



Br. Hank: Finding God in times of crisis

P.J. Cunningham
junior reporter

When Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker declared a state of emergency due to the Covid-19 outbreak on March 9, many of us realized the crisis we had watched unfold in China and Italy had finally come to our doorstep.

That same day, Pope Francis began streaming his weekly addresses to the faithful, a departure from the centuries old tradition of public preaching in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. Local churches closed their doors and Cardinal Cupich announced that Holy Week and Easter services would not take place this year in the Archdiocese.

School President Br. Hank Hammer, knew that these necessary changes would be difficult for people of faith.

"There is an international Marist effort going for people to connect and talk with each other through social media and video conferencing," Br. Hank said. "The challenge is to draw on our faith since we cannot go to church."

While Br. Hank believes all people should look to God during this outbreak, he also thinks it is important for people to focus on praying for others rather than for themselves.

"I believe very strongly that it is not going to do much if we just sit our homes and pray for God to 'please end this virus,'" Br. Hank said. "I don't think that is effective. I think our prayers should be for people working to end the virus, people who are sick and for people to do the right thing. The fact that [Chicago] Mayor Lightfoot had to order the lakefront closed because people were not observing proper social distancing worries me, so I have prayed that all of us take this crisis seriously."

Br. Hank agrees with writer Madeleine L'Engle, author of *A Wrinkle in Time*, who believes that God's gift of free-will to people gives us the power to act in times of crisis.

"When people begin to ask 'How could God let this happen,' [L'Engle's] answer is that God loves us so much that He was willing to give away his power to us in the form of free will," Br. Hank said. "I have seen people use it well and be a positive example for others. I have also seen a lot of people make bad choices. We are subject to the natural world, and it is what we do with our free will that ultimately determines what happens."

With school closed until at least April 30, Br. Hank hopes students will turn to the resources on the school website to maintain their spiritual health.

He also hopes that this crisis changes people permanently for the better.

"I hope people look at Mr. Tucker's daily videos, Deacon Andy's morning prayers, the reflections from our seniors and, of course, the Memorare at the end of the day" Br. Hank said. "Ritual is very important, and if we do things like this it will help keep us connected spiritually. When this is over, I hope that we never forget how important our relationships are and to stay connected and care for each other."

the coronavirus pandemic of 2020

We are bold We are brave We are Marist

Elizabeth Delehanty
and
Cecelia Gibbons
editors-in-chief

The *Sentinel* editorial board is dedicated to updating our community in a timely manner. Now, more than ever, as we face unprecedented times like these, it is a journalist's job to stay proactive, to know what is going on and to report on what will happen next.

Since e-learning began, we have been conducting interviews with different leaders in our community. Over the course of the next few days and weeks, we will publish news updates and interviews with President Brother Hank Hammer, Principal Larry Tucker, Academic Dean of Upperclassmen Thomas Gouterman, Athletic Director Eric Simpson and others. We will do our best to help our community achieve greater peace of mind by letting them know what is going on and what to expect in the future.

We are also aware that, in addition to speaking to our current community, we are record keepers, chronicling events, our thoughts and our feelings about current situations. It is our hope that generations to follow will look back on these publications when this crisis becomes a part of history.

Today, as we reflect on our faith, we can look to St. Marcellin Champagnat, who struggled through that fateful snowstorm, but eventually saw the lantern and was saved. We are together in a different 'snowstorm' now, scared and uncertain about how long this pandemic will last. Yet we know that, like St. Marcellin, we will find our lantern and we will be guided away from this virus.

In the meantime, we would like to remind all members of our community to stay inside and stay safe. Pray every day, maybe using the words written by Pope Francis to the Blessed Mother (see below). Follow social distance guidelines, practice good hygiene and be especially careful when it is necessary to leave your house. This is the best way to keep everyone healthy. Each of us has a duty to be a leader in our community, to stay connected and to be strong. There is fear and there is anxiety, but we are bold, we are brave, we are Marist.

We will come out of this pandemic, stronger than we were before.

