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# MEGAPHONE

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Front cover: About 30 minutes before school ended, President Dr. Robert Bridges announced on March 12 that the campus would shut down. A few students lingered in front of Kelly Hall, waiting for rides home. It will now be at least until May before classes resume. **Cathedran file photo.**

Back cover: The campus was eerily quiet on March 18, the fourth day of the shutdown, with many more to come. **Photo by Caroline Steiger.**

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# A letter from the editors

Dear Cathedral faculty, staff, students and families:

We wanted to give you all an update through this introduction and with this entire issue to keep you informed about the current situation with the coronavirus in relation to the Cathedral community. We know you are probably sick of all these updates because the situation is constantly changing and each day there is new breaking news, but we know it is helpful to hear from a student news source.

If you haven't already, go check out all the emails from the administration that are providing updates, because those are vital as well for keeping up with everything that is going on specifically at Cathedral.

For this issue, we put together a mixture of stories and sources that we hope will prove insightful for all our readers. The newspaper faculty moderator, Mr. Tony Willis, and our staff during the first week of the shutdown were in communication and decided to keep everyone updated both on the website, [www.irishmegaphone.com](http://www.irishmegaphone.com).

Our goal the entire year, regardless of whether there was a pandemic, was to let our Cathedral family know exactly what was going on in their community. We have always strived to produce clear and accurate content that allows our readers to stay informed. This is the beauty of journalism right now.

Journalists across the country are working tirelessly to keep people updated because we need to know what is going on to keep both ourselves and our families safe. We are sure almost everyone with access to the internet is constantly checking the news, social media and other sources for the most current information on the situation within both the United States and the world, but we wanted to remind you of the power of keeping yourself informed locally, even when there isn't a global pandemic to worry about.

We wanted to keep updating everyone, but senior Nic Napier also wanted to convey a message for the Class of 2020.

Working on the Megaphone this year as a senior has been an amazing adventure. I found my passion for writing and a love for journalism through this course and all the people I have met along the way. I have loved covering all the news stories that originate on campus, but this latest one has really taken a toll. I

am hurting with the rest of my seniors.

I wanted to reach out to all of you and say that I know the news that school is going to be out at least until May 4 was crushing. Most of you are likely asking yourselves how can that be? We have so much more to do before we graduate. We have relationships we need to build and grow, we have our last prom to go to, we have a wall to paint, we have gowns to wear, and so much more.

The simple fact of the matter is that we got robbed. There is really no better way to put it. This year is a one-time experience and it was stolen away from us due to something no one could really control.

I am sorry, seniors. I am so sorry, from the bottom of my heart, that 2020 has not gone the way we expected it to.

I want each and every one of you to know that, although it won't be the same, the administration has a plan for us to graduate. They want to hand us, in person, our diplomas, and wish us luck as we enter into our adult lives. It may not be the graduation we wanted, but it will be a graduation. Every one of you has worked so hard for this moment, the moment when you get to walk up in front of your friends and family and say, "Look at me, I did it. I am a Cathedral graduate."

I can tell you, from watching Dr. Bridges' video, from hearing friends and family, and knowing the resilient spirit of the Cathedral community, we will graduate.

So, thank you for taking the time to read the Megaphone. We appreciate each and every reader because you are the ones who drive us to make better content and drive us to get you the truth. We hope you all take this time to enjoy the company of your family, go out for some fresh air, do your best to get those eLearning assignments done, and maybe binge that Netflix show you have been wanting to watch.

Please keep checking our website for updates. Check your emails to see if the administration has any more updates, too. Continue checking out [www.irishmegaphone.com](http://www.irishmegaphone.com) and following us on Twitter: @IrishMegaphone.

Most importantly, stay healthy, keep washing your hands.

Junior Ava Amos, co-editor-in-chief  
Senior Nic Napier, co-editor-in-chief

# Mental health

Mental health counselor Mrs. Sarah Ehlich answers questions about the school shutting down and what students can do to support their social connections and well being.

BY ETHAN ECKHART

**What strategies can students use to help stay calm during this time?**

- **Keep to a schedule and a routine.**

It's an abnormal time for everyone, but if you can keep a routine going things will feel more normal and productive.

- **Take a break from social media and the news.**

It is important to stay informed, but all day every day will become overwhelming.

- **Make sure the information you have is credible and up to date.**

Facebook is not a credible news source.

- **Get outside.**

Go outside if you can and move your body. Be around nature. Moving your body and connecting with nature are proven ways to reduce stress and anxiety, even when there is not a pandemic.

- **Look for the positive.**

Look for the helpers, and be a helper if you can.

- **Find things you can do that are in your control.**

We can't control what is happening around us at times, but we can focus on things like homework, taking a walk, making sure you get enough sleep, putting good things in your body, connect with your community, Facetime with friends, prayer, meditation, etc.

- **Find online resources that are focused on mental, physical, and emotional health.**

If you belong to the YMCA they have online resources for free right now, a lot of yoga studios are offering online yoga classes, use Headspace or Calm for mindfulness and meditation resources. Moodpath is a free app that helps track mood and provides feedback based on the trends of your mood. It also provides tips and resources. I enjoy the blog <https://www.heysigmund.com/> for great tips and suggestions for anxiety, depression, stress and relationships.

- **Reach out to a mental health professional if you are really struggling.**

If you are already connected to a mental health professional, make sure you are connecting with them via phone calls or virtual communication. If you are not connected to a mental health professional, there are online resources that are wonderful for both short term and long term use. The two most credible and commonly used are Betterhelp and Talkspace.

**What is the best way for students to stay on schedule?**

- **Create a routine.**

Keep weekdays similar to your normal school schedule. Get up early, eat breakfast, log in and make sure you are attending your online classes, connect via Google chats, eat lunch, take breaks. Keep your weekends as normal as possible. Sleep in, enjoy time with your family and friends (virtually) and get outside.

- **Find ways to stay accountable.**

Team up with classmates, friends, siblings, parents to make sure you are staying on track as well as asking for help when you need it.

- **Try to limit screen time**

Limit screen time to breaks and typical after school time.

- **Maintain a normal bedtime and meal time.**

- **Make sure to be in a space free of distraction.**

**A lot of students depend on face to face conversations with their teacher. What is the best way for them to implement this learning style online, so they do not have anxiety while learning?**

Stay connected. Utilize the amazing technology resources we have and attend Google hangouts, watch the videos, take the quizzes, use the resources teachers give you. Talk to teachers and ask questions as you normally would. They are available. The freedom and flexibility of online classes mean students have to be even more responsible and self-motivated.

**What activities or games can the students do to help reduce stress?**

Do anything you would normally do to relieve stress and have fun, just minus the social contact for the time being. Bust out board games you have not played in a while, do a puzzle, paint, color, ride your bike, run, walk, play basketball, go to the park, read a good book. Facetime your friends. I am a big fan of Table Topics and other conversation starters that help create dialogue you might not normally have, and can help change the conversation away from COVID-19.

**How have you helped students so far?**

I am offering students who see me phone call sessions, and soon we will be doing telehealth sessions. I have also been providing the counseling department some tools and resources, very similar to the ones I am sharing with you, that help provide students who do not see me some support.

**Are there any other tips, or anything else you would like the students to know to help stay calm?**

Relax as much as you can. It is important to take recommendations and protocols seriously. This is a serious situation that none of us have really seen in our lifetime; however, it is important to remember that what we are doing as a nation is to prevent crisis and protect our most at risk populations. Make sure to surround yourself with positive supports and resources. If you aren't feeling scared, anxious or overwhelmed, that's OK. Just make sure you are being cautious and following protocols for others.

**If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, please make sure you contact crisis support.**

Text IN to 741741

Call 800 273-8255 or 317 621-5700

National Suicide Hotline 800 273-8255

# Campus closed

President provides an overview of the decision that he and other administrators made to close the campus due to the coronavirus crisis.

BY AVA AMOS

There still may be some questions regarding the school's closing and how and why the decision was made, so President Dr. Rob Bridges provided insight as to how and why this decision came to be, how we can stay positive through it all and how to make the best out of an unfortunate situation.

Bridges said, "Beginning the week of March 2, we began ramping up our discussions about this. It was becoming clear that the situation was growing rapidly worse in China, as well as South Korea and Europe. Principal Mrs. (Julie) Barthel and I wanted to make sure that we would 'Cathedral-ize' the (eLearning days) to keep our students sound in their hearts as well as their minds," he said.

Bridges added he had hoped the school could remain open and the Cathedral family could stay together. However, he said, "The night before (we made the decision to close), the data began to become overwhelming in support of closing immediately."

He said, "Early on Thursday, March 12, we made the heartbreaking but necessary decision to close. We know a vast majority of students would be sad or even angry about this, especially the seniors, but we knew what we had to do."

The Centers for Disease Control is now recommending schools close for eight weeks rather than four, which would put any return date well into May, but Bridges said he doesn't know if the current return date of April 14 will change or not. He said that school officials are hopeful that students and staff can come back on April 14, which is the Tuesday after Easter Monday, but he also said he knows the date could change and most likely not to an earlier one.

Bridges said, "Sure it is heartbreaking, especially for seniors in college and high school, as well as small business owners and of course those affected directly by this disease. There are also spring break plans and spring athletic teams and the mission trip, speech and debate, We the People and many other groups with big plans for this spring.

"I urge us all to look at the bigger picture. We are talking about our health, the health of you and me and our families and the worldwide community. I am confident that we will get through this, and be better for it. I am also sure that we will have a renewed sense of gratitude for all of the things that we have taken for granted."

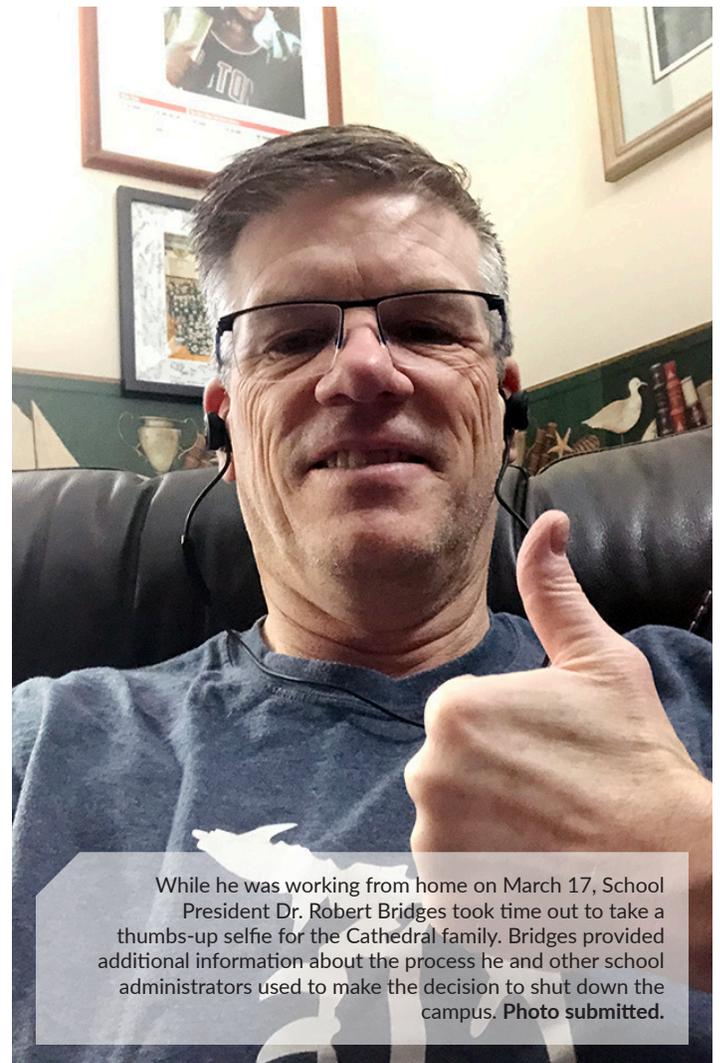
Bridges added that teachers are putting in many extra hours to ensure students maintain their connection to Cathedral. He urges students to take advantage of all the videos administration

