



April 1, 2020

Dear Sts. Simon & Jude Catholic School Parents,

May God's blessings be with you as we draw closer to Holy Week. As we continue to navigate these extraordinary times, I want to offer transparent communications to keep you up to date and informed. To be sure, difficult decisions are being made in light of the fiscal stewardship realities brought on by the statewide stay at home order and school campus closures.

Regrettably, we will need to undertake furloughs at our schools of non-essential personnel, as described by the Governor's announcements. These furloughs have been limited, for the most part, to non-instructional staff and will not interrupt our remote learning strategies and high-level engagement between our students and teachers. Please note that an employee furlough refers to a temporary leave or unpaid leave of absence for a specific amount of time. It's a leave of absence given to an employee with the expectation that the employee will be able to return to his or her job once circumstances have changed. Throughout the Diocese of Orange, schools, parishes and the pastoral center have been guided through the furlough process by Human Resources and Finance in a combined effort to adjust staffing and expenses during these challenging times.

The length of the furlough is anticipated to be 60 days, although this can be shortened or extended as needed. Bishop Vann cares deeply about all Diocesan employees who are a vital part of the mission of Catholic education and our local Church; therefore the Diocese is providing 100 percent of these employees' health insurance benefits for the next 60 days. Please note that the recently announced government enhancement of unemployment insurance will assure a very effective safety net for the impacted staff.

We are pleased our distant learning continues to be going strong thanks to your partnership and the dedication and commitment of our incredible educators.

Please know that tuition continues to support your student's core educational distant learning programs. All classroom teachers remain highly engaged and committed to educating your children in faith and academic excellence. We will continue to seek out ways to enhance the digital experience with the best possible technology. History teaches us lessons from the last century, in that there were similar challenges that put communities to the test as they journeyed, with the help of God, and came through the adversity. We stand on the shoulders of those that have gone before us and we now stand shoulder to shoulder with our students, parents, and teachers as we take this journey together.

With God's help and with the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe we will prevail.

Sincerely,

Peace in Christ,

Mrs. Denise Grant
Sts. Simon & Jude Catholic School, Principal