

May 1, 2020

Dear friends,

Happy Easter! May the joy of Christ's resurrection and the intercession of Mary bring you many blessings as we enter this month dedicated to the Blessed Mother.

You may have heard that there is something neat happening today: Archbishop Gomez – the archbishop of the archdiocese of Los Angeles and the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops – is [renewing the consecration of the United States of America to the Blessed Virgin Mary alongside a renewal of consecration of Canada to Mary by their bishops](#). Bishops across the country – including Archbishop Etienne – will be joining in this prayer at noon today. I hope you will join in this prayer. I am including a link to the prayer and the live stream page by the archdiocese at the end of this letter.

More locally, our school has kicked off its annual auction. This year's theme is 'A Night at the Movies'. Although circumstances prevent us gathering for this celebration in support of our school ministry, it does enable us to hold it over several days! The auction started on April 29th and will run through May 3rd. Please [visit the online auction site](#) to see how you can help ensure that our school continues its mission – and perhaps score a package or two (there's a couple there that I'm particular to, but I may be biased....)

Finally, I'd like to draw your attention to a referendum that our bishops are encouraging us to support – Referendum 90 – in response to a recently passed state-mandated K-12 sex education bill for public schools. Let that sink in for a moment – a sex education bill that starts in *kindergarten* and goes through twelfth grade. You can read one of the [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's curricula](#) yourself, where kindergartners are being taught about homosexual unions, the names of body parts, and arousal - and that's the first eleven pages of a six hundred eighty-four page document. While this does **not** apply to a private school like Saint Mark, many children and youth in our parish would be subjected to these curricula, alongside all students of public schools.

The name of this overreaching bill is [Senate Bill 5395](#). With the permission and encouragement of Archbishop Etienne, I invite you to join me in signing Referendum 90, which would repeal Senate Bill 5395. The number of signatures need is 129,811 – due by June 10, 2020. I have ordered petition sheets (they have not arrived yet) and will let you know when they are available for to sign at the church. Learn more at the [Parents for Safe Schools](#) website.

As you can see, there is much to do – spiritually, parochially, and civilly! Even though our mobility may be limited, we are empowered as citizens of Washington state and as members of the Body of Christ. Entrusting ourselves to Jesus through Mary – especially through the rosary! – let us use these opportunities to make a difference in our parish, archdiocese, state, and the country.

Yours in Christ,

Father Maurer

May 1st renewal of consecration of the USA to Mary

[Renewal of the Consecration of the United States of America to the Blessed Virgin Mary](http://www.usccb.org/about/communications/upload/consecration-usa-mary-mother-of-church.pdf)
(<http://www.usccb.org/about/communications/upload/consecration-usa-mary-mother-of-church.pdf>)

Archdiocesan live stream of the consecration to Mary (Friday, May 1, 2020 at 12:00 noon) -
<https://vimeo.com/413186676>

Saint Mark parish school auction

Saint Mark parish school auction - *A Night at the Movies*
(<https://stmss2020.ggo.bid/bidding/package-browse>)

Parents for Safe Schools (Referendum 90)

[Referendum 90 information](https://www.parentsforsafeschools.com/) (<https://www.parentsforsafeschools.com/>)

- this is the referendum that the Archbishop is encouraging us to sign to repeal the Senate Bill (5395) mandating sex education starting in kindergarten for all public schools

[Senate Bill 5395](http://lawfilesexxt.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2019-20/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5395-S.PL.pdf?q=20200430234919) (<http://lawfilesexxt.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2019-20/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5395-S.PL.pdf?q=20200430234919>)

- this is the senate bill mandating sex education starting in kindergarten for all public schools

[One of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's curricula "Rights, Respect, Responsibility: A K-12 Curriculum"](http://houserepublicans.wa.gov/files/uploads/3Rs_ALL_Lesson_Plans.pdf)

(http://houserepublicans.wa.gov/files/uploads/3Rs_ALL_Lesson_Plans.pdf)

- this is one of the approved curricula from Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
- There are many more – you can view the current [list of the 2015-2019 Reviewed HIV/Sexual Health Instructional Materials from OSPI](https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/hivsexualhealth/pubdocs/Reviewed%20Materials%20Consistent%20with%20State%20Requirements%20Rev%202002.07.2020.pdf)
(<https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/hivsexualhealth/pubdocs/Reviewed%20Materials%20Consistent%20with%20State%20Requirements%20Rev%202002.07.2020.pdf>)



Mary, we come before you as spiritual children in great need, seeking your intercession, and asking that your mantle of love surround us to console, protect, and lead us to your son Jesus.

We entrust all of God's family, especially the church in Western Washington, into your immaculate hands. With your son Jesus' gentle power you can *undo any knot* in our church, and in the lives of believers who entrust themselves to your care.

Today I especially entrust to you *[mention request/ Coronavirus here]*, and I ask that — through your intercession, and that of St. James, our guardian angels, and the faithful in our archdiocese — we may be free from every spiritual and temporal ill, and be safely led to encounter your son's merciful, sacred heart.

Our Lady of Seattle, Undoer of Knots, pray for us!