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April 6, 2020

To School Board officials and employees,  
to School Trustees,  
to teachers and educators,  
to students and their parents:

To all the people involved in Catholic education, I come to assure you of my presence, my support and my prayer, during this very difficult time. To those of you who show dedication and creativity in helping children and youth continue to learn, in one way or another, during this period of imposed isolation, THANK YOU! To parents who improvise constructive and educational activities in an attempt to occupy and interest their children, THANK YOU! To children and young people who agree to stay home, thus contributing to our collective effort to slow the spread of coronavirus, THANK YOU! To all those who, despite distance and isolation, invent ways of helping and encouraging others, THANK YOU! Together, let us pray for all the people who are affected by this pandemic throughout the world.

I take this opportunity, at the start of Holy Week, to wish you a deeper understanding of the greatness of Christ's gift to us, as we relive the days of his Passion and Resurrection. May the joy of Easter morning give you the vitality and the hope that will help you meet all the challenges before us.

Yours in Christ,

+Marcel Damphousse  
Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie