



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON

THE CATHOLIC CENTER
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

19 November 2020

Dear Catholic School Communities in the Diocese of Lexington,

As we approach the celebration of Thanksgiving Day in the midst of a global pandemic, we are all aware that we have much for which to be thankful and also many concerns about a continuously worsening pandemic. We bring our thanks and our needs to God who is abounding in love and generosity.

None of us in any of our school communities was pleased to learn of the governor's mandate to end in-person instruction temporarily in our schools. This creates a hardship for parents and for students and is a disappointment for each person in our whole school system who worked so hard to provide a truly safe environment and continue our tradition of quality, faith-based education committed to the holistic well-being of our students. We have so much to be proud of as we see the fruits of this good work in our students.

While disappointed that the conditions in our state have moved the governor to make this decision, as a Church we are also committed to promoting the common good- and at this time that necessarily includes doing what we can to stop the spread of the Covid virus and help to prevent our health systems from being overwhelmed in the aftermath of the Thanksgiving holiday. Some of our schools have already experienced the impact of quarantining students and especially faculty.

We are very committed to the resumption of in-person instruction as soon as possible. If there are attempts to extend this temporary suspension of in-person classes, we will resist this as long as we do not place our students, teachers or their families in jeopardy. We are in communication with the state government and local health departments and will continue to work with them to move prudently and safely to return to in-person instruction.

I know this is painfully disappointing to all of us. Just as it was last Spring. As then, we responded the best that we were able and made it work, thanks to our dedicated teachers, administrations and parents. In the fall, because of the great work that went into our safety procedures, we were willing to go against state recommendations and offer in-person instruction. We remain convinced that this is the best form of instruction in the long run. We also acknowledged at that time, that temporary restrictions were a real and likely possibility.

Let us all do our best to keep our students learning, to be grateful for all that we have and are, and pray for an end to this pandemic.

Peace and all good,

Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv.

Tom Brown, Superintendent