



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS *in the*
ARCHDIOCESE *of* NEW YORK

Faith-Based. Future-Focused.

June 19, 2020
Father's Day

Dear Catholic School Community,

On this, the last day of school in the most remarkable academic year in modern times, I am writing to wish a happy Father's Day to dads and all the men who provide strength, love, support and guidance in the crucial role of father figure.

No doubt the past few months have been a revelation to many men, who now know what home looks like on snow days and every weekday in July and August. But as much acclimation as it may have taken, I understand the silver lining of the health crisis for the overwhelming majority of men has been the opportunity to spend so much time with their families, especially helping children with their home-based learning. As we often say, parents are their children's primary educators, and since March, dads have been a huge part of that dynamic.

It is very important to acknowledge that throughout the coronavirus crisis, there were thousands of men who were not only working outside their homes, but could not return home at the end of their shift, lest they might bring the virus home with them. Just as we did on Mother's Day, I ask you to please join me and all of us in the Office of the Superintendent in prayers of thanks and good health for all the dads in the healthcare field, as well as all the first responders, grocery workers, transportation workers and those in delivery and trucking services -- all the men in our lives who got us through the toughest times and will see us through to the day when the virus has been defeated.

So now that school is over, maybe the children can take their books out of the man cave so dad can watch Yankees or Mets reruns. But don't be surprised if he comes out after a few innings and just sits with everyone in the living room. Sometimes it's the newest habits that are the hardest to break.

I wish all the dads and all who serve in that role a happy Father's Day and a healthy, safe and fun summer!

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael J. Deegan
Superintendent of Schools
Archdiocese of New York

