



April 20, 2020

Dear Archdiocese of San Francisco Families,

Blessings to you during this Easter season. At this time in our liturgical year, when we experience the joy and hope of the resurrection, we are faced with burdens of uncertainty. It is times like these that we rely on our faith more than ever.

Easter has always been a time of immense joy, not only because of the Resurrection of our Lord but because I get to spend Easter dinner with over 40 friends and family at my brother's home in Danville. I enjoy seeing the children, young and old, go on their annual Easter egg hunt, and sitting down to a meal with people I sometimes only see at Easter. This year, our Easter celebration looked very different. I missed my family and friends and the joy we share being together. I know that all of you are grappling with a similar sense of loss.

I know the past few weeks have looked different than any of us ever planned. Instead of field trips and spring sports, we have been navigating distance learning with our children. I am so grateful to our principals and teachers who continue to make our children's learning and faith formation a priority. I wish to thank the thousands of parents who companion us on this journey because of their commitment to Catholic education. I am grateful to our beautiful students who have risen to the challenge and continue to be engaged and on task. Throughout this crisis, our Catholic schools have been a bright light shining as a testament of faith, excellence, and community.

While we would love to return to our beautiful school campuses in May, we have decided to follow our public school counterparts and close our campuses in San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo counties through the remainder of the school year. The health and safety of our students and teachers are of paramount importance. As we implement distance learning for the rest of the school year, know that we are committed to ensuring that your children continue to achieve academically and grow in their faith.

While we do not know what the future holds, may we find comfort in knowing that we do not walk alone. Like the disciples on the Road to Emmaus, may we open our hearts to Christ in our midst and celebrate the risen Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Pamela Lyons
Superintendent of Schools