



Catholic Church of Eastern Montana

DIOCESE OF GREAT FALLS-BILLINGS

Founded 1904

Give the Gospel. Bring Light to the World

July 1, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I write this letter mostly to parents of teen age youth in mind. The final two months of the recent school year presented some obvious challenges for administration and students across Montana as a result of the pandemic caused by the coronavirus. All the schools in Montana closed their doors as teachers creatively began teaching their students online using a variety of technological platforms. Parents too had to make adjustment as we all found ourselves under a “stay at home” order. While technology provided a means to “get through” and conclude the school year, it was hardly the best way to teach or learn.

In the coming school year, Great Falls Central High School plans to resume **in person** classes and has developed a solid plan to address concerns of the coronavirus spreading among students or faculty. Some students did okay via distance learning with use of technology, but this in no way is better than **in-school education**. Of course, a Catholic high school is about more than education. As described on its website, Great Falls Central High School is a diocesan college preparatory institution committed to fostering a **Christ-centered community**, encouraging academic excellence and nurturing the integrity of every student so that each may live fully God’s will for his or her life. As effective as public schools may be, they are not allowed to foster the development of Christian faith. It why it is so important for Catholic parents seriously to consider sending their teens to Great Falls Central High School.

Christian faith involves much more than intellectual knowledge or even agreement that “this” decision or “that” action may be the right thing to say or do. While knowledge about the teaching of the Church is vital for living as a Catholic, such knowledge needs to be grounded in a relationship with the Lord. This is something a Catholic school can freely foster. At Great Falls Central Catholic, students learn many things. From the perspective of the Church, a central part of what Great Falls Central Catholic provides is an opportunity learn about God and discover, at least in a rudimentary way, what God may be calling them to do with their lives as a vocation.

Considering all of the difficulties children face during their teenage years, it is more than helpful for them to be in an educational environment that also provides Christian formation and helps them develop the values that will assist them to make good decisions when faced with moral dilemmas. Young people need a vibrant, faith-filled environment that will provide them the knowledge and wisdom they will need in an increasingly competitive and confusing world. Great Falls Central Catholic provides the faith development and academic excellence that all of us want for our youth. It is more than worth considering.

Registrations are being accepted for the coming year: www.greatfallscentral.org/admissions.

In Christ,

Michael W. Warfel
Bishop of Great Falls-Billings

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