you're having the same experience, either with your children or your work. We'll all miss old routines, but perhaps when those do return, we can look at them with fresh eyes and renewed appreciation. And in the meantime, we can reach out to one another, and form those "bonds of connection" Newman spoke of from the depths of his spiritual wisdom.

With fond regards, best wishes, and prayers for all,

Harry Lynch
Headmaster