



# ST. MARY'S DOMINICAN HIGH SCHOOL

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 26, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

St. Mary's Dominican High School began the *Home Learning Program* last week, and we hope that your daughters are actively engaging in the opportunities presented by their teachers, counselors, student council members, and student preachers. It is our hope that through Dominican's *Home Learning Program* the components of our Dominican Catholic educational program—prayer, study, community and service — remain evident to our students and to you.

In addition to praying for our students, we are praying for you, parents and guardians. We pray that you will not lose heart as you lead your families through this time. There are many questions and few certain answers. There may be health worries, financial concerns, and limited technological capacity as you and your children work and study from home. Perhaps there even may be stress related to everyone being home together. We encourage you to take this time to cherish the blessings that we do all have, and sometimes because of our normally busy schedules, we are not able to enjoy and appreciate them.

Prayer can help us all get through this time. On the Feast of the Annunciation remembered this week, Mary was visited by the angel Gabriel, and she said yes to God's invitation to be the Mother of Jesus. Let us ask for the grace to say "yes" to God and to trust that, like Mary, even though we may not totally understand the fullness of God's call and all that it entails at the time it is offered, God remains with us through it all. God's faithfulness always remains.

In a recent letter from one of our Dominican Sisters, she quoted from scripture and offered school leaders these words of encouragement, and we share them with you: "I will call this to mind as my reason to have hope. The favors of the Lord are not exhausted, God's mercies are not spent. They are renewed each morning, so great is God's faithfulness." Lamentations 3:21-23

We are asking all parents and guardians to join us in daily prayer at a specific time that works for you (some of us have chosen 3:00 PM). Let us be united in prayer together with all our Dominican families by saying the rosary, reading scripture, or spending quiet time in reflection. We encourage you to make this a time when your whole family can take part.

Lastly, Archbishop Gregory Aymond has asked us to pray and fast on Friday this week. Let us join with the wider community of faith to offer our prayer and fasting for all special intentions expressed and held within our hearts during this pandemic.

As we continue following the guidance from the CDC, public officials and healthcare professionals, the school leadership team and administration are discussing various scenarios that could affect Dominican's calendar of events during the fourth quarter, however, we do not have definitive answers to share at this time. As soon as we have determined specific decisions, we will share that information with you. We want you to know that our students remain at the heart of our decisions, and Jesus is at the center of our school's mission. But for now, we must wait for more certainty as it evolves.

Peace and Gratitude,  
Carolyn F. Favre, M.Ed.  
Principal  
Cynthia A. Thomas, Ed.D.  
President