

Dear Parents,

As part of our religion program students at St. Rose learn to develop and practice a new virtue each month. They also study a saint that was exemplary in the particular virtue. For the month of May, the virtue is *diligence*. The program defines diligence as “doing your best and working hard until you’ve finished”. During these next few weeks, your child’s teachers will be talking with their classes about diligence and how they can use this virtue to finish the school year, despite the challenges of distance learning.

This I know for sure: Distance learning is really hard for students, parents, and teachers. We have 180 families at St. Rose and there are 180 uniquely different situations since the shelter in place order was enacted. Some of you have a family member who can devote hours of time supporting your child’s distance learning efforts. Others do not have that luxury. Some of your children escape the stress and disappointment of the pandemic by just wanting to play outside, while others find comfort through completing extra hours of school work. And some days are better than others.

Whatever the situation with your family and with your individual children, please know how much we appreciate your efforts. The teachers are quite impressed with the work they are receiving back from most of our students and we know that learning is happening, just not in the normal fashion or at the normal pace. *Most* of our students are struggling with motivation.

The definition for diligence has three parts:

1. Doing your best
2. Working hard
3. Until you’ve finished

We still have twenty-two more school days left in the 2019-2020 school year. As the parent, you are the best qualified to decide which part of the definition you need to stress with your own children right now. For you as parents, I want to stress the first part. **Just do the best you can. Also, please be kind to yourselves.**

The coming weeks and months will be filled with financial challenges and other worries for everyone. We do not want to lose any of our families because of the economic situation so we are extending the deadline to apply for tuition assistance. Email our business manager, Anne Devlin, for more details.

Again, thank you for your support. I believe that you are the best partners we could possibly have.

Kathy Ryan

P.S. Last Friday’s “Cruise the School” event was a great spirit lifter. Seeing the smiling faces of your children was worth millions. Thanks to all who were able to participate.