



Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish School  
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May 22, 2020

Dear OLGC School Families,

We did it! We officially have one more week of distance learning followed by a fun week of Crusader Camp activities for your child. When you came to pick up instructional materials on March 16th, none of us knew the lengthy and challenging times that were ahead of us. Our collaborative spirit and speed at which our teachers met the challenge to teach and learn in new ways has been phenomenal-- all while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus! Your continued feedback allowed us to improve each day and maintain our academic excellence. A strong remote learning plan will now be incorporated into our school crisis plan. We need your feedback one more time to help us solidify and make additional improvements to this plan. Please take a moment this week to reflect upon your child's distance learning experience and complete [the following survey](#) for each child. I look forward to seeing you and celebrating our accomplishments at our school events this week: The 8th Grade Farewell Parade (All families are encouraged to stand along the route and cheer.), end of the year Zoom parties, and an all school parking lot mass.

Although this is a time of celebration, we are continuing to focus on what lies ahead for our school. Please see the [most recent letter](#) from our superintendent, Kevin Kijewski. Also, many of you saw a [recent video](#) Father Michael and I recorded to share the hope and joy of our school community, communicate that we are and will continue to thrive, through your support for our school and our mission. I would like to provide you an overview of information you will be receiving next week.

### **Our Foundation**

For over 70 years, OLGC Parish School has provided a sound Catholic and academic foundation that encourages faith-based intellectual inquiry for future success in all areas of life. OLGC has promoted a Christian atmosphere of love, respect, personal responsibility, and social concern. Children are valued for their God-given uniqueness and a family has been formed. Throughout all these years, God has remained the center of our foundation at OLGC.

### **Recent years**

*"Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth" Isaiah 43:19*

In 2018, OLGC received a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit as a bold new mission began to offer a life-changing encounter with Jesus and equip leaders to transform the culture. OLGC is committed to the New Evangelization. Our school accepted Archbishop's Allen H. Vigneron's challenge to embark on a journey of renewal and re-invention with Catholic schools in the AOD as the face of a missionary movement. We are guided by the Archbishop's pastoral letter, *Unleash the Gospel*, which gives us a roadmap for our

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missionary conversion. Our staff is called to foster holiness and serve as a center of evangelization and discipleship for students, families, and faculty.

### **Today**

God has allowed many aspects of our life to be put on hold during this crisis. Families have used this time to rediscover what it means to be the Domestic Church as evident by our school Lenten and Holy Week challenges. God is equipping your family to be an active participant in a Christian community. God is giving our school the opportunity for renewal to accomplish His mission at OLGC. The time is now.

### **Looking Forward**

God has not been shaken by this pandemic and neither has our school mission. There is no doubt that our school will be different next year. Our world will be different after this crisis. Although we cannot guarantee what next year will look like, we are certain that our school will remain proudly Catholic, academically excellent, accessible to all, and sustainable for the future. We put all our trust in Jesus.

### **Recommitment to OLGC Parish School**

In February, each of our school families provided a letter of intent to return to OLGC Parish School for the 2020-2021 school year. This current pandemic has forced change upon our world, Church, homes, and schools. Many families have been relocated or have been impacted financially. It is our hope to not only welcome back our current families, but every family in our community desiring a Catholic education for their child. Next week, your family will be offered the opportunity to prayerfully discern and recommit to the mission of OLGC Parish School for next school year. This recommitment will provide us a more accurate enrollment to make staffing and school decisions. You will be asked to return your recommitment pledge by June 15, 2020.

### **Prayerful Discernment**

There is no greater success and no greater gift you can give your children than a relationship with Jesus and his Church. Our school desires everyone to encounter the person of Jesus and be formed through a personal relationship with Him in and through the Catholic Church. As we partner with you in this mission, it is important that everyone (myself included) makes a prayerful commitment to be fully invested in the success of our school. We will be called to use our God-given gifts and talents to work together. We will be called to help those who are in need of financial assistance. We will be called to act and speak with charity and build each other up with encouragement. We will be called to do whatever it takes to build a cohesive Christian school community.

Each family will be provided specific discernment points to pray with as you make your recommitment for next school year. This discernment process will be tied to the person

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of Jesus as you commit to our school mission that drives all that we do. The heart of our school lies not in a single staff member or a charming building, but our desire for everyone in our community to meet Jesus.

### **Our Journey Together**

If you are like me, there are days when you feel less equipped for a strong mission like ours. This is when I have to remind myself that it's okay. Our faith life is a journey. God has chosen each of us to live in this moment in time in Plymouth, Michigan. God has given us each other to walk with as we grow in holiness. If something is stirring in your heart and this mission is attractive to you, allow us to take a step with you. Like you, my steps go backwards some days, but our challenges will make our community stronger; being there for each other as brother and sister in Christ; eager and ready to support and encourage each other along this life journey; and reminding each other of our God who loves us unconditionally.

During my short time at OLGC, God has continued to exceed all my expectations for our school community. I have no doubt that our awesome God will continue to bless us. I will continue to earnestly seek God in prayer, accompanied by an amazing team, to discern God's plan for our school. It is an honor to collaborate with your families and I am thrilled for whatever God brings our way because He is with us always. I am praying for your family and am here to assist you in any way. Enjoy your long Memorial Day weekend!

In Christ's love,  
Melissa Hunt, principal

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