



## Catholic Education Coronavirus Taskforce Newsletter

May 14, 2020

Message from Father  
Matthew Guckin Director of  
Catholic Mission and Identity

### *"If You Love Me You Will Keep My Commandments"*

Dear Friends,

Do you remember that popular movie from 1970 entitled "Love Story?" It was about two college students who fell in love and got married. The woman became sick and died of an unspecified illness.

I watched it on television when I was about 20 years old and recall thinking - *how did this movie ever become popular?* It portrayed love as simply a sentiment or emotion. And it marked the only time in history that a person actually looked better as she became sicker!

In this weekend's Gospel Jesus reminds us that authentic love never devolves into a sentiment or emotion. Instead, he says, "If you love me you will keep my commandments."

There are over 1,000 commandments given to disciples throughout the New Testament. Jesus commands us to repent, to reconcile, and to rejoice. He tells us: don't judge, don't lust, and don't be afraid.

Let your light shine; honor God's laws; love your God; love your neighbor; love your enemies! These are but a few of the things Jesus commands us to do. And it's how we prove our love for him.

It's difficult to do this, especially as our families are isolated and our plans are frustrated. But Jesus never gives exceptions. He doesn't send us word that we are exempted from loving him because of COVID-19. Rather, he sends his Spirit to empower us to love one another as he has loved us.

So, let's open our hearts to the Holy Spirit and do everything Jesus commands us to do. For if we do so, this time of Coronavirus will go down in history ...as a true love story.

God bless,

Father Matt Guckin  
Director of Catholic Mission & Identity

From the Office of the  
Secretary of Elementary  
Education

## *Our Elementary Schools: Communities in Prayer, Learning and Celebration*

### ***May Processions and Crowning Ceremonies for the Blessed Virgin Mary***

Several schools and parishes throughout the Archdiocese hosted virtual May Processions and Crowning Ceremonies for the Blessed Virgin Mary. Some schools had a student, principal, and pastor participate in a videotaped prayer service. Other schools hosted drive-bys with families bring flowers for a Marian Shrine.



At **Good Shepherd Catholic School** in Ardsley, a tradition exists to crown the outdoor statue of the Blessed Mother each day during the month of May and pray a decade of the Rosary. To continue this tradition, each day a family is invited to crown Our Lady.



**St. Cecilia School and Parish**, Philadelphia, hosted a virtual May Crowning for their community. A video was created from the pictures of the shrines that the children made in their homes. You may see the May Crowning on the parish website. To see the innocence of the young children brings a tear to the eye.



### ***Rosary Campaign for an End to the Coronavirus***

Each evening at 8:00 PM, over 2000 households from around the world log in to pray a rosary to end the Coronavirus. It takes about 30 minutes and has become quite a ritual. All are welcomed to join and pray for the end of this pandemic. Follow this link to participate <http://www.phillyevang.org/rosary/>.

### **National Teacher Appreciation Week 2020**

Many schools celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week with drive-bys and lawn signs. Pictured here are a few of the schools. Check out individual schools Facebook pages for additional pictures and videos.



The teachers and students at **St. Joseph/St. Robert School** celebrated with a school drive-by. The teachers maintained social distance outside the school as their students and families drove through the parking lot waving “miss you signs” and shouting words of appreciation!



Since we couldn't all be together to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, **St. Coleman- John Neumann** students and families treated the faculty and staff to a delicious Italian dinner, picked up in the school parking lot. There was also a special video made with pictures of student created thank you signs posted to the school website.



At **Mother Teresa Regional Catholic School** in King of Prussia, Principal, Mrs. Christine Pagan, along with her assistant Mrs. Jacquie Guidone went to all of their teachers' houses yesterday to drop off goodies for Teacher Appreciation Week, along with the beautiful lawn sign. It was amazing experience for everyone.





### ***The Moon Never Tasted So Good***

**Maternity BVM** students just completed a science project. They did Oreos Phases of the Moon to go along with their unit "The Earth and Its Moon" in Science Fusion. Prior to eating the project, the students took a picture and submitted it to the teacher.

### ***A Busy Week of Learning and Celebrating***

At **St. Albert the Great School**, this week was one of the busiest of the year! They celebrated Star Wars Day, Cinco de Mayo, Teacher Appreciation Week and Mother's Day! For Star Wars Day, the STEM teacher's video taught students about coding so that they could make their own video games. Students also sent in pictures with their favorite Star Wars characters.

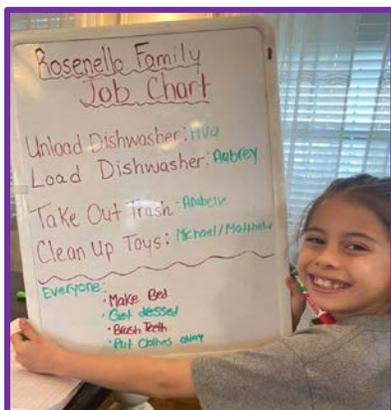
On Cinco de Mayo, the Spanish teacher's Zoom lesson included facts, games and songs about Cinco de Mayo, and students sent in pictures showing how they celebrated.

In preparation for Mother's Day, the art teacher showed the students different variations of cards to make for mom while at home. The Pre-K - 3rd grade teachers have a weekly Story Time recording and this week's theme was "We Love Mom!"

Lastly, to acknowledge their teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week, kids made signs and sent in pictures to show the teachers how much they miss them.

