



DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG

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January 8, 2021

Dear CYO Parents,

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate the ever-changing COVID-19 situation. As related in September of 2020, we have continued to monitor this situation in order to determine if a 2020/2021 CYO basketball season is feasible. Throughout these past several months, we have monitored both the current State health requirements as well as the COVID infection rate for the counties within our Diocese. In addition, we have evaluated the significant logistics that would be required to be implemented in order to hold a successful and safe season.

Clearly, there remain very serious health concerns in our State due to the pandemic. We have collaborated and consulted with a number of professionals, including two epidemiologists who advise our schools. They have both expressed grave concerns with offering a CYO basketball season.

We are also faced with significant challenges regarding cleaning guidelines, social distancing and occupancy limitations. As we write this message, occupancy for our school gyms, based on current state guidelines, is limited to 10% maximum occupancy, which would effectively prevent the great majority of our parents from attending their children's games. We have also needed to take into account that many of our parish and school gymnasiums are being used for classrooms or classroom storage, and Mass overflow.

Based on all of these considerations, we have made the decision to cancel the 2020/21 CYO Basketball Season.

We fully recognize that this news is disappointing. We want our young people to be able to play sports, and we know you do as well. At the same time, that desire needs to be balanced with our responsibility to take every reasonable precaution necessary in order to try to keep our youth, their families, coaches, referees and all who are involved in CYO basketball safe.

We have every expectation that we will be able to offer a vigorous 2021/22 season. Planning for this season is already taking place and we hope that your children will participate.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support of the CYO basketball program.

Sincerely,

Mr. Daniel Breen
Secretary of Education &
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. James F. Gontis
Director of Evangelization and Catechesis