is posting and ways they are trying to stay in touch. He added that students need to be grateful for their teachers as well.

He said, "Finally, I read last night that you can cut your chances of contracting the virus by 50% if you wash your hands regularly and well. Then you will contribute to our society's efforts to slow this virus down. And don't forget to get fresh air, exercise and pray. Two of our most well-known saints have Feast Days (during the week of March 16): St. Patrick and St. Joseph.

"Ask them to pray for us and inspire us, to overcome the odds as they did during tough times."

*Note: This interview was conducted before Gov. Eric Holcomb announced that all Indiana schools would be closed at least through May 1.*



While he was working from home on March 17, School President Dr. Robert Bridges took time out to take a thumbs-up selfie for the Cathedral family. Bridges provided additional information about the process he and other school administrators used to make the decision to shut down the campus. Photo submitted.

# Sharing his story

Algerian immigrant and devout Muslim Mr. Mahdi Saddi shares his experience of coming to the United States and living the dream.

BY KATIE DARRAGH

Theology teacher Mr. Matt Cannaday welcomed his friend Mr. Mahdi Saddi on Feb. 27 to speak to his classes about his life journey to America and his religion of Islam.

Saddi is originally from a small town in Algeria that looks much like the south of Europe. He grew up in a two-bedroom house with seven brothers and seven sisters and had a family farm just a half mile down the road. In Algeria, he attended university where he earned a masters in geology and engineering.

His brother tried for 12 years to win a green card, which allows for immigration to the United States, in an online lottery. One day, he entered Saddi in the lottery for fun, and Saddi won.

"America was the last country I would think to go to. To be honest it was very far, and I heard all sorts of bad stuff because a lot of Europeans think that people are crazy in America," said Saddi.

However, after some encouragement from his brother, he journeyed to America, and arrived on Nov. 23, 2016. On his first day in America, he only knew a friend of a friend from university in Algeria, and while he spoke three languages, none of them was English.

Desperate for a job, he managed to convince Amazon to give him a low paying job so that he could get on his feet. Now he works as an assistant manager at Amazon.

"He is like the actual the American dream," said Cannaday. "He started off at the lowest of the low of this place, and now he's the assistant manager after just three years."

Although he has developed a life for himself here, Saddi visits home two or three months each year to help his family on the farm. Because a lot of people who leave Algeria to go to America do not return, he promised his dad that he would try to make it back for a few weeks every year.

On the topic of Islam, Saddi explained the traditional greeting of asalamakum which means "peace be upon you," and also spent time introducing Adhan or the call to prayer. The Islamic call to prayer is recited from the mosque to announce each of the five daily ritual prayers. According to Saddi, back home he hears the Adhan all throughout his city five times a day.

Saddi tries to pray five times a day in order to follow the Islamic practice and tries to visit the mosque at least once a day. However, he admits that because of work and obligations he is only able to make it a few times a week.

When he goes to the mosque, he follows the ritual of cleaning his ears, hands, feet, hands and face before he enters into a clean

space to pray. If he is praying outside of the mosque, he washes and finds a clean place facing the city of Mecca in order to pray.

He also explained other religious practices such as Ramadan and Halal. Ramadan is a month in which Muslims observe strict fasting practices by not eating or drinking from sunrise to sunset. Halal is the proper way to prepare meat, according to the Quran. The law states that Muslims are not allowed to eat unclean animals such as scavengers or pigs and must refrain from alcohol.

When asked by Cannaday what it's like to be a Muslim in America, Saddi said, "it's a challenge."

According to Saddi, when he came here he was a bit scared because of the way the media portrays Americans, and he was nervous about what might happen if he were to practice his faith. However, after he met caring people such as the Cannaday family, he found a lot of love here as well.

"Craziness is everywhere. In my country there are bad people, crazy people, and there are some here, too. There are a ton of nice people and people that make my day hard," said Saddi.

At the end of the day, according to Saddi, "We are the same, you and me. I could be a Christian and you could be a Muslim. While we might practice in different ways, a lot of our beliefs are the same.

"We have a lot of layover actually. Now don't get me wrong, we cannot say that we do the same thing. It is important to recognize that there are differences because then we can talk about it."



Mr. Mahdi Saddi speaks to one of Mr. Matt Cannaday's theology classes. Saddi told his story of immigrating to the United States. Photo submitted.

