



*Diocese of Fall River*  
*Office of the Bishop*  
*Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.*

January 3, 2020

Dear Parents,

Let me first thank you for enrolling your child(ren) in our Catholic Schools. This reveals to me the value, integrity and faith that you possess within your family. I recognize the daily sacrifice which this entails, and the dedication you live each day by this commitment to witness to the faith, within the family. I thank you for this and am grateful for your support of Catholic Education.

It is my pleasure to share with you about a Conference the Fall River Diocese is hosting at Stonehill College on March 7, 2020. Recognizing how busy families are with balancing the many tasks associated with raising a family: taking children from place to place, family obligations and maintaining employment, it is not easy to take a few moments, as parents, to do something for yourselves. I invite you to ponder this question- How can you announce the Gospel to the children in your life? How much time do you dedicate each week to help your children grow in their faith?

Pope Francis made this statement: At the Heart of the Evangelizing Church lies the family. In his address on January 30, 2014, Pope Francis shared this thought. "The family, it lies at the heart of the evangelizing Church. The Christian family, in fact, is the first community called to announce the Gospel to the human person during growth and to bring him or her, through a progressive education and catechesis, to full human and Christian maturity".

Please join me for a time for prayer on March 7th. The theme for the day is: "***As I Have Done You Must Also Do***" from John 13:15. During this Conference, we will hear from Bishop Evans, Kendra Von Esh and Bishop Flesey. During lunch time, there will be an opportunity for reconciliation, adoration and time to visit the many vendors who will be exhibiting with us for the day. Mass will be celebrated at 4:00PM. The cost for this event will be \$50.00 per person, which includes lunch. Registration can be found on line at [www.fallriverdiocese.org](http://www.fallriverdiocese.org) or through the flyer enclosed in this mailing.

During the Lenten Season, a time when we are called to reflect on our relationship with God, others and family this day will offer the opportunity to take a moment to pray and get reconnected with God. It will be a joyful time as the talks will be uplifting, music will be lively and food will be tasty. As Pope Francis shared we need to take a break and humbly recognize that we need to take time with God.

May this time of preparation to celebrate the Risen Lord at Easter serve as a time to be renewed in the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us pray for the grace to spend some quality time in prayer, preparing ourselves to receive the graces needed to draw closer to God.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V.  
Bishop of Fall River

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