April 8, 2020

Dear Mercy Students and Families,

Today as I began writing to you, the San Francisco Unified School District and the six Bay Area counties announced that campuses would remain closed through the end of the school year and that students would continue their classes using distance learning. This does not come as a surprise but is certainly a disappointment as Mercy realizes that we too will not be able to return to our beautiful campus to be with one another before the semester ends.

I am so conscious of the sadness of all of our community, but especially that of our seniors. It is certainly not the senior springtime that they had hoped for, or that we had hoped for them. Practically speaking, this means that our graduation on May 30 will have to be a virtual one, using the internet to share the Class of 2020’s special moment. Of course, it won’t be the same, but we will do all that we can for you. And then, sometime after the pandemic subsides, we will have a graduation celebration on campus when it is safe once again to celebrate together.

It is also true for all of the frosh, sophomores, juniors, families, faculty, staff...and administrators. We all need the opportunity to both grieve and celebrate together, to bring our Mercy experience to a close, before each of us begins a new chapter in our lives. Realizing how hugely important this is, we hope also to have on-campus, in-person celebrations for everyone whenever the Coronavirus permits us to once again come together to exchange in-person hugs and good wishes.

It is no coincidence that this is all happening during Holy Week when we walk with Jesus through his difficult days in order to reach the new life we are promised at Easter. Next Sunday is about hope; I pray that each of you finds hope in the faith we share as a community, a hope that new life awaits us!

In Mercy,
Sister Carolyn

A Prayer For Easter Sunday

Christ is risen!  
Thanks be to you, O God,  
who has raised Jesus from the dead,  
And who, with him, has raised me from the darkness into light....
Help me in remembering to feel the touch of resurrection within,
   To hear the voices of angels and the wild whispers of faith,
   That because he lives I shall live also…. 
I shall live with a new vision of what it means
   To see daily existence glimmering in the light of an eternal purpose.
I shall live...renewed in hope and assurance.

        — Kenneth G. Phifer