# An abundance of Brownings

They aren't all related to each other, but the Brownings have played a long-term, significant role in the success of this school.

BY NYA HUFF

Long lasting legacies are prominent all around the world and it is no difference on the Hill. The Browning name has been in the Cathedral family since the late 1980s and has influenced the school in many positive ways during the past three decades.

This year, the last name Browning — not Smith or Jones — is the most common on the student name list, truly showing the prominence of the Browning name.

This legacy all goes back to Mr. Michael Browning, who became involved in the Cathedral family when he moved to Indianapolis. Mr. Robert Welch, for whom the WAC is named, who was his business partner at the time.

Since then, he has sent five of his children to Cathedral, beginning the Browning legacy. Mr. Browning, along with his sons Christian and Michael, has done some big things for Cathedral from donating funds to renovate the theater and to raise teacher salaries to gifting a significant contribution to go toward building the new Innovation Center. Mr. Browning was deemed an honorary graduate in 2007. English teacher Mrs. Liz Browning, sister-in-law of Mr. Browning, described him as a “big believer in building and supporting our community and providing opportunities for others.”

Mrs. Browning is a service learning moderator and the Alliance Club co-moderator and has taught English here since 1996. She is related to 13 different Brownings who have come through the school doors, including three on campus now: freshman Michael Katherine Browning, sophomore Rocco Browning and her son, senior Will Browning.



All the Brownings at Cathedral stand in the second floor hallway of Loretto. Photo submitted.

When she joined the Cathedral family, she came in as an English teacher and yearbook moderator. Mrs. Browning said that the Brownings’ “loyalty and commitment shows older generations value experiences gained at Cathedral.”

Freshman Michael Katherine Browning played freshman volleyball on the Hill this year but isn’t necessarily new to the Cathedral family. Browning wrote that she herself joined the Cathedral family this year. She said, “Last year my brother, Rocco, joined the Cathedral family.” Michael Katherine is the daughter of Michael Browning II ‘92, the son of Mr. Michael Browning, who helped his father make significant donations to last year’s capital campaign, benefiting both students and teachers.

As a result of the Browning legacy, Mr. Michael Browning was honored with the Bishop Chartrand Award in 2003, which is the highest honor given by Cathedral. The legacy isn’t ending here, either. Mrs. Browning said there are nine Brownings coming so far, “one a year for a while.” Two are incoming freshmen next year, including Tillie Browning, daughter of Mr. Christian Browning ‘93, who is a member of the Cathedral Board of Directors.

Michael Katherine Browning said, “My grandfather has had our last name as a legacy here for a while. My father and his brother, Christian, have carried that legacy. Hopefully one day Rocco and I will even be able to continue it.”

But these Brownings aren’t the only ones on the Hill. Senior Lauren Browning isn’t related to Michael Browning or any of the Brownings surrounding that legacy. She said that her parents attended school on the Hill so she’s known about the Browning tradition for a while.

Lauren Browning said that being a Browning made her time at Cathedral “full of questions,” especially considering that senior Will Browning is in her grade and he is related to that branch of Brownings.

Lauren Browning said she’s not shocked that the Browning moniker is the most common last name at Cathedral this year because “it’s a common last name and the legacy of the Brownings is apparent.”

It could be agreed among Lauren, Michael Katherine and Mrs. Browning that the Browning legacy has and will continue to stand strong on the Hill. Even though she’s not a part of the largest Browning family on campus, Lauren Browning said, “Thanks to donations and continuing to send generations to Cathedral, the legacy will be here a long time.”

# We're back

Younger siblings adjust to older brothers and sisters returning home much earlier than they had anticipated as colleges and universities shut down for the semester.

BY ASHLYNN BAKEMEYER

**A**s the coronavirus causes college campuses to close across the United States, families have to accommodate older siblings coming home sooner than expected.

So if you are the last kid at home and you thought you (and your parents) were going to have the place to yourself until the first week of May, you've had to make some major adjustments, especially considering that everybody is pretty much trapped at home for the duration.

Washington University in St. Louis posted information on its website to provide suggestions for parents and younger siblings welcoming older students back from college at the end of the spring semester during a typical school year, but those guidelines apply now as well.

According to the dean of freshman transition at the college, "The middle sibling has been used to being the eldest, and it may be more of a drag than a delight to have big sister home again." It was also noted that younger siblings may need support from parents when the returning college student moves back home.

Senior Allie Yancy's older sister Kate is back home from DePauw University in Greencastle. Allie said, "It's definitely different. We're so used to just having three people in the house, so it's an adjustment for all of us."

Freshman Bethie Lengerich said, "My sister Maggie '18 is home from college. It's been kind of fun. We missed our late night movies and random drives to Wendy's to get ice cream and

chicken nuggets."

While the adjustments are being made after the abrupt closure of college campuses, the younger siblings have found out that there are complications in the return of their siblings.

Allie said, "A huge challenge is (Kate's) sleep schedule. She stays up until 4 to 5 a.m. every night. Now with eLearning I'm going to sleep at the usual time to wake up at 7:30 a.m., so it's hard when she's wide awake when I'm trying to sleep."

Lengerich said, "The biggest challenge has really been sharing space again after so much time apart, finding the balance of what goes where and 'hey that's mine.' (Maggie) also brought a cat home, which is a whole other story and challenge."

While there are difficulties in getting accustomed to having older siblings back before their expected return at the end of the college spring semester, Yancy said, "I'm glad that I can spend more time with (Kate) before I go to college, because when she leaves she's going to go to grad school."