Mr. Tucker: An emphasis on hope

Isabella Schreck
junior reporter

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought an unprecedented obstacle into students' lives across the world. High schools and colleges are shut down, and students are tasked with self-isolation while their places of employment begin closing as well.

In his last semester as principal, Larry Tucker, along with the school community, was faced with a new school-reality: e-learning.

"This is different for everyone, including the administration," Tucker said. "We are in contact with professionals who tell us what's going on and what we can expect for the future. We must take warnings seriously, and all we can do is plan for the worst and hope for the best."

Tucker and the administration worked to create an online school schedule that would allow students to smoothly transition from regular classes to Zoom conferences and Canvas discussions.

"On our end, everyone is doing the best they can," Tucker said. "During this new process, we need to keep encouraging our students to work through their assignments, while at the same time taking breaks from their screens."

Without face-to-face interaction, Tucker took this opportunity to build school morale over social media. Through his daily Twitter videos, Tucker shares how he copes with social distancing and discusses local events and trivia.

"It's hard to keep us all connected while we are at home," Tucker said. "We all took for granted seeing each other every day, and when this pandemic ends, we're going to be different people, for better or worse."

Since online learning, average student attendance rose from 94 to 98 percent, an increase Tucker attributes to the diligent work of the faculty.

"I always knew we had outstanding teachers, but their true character has come out during this time of crisis," Tucker said. "E-learning gives students a purpose when waking up in the morning, and as faculty gave up their spring break to prepare lessons, they showed how much they care about the students and our school."

While he will be back as school president, Tucker's thoughts are with those who will not be returning next fall.

"It's definitely a weird way to end my tenure as principal, and it would be even stranger if I was not returning, but right now I am focused on our seniors," Tucker said. "The discussion about prom and graduation is ongoing and will change based on state mandates, but we hope to have some culminating activities for our seniors so they can come together as a class and feel that bond again before they say goodbye."

Tucker encourages the school community to remain optimistic.

"It's times like this when we develop our character, we grow as people," Tucker said. "We have to look at the situation and think 'How can I come out of this a better person than I was before?'"



PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MARY FOR THE PROTECTION FROM CORONAVIRUS

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. **We entrust ourselves to you**, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. **Help us, Mother of Divine Love**, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and **deliver us from every danger**, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

THE SENTINEL



THE 2019-2020 EDITORIAL BOARD

ELIZABETH DELEHANTY

CECELIA GIBBONS

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

PJ CUNNINGHAM

GRACE MOLENHOUSE

ANGEL ORTIZ JR.

ISABELLA SCHRECK

BROTHER HANK
HAMMER, FMS
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

MR. LARRY TUCKER
PRINCIPAL

MR. JOHN J. GONCZY, CJE
FACULTY ADVISER

The *Sentinel* is the official student publication of Marist High School, Chicago, published monthly August through May by the students of Marist High School. The opinions expressed in the *Sentinel* are those of the author and not necessarily those of the *Sentinel* staff or Marist High School, unless otherwise noted.

As an open forum, the *Sentinel* welcomes and encourages letters to the editor and guest editorials. Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less and must be signed by the author. Guest editorials are limited to 500 words and must also be signed by the author.

The *Sentinel* reserves the right to deny a letter publication if it is morally or ethically offensive, contains unsubstantiated claims or personal attacks. The *Sentinel* also reserves the right to edit letters and guest editorials for space or clarity. Letters may be sent to the *Sentinel* Editorial Board, 4200 W. 115th Street, Chicago, IL 60655 or may be dropped off in room 126. Letters must be received by the first school day of the calendar month if they are to be considered for publication in that month's issue.

In the event the *Sentinel* makes an error, a correction or retraction will be published in the following issue.

The *Sentinel* is published by Southwest Regional Publishing, 12247 S. Harlem Ave., Palos Heights, IL 60463.

our hopes and visions for the future

When this is all over...

Patrick Maxwell
sophomore reporter

COVID-19 has turned our world upside down. This is the biggest pandemic the world has seen since the 1918 Spanish Flu. Even though everyone is anxious or even frightened, we will learn a lot from the pandemic when this is all over.

