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Beloved Cathedral School and Parish community,

Happy Fourth of July!

This July brings exciting new prospects for our CRC community.

Taking stock of what we have been through, there is so much to be thankful for:

- Owing to the generosity of many, we are set to survive the grave financial implications of the coronavirus-crisis.
- All our staff have been retained on full salary and wonderful new talent has been attracted to the school. For the first time in years, a religious sister will be joining our teaching team: Sr. Cecilia Joseph, of the Sisters of Mary Queen of Mercy.
- The tenure of Jeremy Ekeler has established our parish school on the best possible foundation for the future – streets ahead of how he found it some years ago.

**Thank you, Principal Ekeler!**

Looking forward, we have abundant reasons to be hopeful:

- Our school will reopen its doors, as scheduled, in the Fall – and enrolment is looking to be good: especially in Kindergarten, where our best prospects for future growth are to be found.
- Moreover, CRC is truly blessed to have found a phenomenal successor to Mr. Ekeler in the person of Carl Bilotta, who joins us at Cathedral with his wife, Theresa, and their seven children – all the way from Wake Forest, North Carolina.

**Welcome, Principal Bilotta!**

Mr. Bilotta's tenure, which began on 1 July, marks the beginning of an exciting new era for CRC:

- Witnessing the excitement at being Cathedral parishioners on the part of so many participants of our five year strategic planning process, and their passion for the faith, it is easy to perceive how our school and parish stands at the threshold of a promising new period with so much momentum gaining ground.
- Your clergy – boosted by the recent arrivals of our new associate pastor, Fr. Caleb Hile, and diocesan MC, Fr. Eckrich, as well as the retention of Pius X's Chaplain, Fr. Bernardo, in residence – gives Cathedral, as Fr. Clark put it in his farewell letter, "*some of the most dynamic priests of the diocese.*"

Hard as it is to imagine CRC without Mr. Ekeler, fortunately – with him now advocating full-time for Catholic schools and school choice through the Nebraska Catholic Conference – I don't think we will ever need to do so! What's more, Jeremy and Carl have already been collaborating closely for months, and, if this first week is anything to go by, the transition will be seamless and greatly advantageous for all concerned.

Truly, it is an exciting time to be associated with CRC, and we really look forward to collaborating with you in the great privilege of educating your children in the Faith for another academic year!

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

**Father Justin Wylie,**

*Rector, Cathedral Parish and School*

Dear Cathedral of the Risen Christ Parish and School Community,

It is with great excitement that I write to you. We have officially “landed” in Lincoln and are making this our home. Thank you for all of your prayers during our time of transition here to the great state of Nebraska. When I first wrote a letter of introduction in March, we were in the midst of schools being closed and our “normal” way of life coming to a stop. There are still many questions and much uncertainty about what lies ahead. However, I do know that as people of God, we rely not on this world, but on Christ. It is with great hope that we will once again SOAR TOGETHER as a Cathedral community here in our physical school building. In the coming weeks, I will be communicating with you concerning our reopening process. Mr. Ekeler, Ms. Bykerk, Fr. Wylie, and I have assembled a fantastic group of stakeholders that will lead the charge in getting our students safely back into the building.

As I begin my tenure as your Principal and leader, I ask that you partner with me and we put our trust in the Lord and his will for us. He will lead us through these times and we will come out stronger and more unified when this is all done. I intend on communicating with you weekly and being as transparent as possible. Please know that the health and safety of our staff, students and families is of the utmost importance to me.

Again, I thank you for all the prayers for myself and my family during our transition. I continue to hold the Cathedral community in prayer daily. I look forward to beginning to meet everyone and building relationships. Together we will soar into the 2020-21 school year.

Grateful to an Eagle,  
Mr. Carl Bilotta  
Principal – Cathedral of the Risen Christ