Dear Guardian Family,

A lot has surely happened since I wrote my March letter last Wednesday and filed it for distribution. We, of course, have been watching the situation with the coronavirus very carefully and have worked hard to determine its impact on SMA in collaboration with Dr. Dan Peters, the Catholic Schools Office and our partner schools in the diocese. I decided to hold off on distributing this letter as the situation last Wednesday began to deteriorate. I wanted to wait until more was known about our future schedule at St. Michael. There are things in the main letter that will be good to hear, but the “breaking news” comes first.

The notice went out that we are moving to remote learning through April 3rd. During this period, we will continue to monitor a situation that is changing not by the day but by the hour. Since last week the administration and faculty have been working on preliminary plans for online learning and other approaches to be used in case our building was closed. These approaches are now being developed more intently and you will hear additional updates as they become available. We are going to start slowly and make sure our systems are working as they should.

As a Guardian family - students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators are going to be called on to join together as never before in order that we might continue to see our young men and women formed and challenged academically. I know we are equal to the task and a lot will be learned through this experience.

This unprecedented event has impacted just about every part of our lives. With all that is happening, it is good to be reminded that our hope is in God and his abiding presence with us during times of adversity. Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles wrote the following message as President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

*With the worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus, we are confronted once more with the fragility of our lives, and again we are reminded of our common humanity — that the peoples of this world are our brothers and sisters, that we are all one family under God. God does not abandon us, he goes with us even now in this time of trial and testing. In this moment, it is important for us to anchor our hearts in the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Now is the time to intensify our prayers and sacrifices for the love of God and the love of our neighbor. Let us draw closer to one another in our love for him, and rediscover the things that truly matter in our lives.*

This is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our family relationships, look for ways to support one another during a time of separation and pray. This is a great time to have the family join together in praying the Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, or other devotional prayers. We can also gather to read Scriptures and take our needs, desires and petitions to him as we pray together.

Be assured of our intentional watchcare over this whole situation. Communication is key and we will endeavor to do our best to keep everyone up to speed. As I close this section, I want to leave you with something from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans as encouragement and hope during this time.

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Romans 8:38,39)

Faithfully in Christ,

[Signature]