



March 30, 2020
Monday, the Fifth Week of Lent

From: David Dean, Superintendent

To: Principals, Faculty and all Parents of Catholic Schools Students in the Diocese of Tulsa

Re: Distance Learning to Continue through April 24, 2020

MEMORANDUM

On Saturday, March 28, 2020, the Mayor of Tulsa, GT Bynum, enacted a “Shelter in Place” order for all age groups in the city of Tulsa. That same day, Bishop David Konderla issued a continuation of the suspension of public Masses in the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma.

As one of our primary concerns is the safety of your children, the distance learning that is beginning this week and early next week, will continue through Friday April 24, 2020 for all diocesan Catholic grade schools (PreK to 8th grade). The transition to this type of learning is challenging for our teachers as much as it is for our children and families. Please be patient with our teachers in these early days of transition. They are working tirelessly to research and prepare appropriate lesson plans based on the current diocesan standards and guidelines for all students.

As stated in the memo dated [March 25, 2020](#), we will be assessing best practices for distance learning as we work with different online learning platforms and traditional paper assignments. We will make adjustments as needed and will continue to keep you apprised of any changes to the distance learning structure.

There are many unanswered questions from our school communities regarding special events, graduations, year-end activities, First Communion classes, and grades for distance learning. These are important issues to address. Unfortunately, so much is unknown at this time about how long the “Shelter in Place” order will remain, and how long gatherings of 10 or less will be maintained in Oklahoma and across the country. Your prayers are needed to bring an end to this historic pandemic.

Once again, we ask you to please continue offering prayers for those afflicted with COVID-19, those who may be afflicted in the coming weeks, all healthcare workers and those who are the most vulnerable in our community. Let us remain hopeful and trust in the Lord. *For I know well the plans I have in mind for you—plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope. (Jeremiah 29: 11)*

End of Memorandum



March 28, 2020
Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with sadness and prayerful concern that the Catholic community has witnessed the continued rise in the number of cases of COVID-19 infections and deaths. We stand in solidarity with the rest of the people of our state in trying to bring this pandemic to a rapid end.

To that end, city and state officials have found it necessary to extend various restrictions in order to keep residents safe. With great sadness, this means that we will have to extend our current practice of celebrating Mass without the physical presence of the faithful until April 24, 2020. Until that date, no one is allowed to host gatherings of more than ten people and in various places in the state and diocese, the restriction is even tighter.

I am confident that our sacrifice is making a difference and that God, the giver of every grace, will supply what we need to grow in faith and holiness even as we long for the Eucharist. I join with you all in monitoring carefully for those signs indicating that soon our wait to return to the normal practice of our faith and communal presence with one another will be at an end.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.
The heathens themselves said: "What marvels the Lord worked for them!"
What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.
Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.
The go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves.
Psalm 126

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. David A. Konderla
Bishop of the Diocese of Tulsa & Eastern Oklahoma



Harrison H. Garlick
Chancellor & In-House Counsel