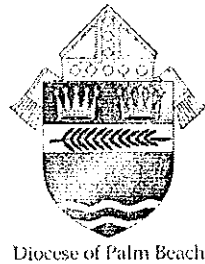


Diocese of Palm Beach  
9995 North Military Trail  
P.O. Box 109650  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410-9650



Pastoral Center  
Telephone (561) 775-9500  
Fax (561) 775-9556

August 7, 2017

Dear Principals,

The Office of Catholic Schools has decided to close Catholic elementary and high schools in the Diocese of Palm Beach on August 21, 2017 due to the Solar Eclipse. This decision was made with the safety and well-being of our students and staff being of utmost importance. While this is a once-in-a-lifetime event, there are some risks involved in viewing the eclipse and our intent is that parents will be the best persons to supervise their children during this time. The eclipse would occur at the regular dismissal time for most of the schools in the diocese, creating difficulties for proper supervision of the children.

**All diocesan schools will be closed until 4:00 pm on August 21, 2017.** There will be no sports practices, games or other activities on our campuses until after 4:00 pm.

The day will be treated as an extreme weather day. It will not be necessary to provide a make-up day at this time, as our schools meet the legal requirements for academic hours in session for private schools during a school year.

Please be aware of the safety requirements for viewing the eclipse. The site below from NASA has some excellent information:

<https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/>

Please share this announcement with your school communities at your earliest convenience to assist parents in making arrangements to be home with their children on this date. Our thoughts and prayers are with all our school families and communities that this is a safe and educational event for all.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Gelo".

Gary Gelo  
Superintendent of Schools