

SHINE LIKE STARS...

WHEREVER YOU ARE!

Dear Families,

There is something that I have loved seeing during these past few months of the pandemic. Something positive? Yes, that's right! I am thankful that no matter what is happening in the world, there are always stories of people helping each other. Despite a hard and confusing time, I've seen warmth! Sharing! Kindness! Even with the challenges of staying at home, being away from friends, or going to school in new ways, there have been people along the way to help brighten our days. Does someone come to mind for you? Whenever we help someone out, make someone laugh, or make time to listen to a friend, we are shining like stars for others, and showing them that the hope of the Lord remains with us always.

This is especially true in our family life. It doesn't matter your age or position in life—everyone has the ability to bring the joy of Christ! A toddler learning to walk, the pride of a kindergartener mastering the

skills of bike-riding, or an elementary student acing a test all spread joy. Parents also spread joy as they play with their children, share a special story, or celebrate a milestone.

Our families of children or adults living with disabilities have persevered through these times of disrupted routines, schedules and often isolation. I have witnessed the dedication of parents who remained steadfast in their faith in spite of these challenges. The light of Christ is illuminated brightly in these parents who navigate through the challenges one day at a time. Simple joys of family bike rides or evening walks together bring a smile to all they meet along the way!

As we prepare our hearts to celebrate our 200th birthday as a diocese, we reflect on our motto: "Shine like stars in the world as you hold fast to the word of life." The Diocese of Richmond, too, has seen good times and hard times, but through it all, Jesus' light has continued to shine through our community as He guides our steps in life. And that is certain-

ly something worth celebrating!

How do we become light for others? It's simple, really! We seek Jesus, and he shows us what to do! Once the love of Jesus is in our hearts, it is impossible to do anything except share it! We can see shining stars in the sky because they burst and explode. When your hearts burst with Christ, that love spreads to others.

No pandemic can stop the light of Christ from shining! Wherever you are, we invite you to celebrate with us through these fun activities. We hope you'll join us on November 7 for the Eucharistic Congress virtual Children's Track and Track for adults/children with developmental and intellectual challenges.

May the light of Christ shine ever more brightly through your presence in the world!

Megan A. Cattam

Associate Director,
Office of Christian Formation



We Need YOU to Brighten Someone's Day!

Children across the Diocese of Richmond are participating in Project with a Purpose, and we need your help!

One important mission of our diocese is to operate 7 adult care facilities throughout the state to provide support and care for our elders. We are going to make "Have a Great Day!" Cards, like this one pictured here, and send them to our friends across the diocese who reside in these adult care facilities and may be feeling isolated from our community during this time.

After making your cards, please send them to one of these locations:

**Attn: Karen Land
Marian Manor**
5345 Marian Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

**Attn: Brant Huisman
Our Lady of Hope**
13700 North Gayton Road
Richmond, VA 23233

**Attn: Chad Roberts
Our Lady of Peace**
751 Hillsdale Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22901

**Attn: Dave Kleffman
Our Lady of Perpetual Help**
4560 Princess Anne Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

**Attn: Allen Woodie
Our Lady of the Valley**
650 North Jefferson Street
Roanoke, VA 24016

**Attn: Bruce Slough
Saint Francis Home**
65 West Clopton Street
Richmond, VA 23225

**Attn: Jotanya Belton
St. Mary's Woods**
1257 Marywood Lane
Richmond, VA 23229



(Over →)

1

Don't forget to
say a prayer as
you send your
card along!
Thank you for
sharing your
light with
others!