When the first person tested positive for the virus in Wuhan, China, not many people knew that it would turn into a life-changing epidemic. When people saw it spread from China to Italy to the United States, people got very stressed out.

As the virus began to spread through our country, the government gave us instructions on how to stay safe. This included keeping away from anyone who is sick, to self-quarantine for 14 days if you have been exposed to the virus, washing your hands thoroughly and staying six feet apart from others.

We continue to follow these guidelines in order to stay safe.

During this time, some people reacted in unusual ways. For example, people across the United States began hoarding items at stores, such as toilet paper and hand sanitizer.

As a result, government officials including President Trump, Governor Pritzker and Mayor Lightfoot have asked people not to stock up on these items.

Now, most stores have imposed one-per-customer limits on these and many other items. People need learn to control themselves and not take more than they need. We need to be mindful of others and their needs, not just our own.

We have never dealt with anything like this before, but we have no choice but to deal with the crisis at hand. We need to stay calm and thankful that we live in an age where technology allows us to remain connected with loved ones. Technology also allows us to continue our education.

Movies, concerts, festivals and sporting events have been cancelled until further notice. This pandemic will teach us never to take these events for granted again.

Another thing that has been cancelled due to the coronavirus is church gatherings. Religious services all around the world are being streamed online for all to see. People should take advantage of these opportunities to pray. If we look to God, He will do what is right for us. When this is all over, people should learn to rely on God more as a result of this experience.

Between the virus and the bad weather, people have been stuck in their houses for a long time. We never realized how hard it would be to remain inside our homes for such a long time. When the weather improves, people should try to find things to do outside safely, like working out or doing yard work. When the pandemic ends, we should learn not to take the outdoors for granted and go outside whenever we get the chance.

When this is all over, let's hope that we look differently at the world and at life. Let's never take the things for granted that we once did. This is a wake up call to the world, so let's learn from it and hope that this never happens again.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES FOR AMERICA

DO YOUR PART TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Work or engage in schooling **FROM HOME** whenever possible.

IF YOU WORK IN A CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. You and your employers should follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.

AVOID SOCIAL GATHERINGS in groups of more than 10 people.

Avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts — **USE DRIVE-THRU, PICKUP, OR DELIVERY OPTIONS.**

AVOID DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL, shopping trips, and social visits.

DO NOT VISIT nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE:

- Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.

CORONAVIRUS.GOV

School operations can accelerate the spread of the coronavirus. Governors of states with evidence of community transmission should close schools in affected and surrounding areas. Governors should close schools in communities that are near areas of community transmission, even if those areas are in neighboring states. In addition, state and local officials should close schools where coronavirus has been identified in the population associated with the school. States and localities that close schools need to address childcare needs of critical responders, as well as the nutritional needs of children.

Older people are particularly at risk from the coronavirus. All states should follow Federal guidance and halt social visits to nursing homes and retirement and long-term care facilities.

In states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.

Matthew Warakomski
junior reporter

It is very difficult to escape the media reports and statistics on the spread of COVID-19. It seems like the pandemic will never end. However, if one thing is guaranteed, it is that one day the pandemic will come to an end.

But when it does end, what will happen then?

First, we can and must learn from this tragic situation and apply the lessons to our lives for a better and wiser future.

We need to expand our definition of patriotism. We see patriots as people who put their lives on the line, making sacrifices for the greater good. Doctors, nurses and EMTs are now doing those things we normally associate with soldiers, police officers and firefighters. Health care providers work to keep people infected with COVID-19 alive, while risking their

own health and that of their families. Some have died in the line of duty. Yet those who remain return to work and keep treating their patients because it is their duty. We should recognize these professionals as true patriots and celebrate the risks they take every day treating the sick.

Citizens also need to rethink the roles they play in society. As the crisis continues, it becomes not only the responsibility of health care officials to slow the spread of COVID-19 but also the responsibility of the common citizen.

Through social distancing and following medical guidelines, we learn the responsibility of looking out for the health of others. It reminds us of how important the actions of citizens are for getting the best possible outcome in a bad situation.