Lengerich said, "My sister is my best friend, and not being with your best friend for so long is hard. Having her home is like we are 6 years old again, Nerf gun battles and dancing around to music. Like every other sibling, we get on each other's nerves, but we are sisters and that won't change. We know through thick and thin that we have each other's backs."

Through all of the confusion and chaos caused by the coronavirus pandemic, Lengerich said, "It just feels right having (Maggie) home."



Senior Allie Yancey, left, is adjusting to her older sister Kate and her early return from DePauw University in Greencastle. Allie said, "It's definitely different. We're so used to just having three people in the house, so it's an adjustment for all of us." Photo submitted.

# Italian perspective

Andrea Buran, a resident of Milan, Italy, offers his view on the COVID-19 crisis. Buran is one of 16 million Italians currently under mandatory quarantine.

BY ETHAN MARASCO

Currently, life in northern Italy is not quite ideal. On the large Italian peninsula as of March 21, there have been more than 47,000 cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and more than 4,000 deaths, and save for a trip to the store and a dog walk, more than 16 million Italians are confined to their homes.

Andrea Buran, 21, lives with his family in Milan. In an interview on March 21, he described what his life is like and what he wishes he would have been told before his country took drastic measures to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Only supermarkets, pharmacies and newspaper stands remain open, and the few times he has been out of his apartment have been to get food for his family. Buran said most of the people are obeying the new rules, but many continue to go out with their friends. He said, "Even if they have a mask and gloves on, it's not safe. So many people have been going out with the excuse to go to the store or walk the dog, and they stay out for too long, and it's not very good for the strategy we're trying to apply."

His day-to-day activities remain repetitive and monotonous. "I am very very bored, but today I woke up thinking more positive. I exercised and I started reading a book. I've been taking my English

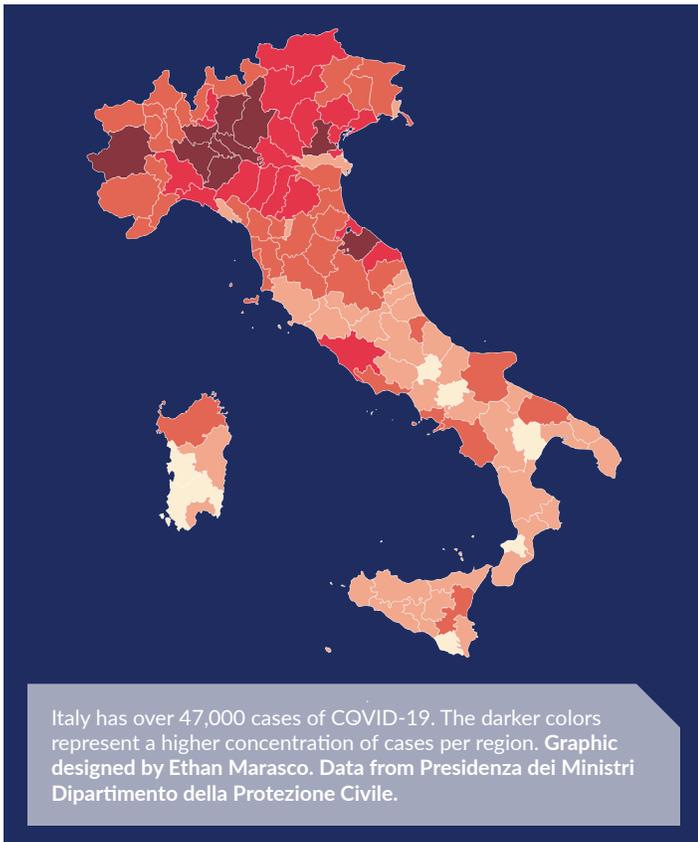
course and I try to watch movies and documentaries I didn't have time to watch before."

Most importantly, Buran has been writing down his goals for after the quarantine ends. It is one of the many activities he is doing to stay positive and hopeful, especially because the enthusiasm from Italians across the country is dwindling. People used to stand on their balconies to sing to each other and to party, but due to the high number of deaths, "many consider it not as good because we forget about those who are dying," he said.

Buran said he wishes he could have told himself to stay home before the quarantine. "I think it would have been better for everyone if they closed everything immediately. We shouldn't have underestimated it," he said.

He wishes for people in the United States to understand that although it is a sacrifice now, the more Americans stay home, the faster the pandemic will end. He urges everyone to comply with the rules their local and state government have put into effect.

*Editor's note: Buran and Marasco are third cousins. Marasco contacted Buran via Facetime.*



# Nurse Q&A

School nurse Mrs. Courtney Jennings-Sood answered questions about the ongoing coronavirus situation and what high school students should know. Her responses follow.

## Why is this virus called a “novel” virus?

In this case, “novel” means new. This is not a virus that scientists and doctors have seen before.

## Even though young people seem not to be adversely affected by the coronavirus, they still are being urged to stay home and not to socialize. Why?

Because anyone who is exposed can be a carrier and infect others. What I have heard is that symptoms may not appear until after 14 days. Think about how many people you would see and be around in a 14-day period.

## Even if students are staying home, what should they be doing there to stay healthy?

Practice good hygiene. Wash hands frequently. Rest, eat healthy, drink lots of water. Be kind to their parents.

## Is it acceptable for students to go outside to run or walk? Should they do so?

Definitely yes.

## What would you recommend for students to help reduce their stress during what is a stressful time?

Stay positive. Students were always complaining of being

tired, now is a time to get rest. Do things that you complained you didn't have time to do before. Think of others, help around the house, study harder, read a good book, write a thank you note.

