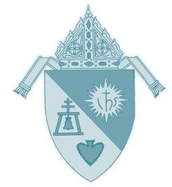


Office of Catholic Schools

Diocese of San Bernardino



DR. SAMUEL TORRES
Superintendent

MARIBEL ARGUELLES-ORTIZ, M. A. Ed
Associate Superintendent

DR. AUSTIN CONLEY III
Director of Advancement

November 23, 2020

Parents/Guardians,

Greetings during this Thanksgiving season. As we reflect on the many people and things, we are thankful for, let us especially thank God for the children he has placed in our care. Together, as we give thanks, we ask God to bless each person supporting these children during these extraordinary times. May God increase our confidence and hope that His will is done in our lives and that we remain open to His voice in our times. We especially thank all those who have worked together over these past months to focus on how our mission to educate His children could best be accomplished with the limitations and mandates we faced.

We know that these challenging times have not been easy. Multiple updates and news stories have led to some confusion. At times, the information may not have been clear or was upsetting for some of you. Keeping in mind that we have never been in this situation before, and therefore are navigating and discerning as we digest current information. Ultimately, all major issues made concerning schools are examined carefully before decisions are announced. This process is necessary in protecting your children and sustaining the excellent education provided by our diocesan schools.

At this time, we take this opportunity to thank you for your trust and sacrifices, which you have so generously demonstrated since in this pandemic. This was certainly not the journey you wanted for your family, but it has certainly become an opportunity for all of us to grow in our faith and trust God more. For this we can be very thankful. Please know that we pray daily for you and your family.

This Thanksgiving Day will be different than any other as we protect each other through physical distancing. Again, another sacrifice that leads us to the hope that we will one day return to the time of planned future festivities with those we love.

Below are references that may help in celebrating Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year.

CDC guidelines on gatherings and travel:

Celebrating Thanksgiving

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/thanksgiving.html>

Travel

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/faqs.html>

Things you need to know about the Coronavirus Pandemic

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/need-to-know.html>

In closing, the Office of Catholic Schools is working closely with the public health department of each county and with each school to ensure we are prepared for the school waiver process. Let us continue to pray together for this process and for one another in this challenging time. The sense of community that is present in all our Catholic schools is a great gift from God and assuredly a comfort to all of us. Herein lies, a unique opportunity for us to support our school communities in a profound way and to support the individuals and efforts designed to assist the engagement of children in their faith.

Have a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!

Peace and blessings,

Dr. Samuel Torres

Dr. Samuel Torres
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Arguelles

Maribel Arguelles-Ortiz
Associate Superintendent

Dr. Austin Conley, III

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Director of Advancement