Average folks must commit to strengthening their morals and see the importance of our actions and words in the face of things that threaten our lives and livelihoods.

A change in our world view is also in order. Watching the world shut down and seeing hundreds of healthy people succumb to COVID-19 makes us realize just how fragile life is.

We have to appreciate the simple things that exist in our lives, like toilet paper and car washes and Starbucks coffee, while also showing more concern for those around us. The world is not just one man or woman, but a collective of people we need to pay attention to. We need to stop judging and dehumanizing each other.

Many people are focused on the economic drawbacks and putting safeguards in place in case another pandemic happens again. While those things are important, we cannot forget how this pandemic is an experiment in how we learn to connect and remain human in times of extreme trouble and fear. We have fallen on hard and anxious times. After this is over, we must remember to stay connected and never forget what it means to be human.

our hopes and visions for the future

When this is all over...

Faith Harper
sophomore reporter

A pandemic has us all cooped up in our homes with our family members and pets. Based on decisions being made to contain the coronavirus, there really is no definite way to know when the next time we will be able to congregate with others or even walk on the lakefront. If only we were in a movie, then the superhero could take down this villain. Luckily, the next best heroes that the CDC trusts are distance and disinfectants.

After this is all over, we should remember what was sacrificed and reconsider habits we might have adopted during quarantine. For most of us, a freedom that was taken for granted was going to the grocery store to get toilet paper. According to articles written by reporters in newspapers around the nation, stores are struggling to stock products that normally are available without a problem. Now when we go out to do shopping, safety is a priority.

Delaney Powers
sophomore reporter

Coronavirus, or more specifically COVID-19, has changed the world.

Washing our hands frequently, staying six feet away from everyone and being confined to our homes, except for getting groceries, is our new normal.

When this pandemic is over, most people will come out differently than before.

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker said in a press conference on March 30 that the greatest strength of the United States is the people. Without seeking fame or reward, citizens are donating what they have to help first responders help those infected.

The governor also said Illinoisans rise to the current challenges of their time. Each one of us has the persistence to get through this. We will get back to our old normal eventually. We just have to do as much as we can to help these patients recover.

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot spoke at a press conference on March 19, saying thank you to all people who put their lives at risk in order to save others.

Katelyn Finley
sophomore reporter

The coronavirus pandemic began taking over the world in late December and early January. At first, we did not take the coronavirus very seriously in the United States. For many, it was just something that was happening in China.

The virus became more serious as the days passed, and by the middle of March, many Americans went into "stay-at-home" mode.

People continue to practice social distancing to prevent spreading or getting the coronavirus. Any place that is not a "necessity" is closed to the public. Places that remain open are doctors' offices, hospitals and grocery stores. Restaurants and fast food places also remain open for carry out but no dine in.

Schools have closed as well, although many have moved to online learning so that students do not fall behind. For now, Illinois schools are closed until April 30, while Indiana schools will not be reopening this year.

Senior editor Tobie Stanger wrote an article for *Consumer Reports* recording how markets are seeing an increase in delivery services. Seeing that we now rely on delivery not only limits our exposure to fresh air, but it also can put us in a mindset of never needing to go out to pick up items ourselves.

Good habits may have been picked up while we sheltered in place, including keeping our homes clean and maintaining a higher level of personal hygiene.

Reporter Richard Williams of *The Hill* wrote an article warning the world about the FDA slowing down the production of hand sanitizers. In response, some people have begun creating their own sanitizers and other cleaning products in order to maintain a clean environment. An essential habit we should have from now on is making sure we have the products we need during a crisis, but without hoarding.

Nurse practitioner Sylvia Wiley expressed the relief of having technology to be able to reach out to family. On the job, Wiley rarely had the chance to think

about the day, let alone contacting loved ones. Before this crisis, some of us probably could not find time to talk with our families. Reporter Joe Pinsker of *The Atlantic* interviewed a Stanford professor about a Skype call the professor had with a friend who lived in another city. The professor commented about participating in these calls was so important, long before the coronavirus outbreak.

