



March 26, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this finds you doing well during this challenging time. I continue to pray that you are healthy and maintaining your patience and strength.

As some of you are aware, the Jesuit Center is continuing to run existing programs via Zoom meetings. We are also introducing several new programs for faculty and staff to provide some support and enrichment while we are away from campus.

The first new program is a book club for faculty and staff. The book for incoming students (next fall) will be "Barking to the Choir," by Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J. I would like to cover a chapter or two each week and meet once a per week via Zoom to discuss. While this will certainly give us a head start for the fall, the primary focus will not be to prepare us for teaching the book next fall, but instead will allow all of us the opportunity to read, digest, and expound on the book once a week with friends and colleagues.

The second program is a Parents Group to support those adjusting to the new reality of living at home with our young children. As a parent with four young kids at home (ages 5 to 13) the new situation has been very rewarding but also incredibly frustrating and uncertain. Now that we and our children are - somewhat - adjusted to our new lives, the focus of the group will be to support and lift each other up through weekly Zoom meetings centered on brief readings. While faith-based in nature and grounded in mission related readings, the conversations are meant to allow us the opportune to find purpose, depth, and yes, gratitude during this crisis through each other.

Please send me an email me if you are interested or if you have any questions. You are more than welcome to sign up for both programs if you would like. Once I know how many people are interested I can respond with proposed times and with readings. The Jesuit Center will purchase "Barking to the Choir" for those who need it. Digital access will likely be our best option (I am guessing Kindle) and we will make certain that no one will have to incur any new costs during this time.

I look forward to hearing from you and I hope we have the chance to see each other during this time.

Best regards,

Ryan Sheehan, J.D. Assistant Director, The Jesuit Center