## What other advice would you give students as well at Cathedral educators regarding their health during this time?

Rest, hydrate, eat healthy. Minimize trips to the grocery, touch minimal surfaces, wash your hands.

## How do you know if you are sick enough to seek medical help, and if you are, where should you go for help?

If you have a fever of 101 or higher, have a cough and shortness of breath, call your doctor and they will walk you through the process of being seen.

## Now that school is closed, Nurse Jennings-Sood, how are you filling your days?

I am reflective, humbled and full of respect for all that Cathedral educators and my children's teachers have done to make this transition as easy as possible. I am cooking three meals a day, loving my children extra, reading books, Facetimeing anyone who will answer, cleaning and napping. To all of the students, I miss you dearly.



School nurse Mrs. Courtney Jennings-Sood works in her office in Kelly Hall earlier in the school year. Photo by Ava Amos.

# Spring broke

In light of the coronavirus crisis, students and teachers find themselves rethinking their vacation travel plans.

BY AVA AMOS

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to sweep the nation resulting in the closing of schools, restaurants and the canceling of school, college and professional sports, students, teachers and administrators now are rethinking their spring break plans.

Junior Camille Holtrey had planned on going out of the country to Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic, and she shared her thoughts about her trip. She said, "I am kind of scared to leave but I know (there is) a small chance of (me) getting it. I know that it affects everyone differently, so it might affect me differently than someone else."

Spanish teacher Mrs. Karen Hovanec had planned on taking a seven-day cruise with her son, Luke, who is 10 years old. They're also planning on traveling with family friends, the Wrights. "This is our fourth year of cruising together," Hovanec said. "We leave out of New Jersey and we have stops in Florida and the Bahamas, and also on the Royal Caribbean private island," she said.

At this point Hovanec said they are unsure whether they are going. She said, "I think the next couple weeks will be really crucial in how things develop. Obviously, I don't want to put my family in any jeopardy or danger, and more than anything I fear the 14-day quarantine if something would go wrong," Hovanec said.

However, she said she, her son and the families they are traveling with are all healthy and not in the high-risk categories. She added that she is going to wait and see how things shake out in the next 10 or so days before she makes a final decision on whether she will cancel their trip or not.

She said, "Cruises are notorious for the spread of viruses. It's a lot of people in the same space. But just like everything else, proper hygiene helps a lot and just some common sense precautions that you can take. I get why they need to be careful and I'm pretty cautious when it comes to most things, so it's understandable. I know they want to slow the spread of this virus as much as they can."



Mrs. Karen Hovanec, top left, and her fellow 2019 spring break travelers in Roatan, Honduras about to go zip lining. Photo submitted.

# Hands off

New law will make it a crime to use a handheld device, including a phone, while driving on an Indiana road.

BY LUKE HERN

**A** bill passed by the Indiana House and Senate is expected to become law and will ban the use of handheld devices such as phones when that legislation takes effect.

The school's director of transportation, Mr. Greg Bamrick, said he and the school's bus drivers, because of their seated position in a bus, can look down on drivers and they observe on a daily basis drivers using their phones while they are on the road.

Bamrick said he believes that Indiana is simply catching up to a movement to make the roads safer, as many other states have already taken similar steps. "Drivers can be distracted by even things such as reaching down for a cup of coffee, and electronic devices pose even more of a distraction than a drink," he said.

The hope is that this will not only make the roads safer, but will make it easier on law enforcement officers to determine when to write a ticket. Now it is easy for people to lie and claim that they were simply using Google Maps, instead of texting, but this new law "will enable officers to write up citations for any use of a handheld device," Bamrick said.

Seniors Jonathon Schepers and Ethan Caldwell both have insight as well on the new law, weighing in on how the law provides safety for road users but also limits individual decision making. "I can see both sides of the argument," Schepers said. "While

I ultimately believe that the individual should have sovereignty over his or her decisions, I also feel that the poor decisions of drivers have led to the deaths of many individuals, so I think this law provides a net positive to the safety of our roads."

Caldwell said that even outside of texting, activities such as typing in directions, adjusting music are distractions that he and most all other people can admit to doing at some point. Both seniors agree that if enforced well, the law should be a further step in providing less dangerous roads for drivers.

The tricky part, Caldwell says, is "how much more it will be enforced unless police officers spend even more time watching the drivers around them." Officers will now have an easier job of cracking down on any handheld device users, but it is still going to be hard for officers to be able to spot people using devices while driving by.

House Bill 1070 states that "a person may not hold or use a telecommunications device in the driver's seat of a motor vehicle while the motor vehicle is in motion," unless a pressing issue such as an emergency 911 call is being performed. Twenty-one states have already prohibited the use of hand-held devices. Other states totally disallow the use of any type of cell phone by newer drivers, including Maryland and Minnesota. Local news coverage indicates that Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb has also expressed his support for the bill in order to promote safer roads.



On an afternoon earlier this school year, students head for their cars in the junior lot. A new law will prohibit all drivers from using a handheld device when they are on the road. Photo submitted.

# No Mass

Theology teacher provides perspective on suspension of Mass, provides suggestions for maintaining your faith and spirit.

BY NYA HUFF

**C**OVID-19 has been sweeping the world and hasn't spared anyone of its chaos. This pandemic canceled a wide variety of activities and events from NBA games to concerts to closing Indiana schools until May 1, and perhaps beyond.

The outbreak has even suspended any form of the beloved Catholic Mass until further notice in Indiana.

A suspension of the Mass is rare, but this is not the first time this has happened in the history of Catholicism. Theology teacher Mrs. Cece Kasberg '83 said that a suspension of the Mass could have occurred in 14th century Europe and Asia during the black plague. Kasberg said, "Numerous dioceses halted the public Masses during the Spanish flu outbreak in 1918."

Masses all around the world have been halted because of the coronavirus, including in the United States. In countries where Catholicism is prevalent, like Italy, priests have been celebrating online Masses on the Vatican website, and some churches have remained open for screen-to-screen reconciliation or reconciliation at a safe distance.

There are many ways to still celebrate the Mass while it is suspended to the public. Catholics can participate in online Masses, pray, read Scripture and more to still praise our Lord without the ability to receive Communion and attend the Mass.

To celebrate the Mass without actually attending, Kasberg said, "I watched Sunday Mass on EWTN (the Catholic cable channel) last Sunday and will continue to do so weekly." She also said she is taking advantage of the opportunity to grow closer to the Lord through that and the sacred scripture.

In addition to these activities, Kasberg said, "We are always able to make a spiritual Communion. With a spiritual Communion, we unite ourselves to God through prayer. It is a beautiful way to express to God our desire to be united with him when we are unable to complete that union in the reception of Holy Communion."

She said individual can do this by praying the act of spiritual Communion and the Hail Mary.

Kasberg said she absolutely supports the archdiocese's decision to suspend the Masses until further notice. She said, "As Catholics we always look to our bishop for guidance and direction in all things Catholic and follow his directives joyfully. That's what he's there for." She also says it is good for the Masses to be suspended so there is less risk of getting the elderly sick. Suspending the Mass will help keep the virus contained as much as possible.

The practice of holding hands during the Lord's Prayer and exchanging greetings already had been halted before the cancellation of Mass.

The major difference between the suspension of Mass now and suspension of Mass in the past is that a holy day of obligation wasn't in jeopardy of being canceled.

If this virus continues to spread, the Easter Mass and Vigil will be in jeopardy of being canceled as well. This Mass is different than all other Masses. It is celebrated in three different parts and allows for people to join the Catholic Church. You can be baptized, confirmed and receive your first communion on Holy Saturday during the Vigil.

Kasberg said, "As far as the possibility that Easter Masses might be suspended, I am most sympathetic for those who are anticipating entering fully into the Church at the Easter Vigil." She noted that these individuals have been preparing for months to join the Church and may not have the chance to do so until later than expected.

Through the midst of the misinformation, anxiety and fear spread by this virus, people must make the best of things and rely on their faith, even if they don't have the ability to go to Mass and receive the sacraments.

Kasberg said, "While it's easy to let the uncertainty of the virus play on our fears mostly due to all the unknowns, this is a great time to double down on our faith in God. Don't forget our God is an awesome God. Don't be afraid to have a relationship with Him, and don't be afraid to pray for miracles."

She also said we must do our job to stop the spread of the virus, so wash your hands, stay socially distant and don't put others, especially the elderly, in harm's way of the virus.



Theology teacher Mrs. Cece Kasberg '83 assists a student during one of her first semester theology classes. Kasberg provided her perspective on the decision to suspend Mass.  
Photo by Anne Marie King.

# MEGAPHONE *Sports*

## Athletes react

Seniors who were ready to start spring sports express concern and disappointment, hope that they will get the chance to compete.

BY CALEB LAND



Senior Grace Lorsung joins several of her teammates on the mound last year during a varsity softball game. Lorsung and several other spring athletes provided their perspective on the shutdown of the school and its effect on the season. Photo by Mary White.

Senior athletes who look forward to spring sports now face the prospect of their seasons being shortened or perhaps even canceled, with the campus now being closed at least until May 4.

The Indiana High School Athletic Association released a statement regarding spring sports athletes, "Regular season contests are conducted at the school's discretion. Currently, the guidance being provided by the State of Indiana allows for events with less than 250 individuals in attendance to be conducted. Local jurisdiction shall prevail with regard to whether contests in the regular season are conducted. Some schools in our state have closed and will implement extended break periods.

"Once students return to school, all provisions of Rule 9-14 - Practice Attendance to Participate in a Contest - shall be enforced. This health and safety measure within the by-laws will not be waived. Should a previously scheduled contest fall before the completion of said separate days of practice, the contest must be rescheduled or canceled.

"A decision on meeting a minimum number of contests to become eligible for IHSAA tournament series events will be made at a later date. At this time, the IHSAA is planning on staging all spring sport tournament series events as scheduled." To simplify that: Effective immediately, spring sports have been postponed, not canceled and it is up to the school's discretion when the athletics can restart.

As for Irish athletes, it has not been easy. Not only is it the senior season for many, it's senior year that is being affected.

Several seniors provided their perspective.

Matt Dennen, a senior lacrosse player, said, "I am disappointed that I don't get to see my guys for a whole month. I believe that the season will realistically be canceled but I sure hope it doesn't. I will miss the guys and team bonding too much."

Kyle Cortner, a senior baseball player, said, "At first I thought about what that meant for baseball season and if we would still go through with tryouts. I was scared that the entire season would get canceled. They have implemented the rules for in season training, but since Cathedral is not in school we cannot start our season until we go back to classes. The IHSAA has said our season is delayed, not yet canceled."