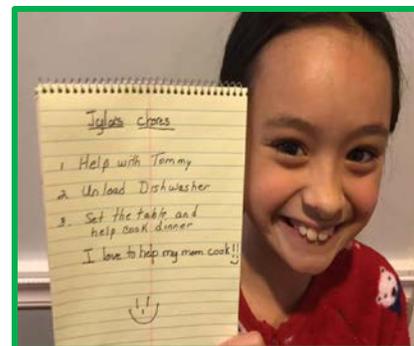


### ***Mom Gets Help from the Teachers***



Ms. Farrell, one of the 3rd grade teachers from **St. Katherine of Siena School** in Philadelphia, has been super creative. She has her students communicate a good bit with pictures. Here she challenged her students with the following question:

*How can you help your parents at home? Make a list of jobs you can do!*



### **School Principal Honored**



**St. Katherine of Siena School** in Philadelphia honored Mrs. Tanghe on Principal Day. As a surprise, parents posted thoughts about Mrs. Tanghe on social media. They said,

“Caring starts at the top. We know this to be true.”

“She works day in and day out, always putting the children first.”

“When our building is open, you may see a straight-faced Principal directing traffic.”

“What we see in the halls is little kids jumping into her arms, big kids stopping by her office for advice.”

“When the building is closed, she works around the clock to make sure all of the students and staff have what they need.”

Thank you to all of the principals who work so hard and care so much!

### **A Picture Says it All**



Now, more than ever, we seek the protection of Our Blessed Lady. Each Secondary School continues to share with their students a love for and devotion to Mary who continues to bless and protect them. There could not be a better time to ask for Mary's protection than this time!



At **Archbishop Carroll High School** the May crowning of Mary will take place during the week of May 25. Virtually, on the same day, they will have a prayer service which will include the recitation of the rosary and singing of Marian hymns to honor Mary and pray for an end to the pandemic.

**Bishop McDevitt High School** will honor Mary, the Mother of God and Patroness of the School, on Tuesday, May 19th at 1 pm with a Prayer Service that will include praying the Rosary and Crowning the Blessed Mother. Students and their families, as well as the faculty and alumni of the school, will be able to participate through Zoom or the school's Facebook page. The prayer of intention will include the Class of 2020 and all those being impacted by the worldwide pandemic.



**Bishop Shanahan High School** will honor Our Lady during the month of May with a weekly rosary led by members of the ministry club and conducted on Zoom. In addition, families have been invited to share a picture of themselves with an image/statue/icon of the Blessed Mother which is meaningful to them. These pictures will be included in the virtual May Devotions and Crowning which will include a student witness, prayers in honor of Our Lady, and hymns.



The Blessed Virgin Mary (Bishop Conwell), the Mother of God, along with St. Francis of Assisi (Bishop Egan), are the patrons of **Conwell-Egan Catholic High School**. A prayer common in the Franciscan tradition is the Franciscan Crown, which celebrates *the 7 joys of Mary's life*. One special way CEC will honor Mary is through their theology classes. The theology teachers will incorporate the Franciscan Crown Rosary into their classes throughout the month.

In celebration of Mary at **Pope John Paul II High School**, teachers traditionally nominate students who are Christian Witnesses to serve as part of a ten-member May Court. One female and one male student would be recognized as the May Queen and her escort. This year, although at home, the tradition continues. Teachers have nominated members of the Class of 2020 for this year's court. On Friday, May 15 members of the May Court will lead the PJP school community in praying the rosary on Zoom to ask the intercession of Mary, under the title "Mother of the Church," in bringing the Coronavirus Pandemic to an end.



As the community prays the rosary together, images of the Blessed Mother, submitted by students, faculty, and staff from their homes will appear on screen as a testimony to the faith of the school community. One image submitted by members of the PJP community can be seen above.

**St Hubert's High School for Girls** will honor Our Blessed Lady by praying a particular Marian prayer each week during the Morning Prayer time. These prayers will include:

*May 8- Opening of the Month of Mary prayer*

*May 12- Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe*

*May 15- Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes*

*May 19- Prayer to Our Lady of Fatima*

*May 22- Prayer to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal*



*Our Lady's statue in St. Hubert's Chapel earlier this year*



The young men of **The Roman Catholic High School** community, during the month of May, will be honoring Mary with two initiatives. First, during their "Marian Week", members of the faculty will lead Morning Prayer with prayers dedicated to the Blessed Mother. Each day a different member of the faculty will pray their favorite Marian prayer, which will be sent out to the community. Second, beginning on the 18th of May, the RCHS community will begin a 9-day Novena to Our Lady Undoer of Knots asking for intercession in the community's lives and offering up their intentions.

This beautiful statue of "Our Lady of Grace" was sculpted by George Kelly (Roman Catholic HS Class of 1970.) The statue is located outside of the Vine Street RC building.

The students of **Lansdale Catholic** are coming to Jesus through Mary. The month of May is a blessed opportunity for the Lansdale Catholic community to honor Mary as they worship her Son, Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament. The school's Zoom Prayer Group this week (Thursday, May 14 from 7 pm to 8 pm) will feature Father Nordeman, Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Finocchio, who, in a prudent, socially-distant way, will offer brief reflections and will pray a decade of the Rosary along with our LC community. After the Benediction and Resposition of the Blessed Sacrament, there will be a hymn to Mary.

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## AOP Sports News

### ***AOP Spotlight Series***

A new feature to [www.aopathletics.org](http://www.aopathletics.org), the ***Spotlight Series*** includes interviews with former AOP student-athletes who continued their athletic participation in one form or another after high school. The inaugural piece features 2016 Lansdale Catholic alum Ryan Quigley, who concluded a stellar four-year football career at Princeton University where he will graduate this month.

[Click here for the full article](#)

