



**March 24, 2020**

**Dear Montana Catholic Schools teachers, staff, parents, students, and principals,**

Thank you for your hard work to make our Catholic schools continued beacons of hope during these troubling times. A special thank you to our dedicated teachers and principals for creating such robust and faith-filled communities of remote learning on such short notice.

We are concerned about the spread of the Coronavirus and the impact that COVID-19 could have on our great state and our school communities. We are also confident in the quality of instruction that our schools are providing but mindful that these times of uncertainty bring a sense of anxiety. To that end, we are now asking all of our Montana Catholic schools to remain closed with ongoing remote learning instruction until at least May 4<sup>th</sup>. This will provide our school communities a road map for the next 41 days.

We wish you blessings during this difficult time and will keep you in prayer.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael W. Warfel".

**Most Rev. Michael W. Warfel**  
**Bishop of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Austin A. Vetter".

**Most Rev. Austin A. Vetter**  
**Bishop of Helena**