Lindsey Douglas, who plays women's lacrosse, said, "I was more shocked than anything. I don't think I've truly processed that there's a chance we won't be able to play again this season. I'm trying to stay optimistic. Given that girls lacrosse is not an IHSAA sport, the Indiana Girls Lacrosse Association has not said much to us. I will definitely miss competing and losing the opportunity to make some final statements as an athlete. But I think I will miss my teammates the most. We have a really close group of girls, and I will miss all the practice, road trips, team bonding and team meals. I love all the girls on the team, and I really think we'd be able to have a great season, both on and off the field, if we are given the chance to."

Jordan Thomas, a senior track athlete, said, "I was devastated. I was looking forward to having an amazing track season senior year. This was my way of going to the college. I wanted to on a track scholarship with my parents paying little to no money. That has been a goal of mine, always. Senior year is crucial as well because I missed all of my junior year due to injury.

"So when the news hit, I didn't know what to think and just started praying that it doesn't get to the point where the whole season is canceled. It's hard because sometimes I think 'what am I still grinding for?' but we don't know where this is going to be at a month or two from now, so it's better to go with the for sure thing, and that is continuing to work out and train like the season is officially still on."

Grace Lorsung, who plays softball, said, "When I found out school was going to be closed, I was devastated. Right after that announcement, there was a meeting in Coach (Mrs. Linda) Bamrick's room for the softball team. There was a lot of emotion, tears and sadness in that room. However, there was still positivity and hope that there could be a chance that we still will play. For the seniors specifically, it was hard hearing that the end of our senior year and senior season could get canceled. It was a hard conversation to have, but we all knew that we had to look at the bigger picture and just be positive.

"I will continue to work out and practice softball no matter what. Although a lot of places and facilities are closed, I still have some places that I can practice on a field every once in a while. I also can throw and hit at home. I also have been doing some workouts at home and running around the neighborhood as much as I can. I don't really know if our season will get canceled or not. I think it all depends on if they open school back up and allow us to have somewhat larger gatherings. The IHSAA has said that softball will pick up when we get back to school.

"However, we have to have 10 practices until we can play a real game. At Cathedral, we have four practices already, so we will have to get six more until we can play. The earliest game date would be April 21.

"If season does get canceled, I will miss the bond that I have with all the girls on our team. We have been working really hard in the offseason, and there was a really good chance that we could have gone to state. We were all super excited for that opportunity, so it would be hard to miss out on that. I also will miss all the memories we made like in team bonding, bus rides, playing in really good teams, and just having fun with each other. School season has such a unique and fun atmosphere that I will really miss.

Despite information from the Centers for Disease Control that teens and young adults can pick up the virus, show no symptoms but spread the virus to others, some students believe that this cancellation of school and sports seasons is an overreaction. Some have started a social media trend, telling the IHSAA and sports leagues everywhere to #LetTheKidsPlay.



MEGAPHONE  
*Editorial*

**C**losing the campus for a month was not an easy decision, but it was the correct one.

The cancellation of school and classes absolutely sucks, but it was the right call.

It is heart-breaking that we have to shut down because Cathedral is home to all of our faculty, staff and students. Shutting down feels like throwing away this year completely, giving up, and calling it quits, but thanks to our administration, this is certainly not the case.

Although eLearning is not nearly the same as sitting in class with other students while the teacher explains the lesson, it is the viable substitute that we have to turn to.

Make sure to keep up with your assignments that teachers are posting both on Schoology and updating you about on Remind. It may be frustrating, but you must be consistently checking your email to ensure that you keep yourself up-to-date on what is happening in your classes.

Again, we know this situation is far from ideal, but we have to keep trudging on while the world and governments continue to figure out how to deal with COVID-19.

The Megaphone staff, although sad that classes have been suspended, is proud of the administration for making the right call as we take a stand against this virus together. They had to make an extremely tough decision, a decision that they knew would make many unhappy, but a decision they knew in their heart was right to ensure the safety of everyone on campus.

Administration had to not just think about the students, staff, and faculty on campus, but the families of those people as well and how a potential case of the coronavirus within the Cathedral community could devastate us all. Younger students, if they were to get the virus, would most likely be able to bounce back quickly from the virus, but any family members that may be older or who have health complications are at a higher risk of dying due to the virus.

Just because you aren't worried about the virus and its effects doesn't mean you should dismiss it completely. We all can catch and pass on the virus at a higher rate than something like the flu, so we have to be extremely cautious.

Although some students may be happy that they don't have to return to campus for a while, many students are hurting as their extracurriculars and activities are being postponed. Everything from the spring musical, sports, clubs and on-campus activities have been shut down while the country deals with the coronavirus.

Some students could be seen crying as they left campus on March 12, tears streaming down their faces as they realized the impact of this virus on their lives on campus.

Most students, regardless of their feelings, seemed stunned as they took a last look at campus and said goodbye to their teachers and friends they may not see again for at least a month. March 12 was a day of surprises, twists and turns that inevitably left many confused, scared and questioning.

Seniors, above all, are probably the most frightened by the cancellation of school. Their senior year, their last year of high school, is having its final months threatened by something completely out of their hands. Hopefully, this virus will soon fade into the background so events like prom and graduation can go on without delay.

There is no doubt that this is a time of fear and anxiety. It is pertinent that everyone remains calm and pays attention to the advice of medical experts and keeps themselves updated. Journalism is one of your best friends right now.

We certainly hope the coronavirus is contained as soon as possible, but while it remains a threat, people need to remember to wash their hands and be mindful of when they should and should not go out into public.

To answer most of your questions, the Megaphone is going to continually update the website with new information as soon as possible and provide you with answers and the administration will be, too.

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