Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we conclude the first few days of distance learning, we write to express our gratitude and to thank you for your extraordinary partnership as we pilot this new approach in fulfilling our mission of Catholic Jesuit secondary education.

While we and our faculty miss the presence of our students, we feel that the transition to distance learning has been relatively smooth. Though early in the process, we are committed to enhancing our Distance Learning Plan so we may better serve your son and all our students. Making improvements to this plan early on will help us consolidate our successes and continue the momentum of our curricular goals and learning outcomes for the school year. Please complete this short survey to contribute to our process of continuous improvement. The survey is optional and anonymous. Responses should be submitted by 9:00 p.m. on Monday, March 23.

Many have asked us how long we intend to suspend in-person learning here on the Rose Hill campus. New York City has ordered all schools to shut down in-person operations until at least April 20. Every indication is that this order will extend beyond April 20. As soon as we have additional guidance we will share it with you. Please note that the regularly scheduled Easter Break on Fordham Prep’s school calendar, April 9-17, remains a school holiday. However, our distance learning program will be in session on all other weekdays between March 23 and April 20. This includes Friday, March 27, originally set aside for the Freshman Retreat, which will now be a regular class day of distance learning for all students.

Seniors and their parents have asked about Spring activities and events for the Class of 2020, including commencement. While we cannot commit to sponsoring any of these events at this time, we will do everything possible to schedule a commencement ceremony prior to the period of time in which our graduates are expected to depart and move onto college or university campuses if they are relocating. Since Fordham University provides the Prep with our commencement venue, we are somewhat dependent on the outcome of their facilities decisions and calendar as well.

We continue to carefully consider plans for 3rd quarter grades and the standards by which we will assess distance learning goals and outcomes beyond the 3rd quarter. Once finalized, we will share these with you.

Finally, in addition to our commitment to excellence in academics, we continue to offer mission-critical opportunities for our students and community to grow in faith and service. These opportunities include our daily weekday Mass which is now live-streamed; sharing your prayer intentions; a Campus Ministry Prayer Team; the prayer we offer in our daily announcements; a daily Lenten Prayer for parents; a video recording of Wednesday Morning Prayer with St. Ignatius; and service suggestions and requests which we expect will continue to grow as we dialogue with service organizations and agencies in our community. You can find information about these resources at www.fordhamprep.org/faithservice

May God bless you and your families during these very challenging and uncertain days ahead.

Sincerely yours,