We, too, should realize that this time of isolation doesn't have to be total isolation. We can see this situation as a positive since it gives us all a chance to catch up with those with whom we rarely get to speak, whether over video conferencing or a simple phone call.

The old saying goes that those who forget history are doomed to repeat it. We must never forget the sacrifices that were made during this time. After this is all over we should remember the negative and positive aspects of being stuck in the house. We may not be in a movie, but if we can keep these values, we can become the superheroes of the future.

found respect and gratitude for what teachers deal with every single day.

Parents are beginning to view teachers as angels for putting up with their crazy first grader or moody teenager. They cannot imagine managing 25 students or more at once. Meanwhile, the challenge for parents is to keep their kids occupied and help them as much as they can, while they also work from home and try to keep up with cooking and cleaning.

The most important thing for all of us to remember during this time of confined boredom is that we are all in this together. This is not just the name of a *High School Musical* song. Each day, for example, we see someone post a picture on social media that brings hope.

Many celebrities around the world are using the internet to entertain us, such as late-night shows from the host's home, comedians doing YouTube videos, and singers performing virtual concerts.

When we get out of this, we will all be singing Kelly Clarkson's hit song "What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Stronger" with a little more meaning behind the lyrics.

package of toilet paper or paper towels per customer. Stores have also been reserving morning hours on certain days for senior citizens only, since they are more susceptible to the coronavirus.

The coronavirus will eventually pass, but it will take time. The precautions we continue to take today are helping to save lives. If we had waited any longer to take these precautions, many more people would have ended up sick and/or dead.

This pandemic will be talked about for years to come. It will eventually be written about in our history books, just as today we are reminded of the influenza epidemic of 1918 that killed an estimated 50 million people worldwide.

There is no vaccine against or cure for the virus, but hopefully medical researchers will soon succeed in finding both so that this terrible period in our lives will come to an end.

For now, all anyone can do is keep their physical distance from others, stay at home, keep themselves healthy and look forward to the day this is all over.

**When this is all over,
we should have a
parade or name a new
holiday to show first
responders that we
do not take them for
granted.**

Doctors and nurses use what they have learned to try to stop COVID-19, going to work each day facing the risk of catching it themselves and bringing it home to their families. There are not enough masks and not enough doctors. Recently there has been a call out to any medical students in college or retired doctors to help take care of patients.

When COVID-19 is over we should have a parade or name a new holiday to show first responders that we do not take them for granted.

Perhaps many students are okay with e-learning days and watching television or movies at night. Parents have a new-

As we continue to practice social distancing, people should not go out in groups. Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot closed the lakefront and city parks because too many Chicagoans were not following the new rules. The police are now on the lookout for groups of people in public and they can actually write tickets for people who violate the city's stay-at-home order.

We have been asked not to gather with any people who are not immediate family and to stay away from elderly and people with known health problems. One of the scariest things about this virus is that people may be carriers of the virus without knowing it because they have no symptoms.

One of the negative effects of the stay-at-home order and social distancing is that people have been hoarding paper products and cleaning supplies, especially toilet paper, hand sanitizer and antibacterial wipes. The aisles in the stores where we buy these products are empty nearly every day. Most stores now enforce a rule that allows only one

Homesick

Brigid Englehart
Student Council President

I've dreamed of these days since I was little. The kind of days people describe as the "good old days."

I was so excited to get to live that out for myself: prom, the senior lock in, senior awards, one last season with my team, walking the stage at graduation and just that final wrap up of the best four years I could've asked for.

Sadly, that isn't the way things are playing out.

So here I am, writing an article I never expected I would have to, from my house.

I understand what's going on in the world is unprecedented. People all around the world are suffering. I fully comprehend the fact that possibly not getting to wear my pretty prom dress, or getting to run around the track a few more times with my best friends, is not the end of the whole world.

But (and I don't think that my feelings are invalid) this sucks.

When I started to ask my fellow seniors about how they feel about this, many said exactly the same thing. Many of them expressed sadness, worry, anxiety, denial and disbelief.

One answer really sums up our feelings. We're homesick.

