



Marymount University's Response to Students Regarding Acts of Racism and Hatred

"Excerpt from Message to the Community – May 30, 2020"

Dear Marymount Community,

This is a time of great emotion in our community and the world. While we celebrate our seniors and the ways in which MU has bravely faced the challenges of an international pandemic, we also wrestle with the turmoil in our country due to the continued horrific acts of violence against individuals of color. It is a time for us to look both inward and outward and to seek the support of the MU community and our fellow Saints.

The principles of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM) are deeply steeped into the spirit of Marymount. The RSHM's mission is: "that all may have life and have it to the full." The racial violence against George Floyd, Sean Reed, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and others grossly violates this RSHM mission. **We condemn these acts and the systemic injustices that bar all individuals from living life to the full.** A second equally important principle of the RSHM is "unity through diversity." The RSHM sisters saw and continue to see how our diversity makes our community stronger and more cohesive. This can go against rhetoric we see in our world, which says diversity can lead to fragmentation and division. The Marymount community includes individuals from diverse religious, ethnic, cultural, gender, national, socioeconomic, and racial backgrounds. **Being a Saint means embracing our own and others' identities; uniting through diversity.**

During these difficult times, we seek to stand together and care for one another and the communities most affected by these injustices, as well as address the injustices we see. Several ongoing services may also be of particular support during this time. Student Counseling Services are available for you (contact counsel@marymount.edu) to set up an appointment, and all the offices in Student Affairs are here for you (Dean of Students Office, Office of Inclusion, Title IX, Office of Leadership, Office of Wellness, Ministry and Spiritual Life, Office of the Chaplain, Career Services, and Student Living). We also encourage you to report any bias incidents on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or ability at MU using this [form](#).

William J. Bisset, PhD
Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs