



Catholic Education Coronavirus Taskforce Newsletter

May 28, 2020

Message from Father
Matthew Guckin Director of
Catholic Mission and Identity

Our “Abraham Moment”

Dear Friends,

Whenever I read about the giant figures from the Old Testament I'm lulled into thinking that they are simply mythical people living a long time ago in places far, far away. I forget that they were *real* people who often led heroic lives.

Such is the case of Abraham, who heard God's call to leave behind what was familiar and journey into unknown lands. Abraham moved forward into the world and encountered the worst of nature (famine), society (the tyranny of Egypt), and the envy of the powerful (who desired his wife).

There was nothing easy about Abraham's life. He is portrayed both as a real man, with serious problems, and a hero, who overcomes tremendous obstacles to establish himself in the world. He is a model for living in the world AS IT IS, not as we want it to be.

Before God called him, Abraham (then known as 'Abram') was living a comfortable, safe, normal life with his family. Then, the Creator of the Universe invited Abram to join Him on a great adventure (see Genesis 12). God gave Abram no specific details about what, or where, or why. He simply promised Abram he would be blessed and be a blessing for others.

My favorite line in the entire passage is found in Genesis 12:4 - Abram *went*.

In a sense, this is our "Abraham Moment" insofar as we have no specific details on where this journey of ours is headed. But we have the Holy Spirit to guide us during this great adventure of our own. This is the meaning of what we celebrate this weekend. This is what Pentecost is all about. We are not left alone - we are left to trust.

As we move forward in this pandemic let us ask God to send us his Spirit to guide us and protect us as we continue along this great adventure. For if we trust and if we imitate Abraham's faith, we will be blessed and be a blessing for others.

God bless,
Father Matt Guckin
Director, Catholic Mission & Identity



From the Office of the
Secretary of Elementary
Education

Community Strength

Spirit Days Go Virtual

St. Martha School's Red and White spirit day this year turned into a procession of vehicles through the school's parking lot! The students were so happy to see the entire faculty wearing red and white with their own signs. The Corona virus will not stop their school spirit!



Maternity, BVM School held a drive-by Spirit Day. One child, Lucas, had so much fun creating his posters and decorating the car. Lucas' family were in such a hurry to get everything done that they didn't realize Lucas forgot the R at the end of panther. However, it was fitting since he wore the spirit day shirt that had "Pather"...missing the N. The families enjoyed seeing each other from a distance and everyone was grateful for the invitation to participate.



St. Helena School Reaching Out to Community Heroes

This year, as part of the **Saint Helena School** kindergarten retreat, Mrs. Wood's and Mrs. Gallo's classes saved up money during Lent by doing extra chores! The money was used to treat the police, firefighters, and nurses in our community to lunch as a thank you. Additionally, the kindergarteners along with several other grades made cards and posters for all the heroes in our community that are helping to save lives during these trying times.



St. Albert the Great Celebrates Mary



Since this is the month devoted to Mary and sadly their May Procession was cancelled, the teachers of **St. Albert the Great** have found creative ways for the students to celebrate Mary at home. Kindergarteners made their own Mary statues out of toilet paper rolls. First graders wrote their own personal prayers to Mary. Third graders had many options to choose from for their at home projects. Some of the students held their own May Processions at home and some made a private visit with their parents to the grotto on the church grounds. Others made a Mary diorama or Mary banners to hang in



their homes. The seventh graders made Spiritual Mother's Day bouquets and also went on an "at home Marian scavenger hunt". The scavenger hunt included finding your favorite Marian Music, choosing their favorite Mary title to research, learning about their favorite Marian apparition and reading their favorite Mary bible passage.

From the Office of the
Superintendent of Secondary
Schools and Schools of Special
Education



+ Dear Parents and Students,

This coming Sunday, May 31st, the Church will celebrate Pentecost Sunday. It is most special day in our faith life as it celebrates the Holy Spirit bestowing gifts in abundance showered upon the Apostles and Our Blessed Mother. These gifts: *wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord*, continue to be bestowed on us.

At this time during Pentecost Sunday, Archbishop Nelson Perez's live streamed Sunday Liturgy on May 31st will be offer for ***all graduates***. Please consider joining in this liturgy with your graduate.

May 31st Pentecost Sunday liturgy will be celebrated of *all graduates* from *kindergarten to college*.

Please consider joining the 11:00 AM liturgy on this Sunday, which can be accessed through: CatholicPhilly.com, ArchPhila.org and the Archbishop's Facebook page.



We know that this school year has been like no other for all of our school children, their teachers, parents and local school administrators.

June 7th, Trinity Sunday Archbishop Nelson Perez will offer his liturgy for all school children as we celebrate the close of this unique and challenging school year. We are grateful to the Archbishop for offering this special liturgy as the principal celebrant and homilist.

Please consider joining the 11:00 AM Liturgy on June 7th Trinity Sunday, which can be accessed through: CatholicPhilly.com, ArchPhila.org and the Archbishop's Facebook page.

May God continue to bless each of you!

Sister Maureen

Sister Maureen L. McDermott, IHM, PhD



AOP Sports News

Neumann-Goretti Senior Tabbed Miss Pennsylvania Basketball

Senior guard Diamond Johnson of Neumann-Goretti has been tabbed the 2020 Miss PA Basketball in voting conducted by coaches, fans and media members. Named the Philadelphia Catholic League MVP for the second straight year, Johnson poured in 34 points on March 6 as the Saints earned a 64-61 win over St. Basil's in the opening round of the PIAA 3A Girls' Basketball Championship. She was one of just 10 student-athletes selected to the prestigious 2020 WBCA High School Coaches' All-America Team, and earned Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls' Basketball Player of the Year distinction for the second consecutive year.



Johnson averaged 31 points, 5.7 rebounds and 3.5 assists this season. She was a member of the 2019-20 Pennsylvania Sportswriters All-State first-team, and named the 3A Player of the Year. Johnson will continue her athletic and academic pursuits at Rutgers University in the fall.

Photo Credit: *Rutgers University Athletics (taken prior to the CoVid-19 pandemic)*