Marist High School has always been more than a school and not being there has made this more evident. I miss the feeling of getting to walk down the halls and see the smiling faces of my friends.

I miss learning all kinds of different things from Br. Rich as he makes me late for class.

Honestly, I would not even mind getting a detention from Dean O'Neill for my illegal sweatshirt if it meant I could be back at Marist.

It's hard to process that I may have already had my last moments at Marist. We do not know how this is all going to play out. Nobody knows.

I truly want to thank the teachers and administration for everything they have done for us during this very trying time. We see and appreciate the work you put in everyday.

Where do we go from here? Well, we could all sit around and weep about the fact we can't go to real school, we could dwell on how unfortunate this is. Or, we could take a look on the bright side. In the world we are currently living in, if your family is still healthy, if you can go to the kitchen to get a snack you know will be in your full cabinet, or if you have the ability to keep in touch with family and friends through social media, you're lucky. Do not take that for granted.

I'm not saying you have to get over the heartbreak of these weeks of the school year being taken from you, because, honestly, I'm not going to be able to get over this soon.

But remember: we can still reach out to our friends, we can spend time with our families, we can get a good workout in or maybe even read a book not assigned to you by your teacher for once.

Being stuck inside doesn't have to be a prison, but it will be if you let it be.

For now, Redhawks, stay grateful for what you have.

Take a moment to say thank you to the teachers and administration for everything they're doing to help us.

Stay in touch with all your brothers and sisters for life.

Stay positive.



Jordan Vidovic
head coach-volleyball

"We are doing our best to stay positive and stick together as the volleyball program. To be honest, it is very tough mentally considering how much we were looking forward to the season, especially the seniors who put in a great deal of work in the offseason to be ready. Being the defending champions is a very unique experience. It adds so much energy and excitement to every game and it is tough not getting to experience that right now. We are trying to maintain our connection through team communication, at home workouts/skill drills and position meetings online. We hope to be ready if we are able to compete in a short season and would be extremely grateful for that opportunity."



Sean Maxwell
head coach-soccer

"I think we are all very upset to be missing out not only on soccer, but simply being together on a normal basis at Marist. We never could have imagined something like this. It's obviously something that nobody wanted and everybody has to deal with. We are trying our best to stay in touch and keep hope alive that there will be a shortened season but I think everyone by now also recognizes the reality that might not happen. I feel the worst for the seniors because everybody looks forward to their senior year activities, whether it is playing sports, doing debates, performing in the play, the senior lock-in, the prom or any of the other great activities that Marist offers. I just keep praying every day that this will pass quickly and praying that our school community stays united and strong through this terrible situation. Now, more than ever, let us pray for each other!"

TIME OUT!

Pandemic postpones spring sports seasons

Angel Ortiz Jr.
junior reporter

The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) announced on March 12 that it was canceling all remaining winter state tournaments, including boys basketball, scholastic bowl, drama and group interpretation, music organization, debate and journalism.

Once Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker announced that all schools would be closed until at least April 30, the spring sports seasons were postponed.

Typically at this time of the year, RedHawks are busy practicing and even competing in soccer, baseball, track and field, volleyball and a number of other sports. Seniors who were looking forward to a final season are left wondering when, if ever, they will get to compete.

Athletic Director Eric Simpson shared some of his thought and feelings about how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting players and coaches.

"Our hearts go out to all spring sports athletes and coaches," Simpson said. "We know how hard they have worked to prepare for this season. We firmly believe that the perseverance, determination and togetherness that the RedHawks exhibit on the courts and playing fields will sustain us through the adversity we now face."

Simpson emphasized that he looks forward to the time that practices and competitions can resume.

"We have cancelled or postponed all athletic activity until April 30 in alignment with directives from the governor and state health officials," Simpson said. "Obviously, the situation is fluid and all of our scheduled events are in the air for the 2020 spring season."

Simpson also added that coaches should encourage students to stay positive, exercise and continue to hone their physical talents safely and responsibly during this time.

Coaches will continue to utilize social media and online video conferencing platforms to maintain a sense of team community and provide physical and skill development opportunities for student athletes in their homes.

