



## DIOCESE OF ORANGE

DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

13280 CHAPMAN AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, CA 92840

17 September 2020

Dear OC Catholic School Families,

I pray this message finds you safe and healthy. I am happy to inform you that we are on track to re-open all grades at OC Catholic Schools on Tuesday, September 22. It has been such a joy to see our younger students (TK-6) in school for the past two weeks and we look forward to welcoming back students in grades 7-8 to our elementary campuses and re-open our high school campuses for in-person instruction. It seems fitting that we celebrate the first day of fall with our OC Catholic school students back on campus for in-person instruction. We are truly blessed and have much to celebrate!

Even as we continue to test our endurance with this pandemic, we recognize that there are lessons to be learned in this moment—perhaps beginning with gratitude.

Parents, we are grateful for your patience and courageous caring of your children. Thank you for your continued belief in the value of a Catholic education for your children, one that is so vital in times like these.

Teachers and staff, we are grateful for your commitment to the children we serve. You are the first point of contact in assisting our students and families with their needs. Because of you, our students are smart, confident, compassionate, faith-filled, and they understand what community means. Thank you for embodying and witnessing the “servant leader” for our children.

Students, we are grateful for **YOU**. You are the reason why we are here. We believe in you, and we are very proud of you—all of you. Know that your church loves you, and we are here to support you in your learning and faith formation this school year.

Principals, we are grateful for your courageous and faith-filled leadership in planning and preparedness. Your dedication to your school communities during these past months has been nothing short of inspiring. Thank you for leading with grace, conviction and collaboration.

Finally, we cannot be more grateful to our bishops and pastors for your prayers and ongoing support of our Catholic schools. You set the vision for our Catholic ministries, including schools, to keep focused on Christ during good and bad weather. Thank you for shepherding us.

Through expressions of gratitude, we have experienced moments of grace throughout this pandemic. While the road ahead may be somewhat unclear, what is crystal clear is that God is with us. This truth has been—and will always be—what ultimately unites us and sustains us.

During this extraordinary school year, may we all strive to recognize the blessings that surround us and see along the light of God’s grace.

In mission,

Erin C.O. Barisano, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Diocese of Orange