



## Diocese of Monterey

+Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia

## Office of the Bishop

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Dear Parents:

The health and welfare of our students, faculty and staff are our highest priorities. With the news of the spread of the Coronavirus as well as the large number of Catholic, private and public schools closing, **the Diocese of Monterey has made the difficult decision to begin a long-term dismissal of in-person learning at all of our schools beginning, Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. We anticipate reopening on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.** However, this is a fluid situation and we may have to extend this closure beyond April 6<sup>th</sup>. In that case we will do our best to give you as much notice as possible of this decision. While we want to minimize the number of days that your child(ren) are learning remotely, keeping their health and well-being is our top priority.

Each school principal will outline for you how they will continue to educate your child(ren) through distance learning using different types of technology. Please look for a letter of from your principal by **Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>** with instructions of how to proceed. We are classifying this as a long-term dismissal but not a closure of the school to be clear that we will continue to teach remotely and to support your child(ren)'s learning. Teachers will be available by phone and perhaps by other electronic means to work with your child(ren) and you during this dismissal period. This time is not considered vacation time and it will not be added to the end of the school year as we are still in session – just remotely.

We know this is very difficult on families with working parents and we are deeply sorry for the interruption in your child's school experience. Unfortunately, we cannot offer you childcare as the purpose of the long-term dismissal is to curtail people meeting in groups where the virus could be spread.

We are closely monitoring the situation and we will communicate to you any adjustments to these plans as soon as we know them. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to do our part to protect our people and our community from the spread of this disease.

We ask that you lift up in prayer all who are affected by the disease, healthcare professionals and medical experts working together to fight the spread of COVID-19.

*Lord, let your mercy be on us as we place our trust in you.*

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia  
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