COVID-19 has also affected student athletes who are trying to get scholarships from colleges. Simpson and other coaches are doing everything in their power to support the student athletes' collegiate athletic aspirations.

"As a former college coach, I know that the RedHawks have a history of athletic success and a roster of coaches that are well respected at the college level," Simpson said. "College-bound student athletes I have spoken with continue to be in contact with their college coaching staffs."

Simpson appreciates the hard work of faculty, staff and the student body in transitioning to e-learning, and hopes that all students will stay engaged with the learning process.

"We encourage all members of the Marist community to be aware of important announcements from Brother Hank, Mr. Tucker, and team athletic communicators and we hope that everyone continues to participate in daily prayer," Simpson said. "If any student is experiencing technical difficulties with the remote learning process, teachers and staff are always available to help."

While freshmen, sophomores and juniors will eventually see another season, Simpson reflects the thoughts and feelings of many Americans toward the Class of 2020.

"We are committed to honoring the seniors' accomplishments and recognizing them as the 2020 graduating class. I know there are better days ahead and I am pining for a return to normalcy and a return to school, as we all are."



Kevin Sefcik
head coach-baseball

"I have not been coping well at all. It's been very disappointing for our seniors. A lot of the seniors were playing behind a group of very good seniors last year, so this was going to be their year to get a lot of playing time. I understand that what is going on in the world is more important than a baseball season, but it's tough for the guys that can't get this year back. Fortunately, most of our seniors will be playing in college, so they have more baseball ahead of them. We need to take care of the health of our nation and the world and hopefully we can get back on the field soon. I am hoping that the IHSA might let us practice a little in the fall if we are allowed back in school at that time."



Colleen Phelan
head coach-softball

"I know this is not how I, my seniors or any player in our program imagined this season going so far. We're extremely bummed right now. The girls worked so hard during the off season through conditioning and having early morning open gyms all fall and winter. My heart breaks for our senior athletes who potentially might not be able to wear their uniform one last time, have a senior day and just create memories with teammates during their final season. However, we have been doing everything we can virtually to be ready athletically and stay connected as a team if and when the time comes. Right now, the girls understand the seriousness of this virus and we are just praying for everyone's health and safety. To all the senior athletes, if we do not get to play this year, know you had a lasting impact on all our programs and school in your first three years and we will celebrate you when we're allowed to be together again."

"Being a senior faced with the possibility of not playing my final season as a RedHawk is extremely upsetting. The team is still communicating and working hard in hopes of playing again. We feel lost, frustrated, antsy and cheated. There is no perfect way to describe the loss of our season." Mia Crotty, RedHawk softball

"When I first heard about school being canceled I was pretty sad and then, when they said we couldn't play either, I was upset. After reflecting for a bit, I realized there is nothing we can do except follow the guidelines and get ready for when we hopefully come back. The seniors this year were very excited for a possible repeat [of last year's state championship]. We started working toward this season the day after last season ended. We need to stay optimistic and prepare for our return. If and when we do come back, we will be hungrier than ever." Jake McClain, RedHawk volleyball

"My teammates and I would do anything to be back on the field. We have been coping. It is terrible that this had to happen during our senior year. It has been very emotional because I miss going to school seeing all my friends, teachers, coaches and teammates. I hope that our season can resume because this is my last year playing baseball with my friends. It has honestly been surreal not being at Marist five days a week. I consider Marist my home. It would be really sad if as seniors we do not experience the events that we have been looking forward to like prom, senior lock-in, and graduation. Hopefully, as seniors we can go back to the place where we have made memories and cherish these last ones." Ryan Adasiak, RedHawk baseball

"I have been practicing outside with my brothers and running a lot in order to keep in shape in case we do have a season. We have also been getting sent workouts that are helping us to stay active. I am trying to be hopeful that we will at least have a couple of games so that we can end with a proper goodbye. I am trying not to think about the fact that I already might have had my last practice as part of the soccer program at Marist. Our team is keeping up with each other to make sure everyone is okay, which is helping a lot. Hopefully we see each other soon." Ashley Drag, RedHawk soccer