Dear Carrollton Community,

As we commemorate this Memorial Day, I share with you this link to the Upper School Choir's performance of Oceans. While we honor those who died serving in the military, let us also remember the souls who have perished in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, especially the first responders, medical professionals, and other essential workers who have given their lives to save others. I share with you this poem as a point of reflection during our National Moment of Remembrance at 3 pm local time.

"We Shall Keep the Faith"
by Moina Michael, November 1918
Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet – to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.
We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.
And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.

Today is also the Feast Day of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat. She was only 10 years old when the Reign of Terror began. In spite of the challenges posed by the turbulent times in which she lived, Sophie founded the Society of the Sacred Heart, which focused on education, inspired by the loving heart of Jesus, as the means to make the world a better place for all. Today, the faculty, staff, administration and trustees are all working diligently to ensure that the mission of Carrollton remains strong, stable, and sustainable.

As I reminded our faculty last week, while we make plans to reopen our campus next August, we must remain flexible in our approach. We will need to be open to new uses of spaces, alternative schedules, and possible revisions to our calendar. During the next few weeks we will be reviewing and consolidating the protocols and procedures developed by our teams into a single document outlining the plans for three broad scenarios of risk of infection, high, moderate, and low, which we believe will be compatible with our government’s plans for phased reopening. It continues to be our goal to share these plans with you before the end of June. Rest assured that we continue to keep the health and safety of our community in the forefront of our planning for the future.

I leave you with this link to a recording of Still by Carrollton’s Liturgical Choir with hope that it will inspire in you continued confidence that together we will overcome this challenge and grow stronger in our mission.

With resolve and gratitude,
Olen

"Times change and we must change with them,"– St. Madeleine Sophie Barat