



## Blessings to our Saint Mary's Families

As world and local news continues to change day-by-day and even hour-by-hour, please know that Saint Mary's College High School is working diligently to continue providing the best academic education and Lasallian programs to your children. In his 17<sup>th</sup> Century writings, Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Founder of the Christian Brothers and the inspiration for Lasallian Education, reminded the Brothers that God called all of them – as educators – to teach, care for, and love the children entrusted to their care. As Lasallian Educators today, and especially during this difficult time, we are called to follow in De La Salle's footsteps in living the Mission of Saint Mary's.

Our faculty and staff have spent this past week preparing for the transition to online learning under the leadership of Dr. Imperial, Ms. Molinelli, and Dr. Troyani. In fact, our teachers have been busy sharing best practices with one another, remotely, through Zoom online meetings, email and phone discussions, and more. We have an amazing team of Lasallian Educators at Saint Mary's.

Please be prepared for a bit of "clumsiness" as we begin the transition to online learning. We are asking that everyone please practice patience throughout this challenging time. We know that online education is not the most holistic way to learn, but as we all move through this world of discovery, we continue planning for the best and most effective teaching possible.

Our Ministry and Counseling departments and our Social-Emotional Learning Program Director will be communicating with our students, and with you, to continue to provide services for your children. I know their care, talent, and creativity will shine through as they work with our students and families.

It's very important that you and your children **please read carefully** all emails from Dr. Imperial, Ms. Molinelli, Dr. Troyani, our program directors, and especially your children's teachers regarding weekly schedules and guidelines. Dr. Imperial sent his first email about the schedule yesterday. **Please take the time to review it with your children.**

Saint Mary's Administration is paying close attention to information and updates each day. We know that the most recent forecast for schools re-opening is not very promising. Please know that at Saint Mary's, we are preparing for both a possible physical return to campus as well as for continuing programs through distance learning via the guidelines set by the CDC and/or the Alameda County Public Health Department.

For senior class families, we continue to plan ways to celebrate your children's graduation from Saint Mary's and honor the traditions of senior year. We will know more as the month of May gets closer.

For junior, sophomore, and freshman families, planning for the 2020-2021 school year had already been underway. **The school has postponed re-registration for the 2020-2021 school year until after Easter break for current juniors, sophomores, and freshman.** The Oakland Diocese has decided to continue with registration of incoming freshman at all Catholic high schools, which takes place tomorrow. Saint Mary's freshman applicant families will be notified on schedule, as planned.

As Lasallian Educators, we are reminded that our parents are the primary educators of their children. Saint Mary's is here to support you and your children. During these confusing times, it is important that all of us who share in the education of your children continue to encourage in them the hope we hold for their future. The world will continue to change, hopefully in far less dramatic ways, but we remember that our students, your children, will soon be the adults in the world. They must have hope, love, and compassion along with practical academic pedagogy such as math and science skills, a love and understanding of literature, the ability to think and process critically, and an appreciation of the mystery of faith.

God bless you all, and always know that Saint Mary's is here for your children. With you, we pray for health and safety for all our families, all Lasallians, and our world.

Live Jesus in our Hearts

*Lawrence Puck*

*President of Saint Mary's College High School*