



May 7, 2020

Dear Families,

Although we are still in the midst of a world health crisis, it is important to remember that we are also still in the blessed season of Easter. If we do not lose sight of this fact, we can lean on our faith to find additional strength. Our lives are not anywhere close to “normal” right now, but God’s promise of Easter reminds us that He will always be there to walk with us through all of the good and especially as we navigate through difficulties.

By remembering that God is present and always holds us close, it helps to make the darkness of disappointments a little more bearable. Unfortunately, one of those disappointments involves our summer camp programs. Governor Cooper announced this past Tuesday that the first phase of the NC re-opening plan would be implemented starting on Friday evening. Included in his announcement was the potential of running summer camp programs. Parish leaders and I have considered the guidelines in relation to what they would mean in order to open and operate the summer camps and believe it best to follow a cautiously conservative approach. After much discussion and careful consideration, the decision has been made to **cancel** all camps, across our campus, for the month of **June**. The health and safety of our children, families, and staff was at the forefront of this decision. We take very seriously our obligation to consider the wellbeing of all of our staff and campers.

We are keenly aware of the impact on families that this decision creates, including disappointment, anxiety, and uncertainty. With that in mind, we are holding out on a final decision about camps for **July** while we await further guidance from state, local, and Diocesan officials. In the meantime, know that we are working very hard behind the scenes to research and develop possible alternatives and other reasonable solutions to assist our families in whatever way we can. We want you to know that even if we can’t physically be together we are here to support you. Please be assured that we will continue to keep communication open and consistent to ensure that, with or without our camp programs, you will be informed to assist in making future summer plans.

Finally, refunds for June camps will be issued within the next couple of weeks. Please contact our Administrative Assistant, Shelley, with any questions at: ([shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org)).

We continue to pray each day for your health, peace, and ongoing faith. Please be safe and well!

Blessings,

*Heidi*

Heidi Hobler

Director

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