



De La Salle Institute

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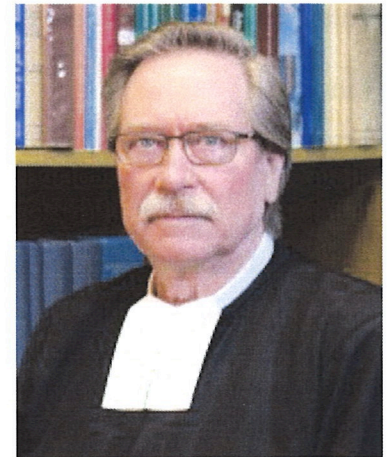
Covington
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June 1, 2020

Dear School Leaders,

It is with a heavy heart that I write these words to you. It is my hope that, through them, I can express to you my concerns, prayers, and support during a time that is testing our strength as Lasallians and as Americans.

The ugly reality of racism and division in our nation is again bringing injustice and tragedy into the lives of our brothers and sisters, as well as unrest, anger, and violence to our cities and neighborhoods. I know you share my sense of shock and sadness over the terrible events of these past days. However, we must not let ourselves or each other – especially the young entrusted to our care – sink into their darkness. We must hold tightly to God, to each other, and to our vision for a better world. This is because we have work to do.



The cries of pain and frustration of a mistreated people are something that we cannot ignore, and something to which we must respond as one Lasallian family. We will not tolerate the sin of injustice in any of its forms, nor will we be complacent in its presence. To paraphrase Mahatma Gandhi, we must be the change that we wish to see in the world, and we must instill that same zeal in the hearts of those entrusted to our care. It is that spirit I offer to you these recommendations and encouragements.

As Lasallian educators, we are called to care for one another and for our students, and also to let ourselves grow from the experience. Teaching, learning and praying in community are what we do best. I recognize, as I know you also do, how difficult it must be for our young people not to be able to be with each other on their campuses, especially now. Accordingly, we must find innovative ways to join them in an intentional and courageous dialogue about race, one that identifies and stands against bigotry and discrimination, advances solidarity with its victims, and leads to action to transform unjust social structures. We have a sacred responsibility to do this.

Also, we need to ensure that our schools are truly places of salvation in the midst of today's extraordinary need for peace and justice. I ask that we recognize that the work of educating our youth will be incomplete if it is not fully relevant to God's work of healing and redeeming the world. In addition to continuing to strive for the full accessibility and diversity of our ministries, we must focus on delivering learning experiences that prioritize like never before, both in content and method, the formation of young people who will unswervingly build a society where the voiceless are finally heard, the invisible are finally seen, and the lost are finally found. Know that I am with you as you decide how you will listen to your faculties, staff and students so that they can participate in your leadership in determining next steps in accomplishing this.

Earlier this morning, our District released a video message where I commended you and our District family on your resilience, creativity, and faith through the ever-evolving reality of our COVID-19 pandemic. It will be through these same attributes that we will persevere. For guidance, we can look to the example and teachings of Jesus Christ, and also to the life of Saint John Baptist de La Salle.

Together we will act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God who loves us (Micah 6:8)...each and every one of us. I assure you and your school communities of my continued prayers and deep gratitude. May God bless you during these trying times, and I look forward to witnessing how our District guides and empowers our young people through these momentous times.

Sincerely,



Brother Donald Johanson

Brother Visitor

District of San Francisco New Orleans



916-733-3600 Main
916-733-3625 Attendance



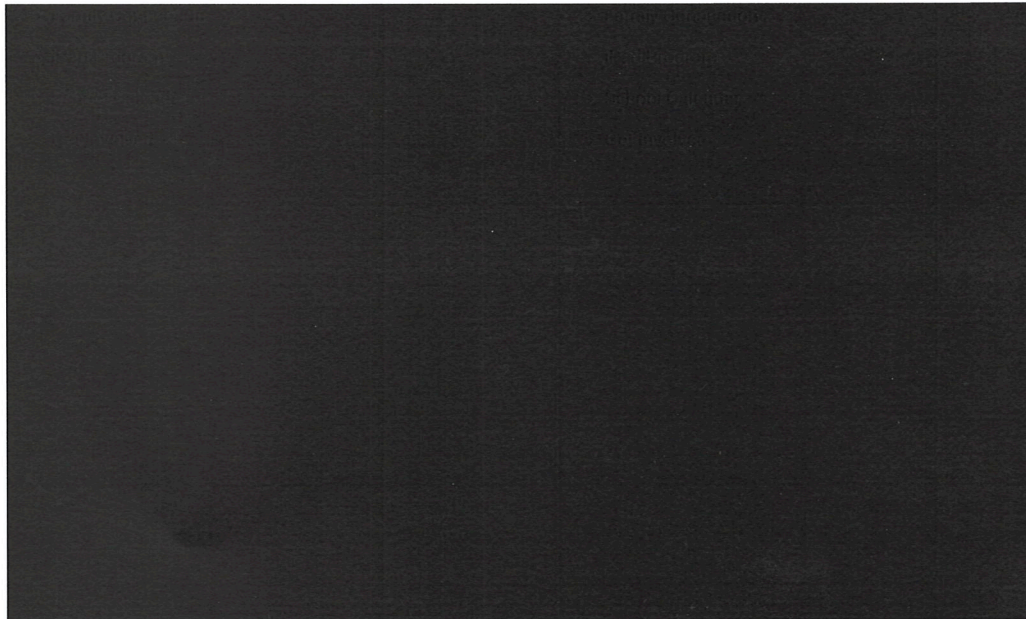
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Important Messages from President Barnes and Incoming President Dr. LeRoy

Important Messages from President Barnes and Incoming President Dr. LeRoy

July 1, 2020 News



June 8, 2020

Dear Families:

Last week, we shared a message with our community regarding the tragic events surrounding the murder of George Floyd. Since that time, both Lorcan Barnes and I have heard from members of our community that the initial comment did not adequately convey how much the black community means to us, and the outrage we feel for the travesties that have befallen the African American community within our nation. For that, we are truly sorry.

As the incoming president, I am proud of our courageous, current and former students who have been brave in speaking up about their hurtful experiences. I also need to show that same courage by addressing the concerns with humility and integrity.

In the coming days and weeks, students, alumni and parents will be invited to engage in dialog that will assist our work in upholding an accountable and inclusive community. I want you all to feel comfortable and empowered in holding me, and the school, accountable if we do not uphold equity, inclusion and justice for all students on our campus.

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- > Get Involved



I am also partnering with the Black Student Union (BSU) to invite parents and students to have 'Breakfast with the President,' so that I can personally ensure them that their sons and daughters are entitled on this campus – entitled to feel safe, to feel celebrated and to feel valued.

In furthering the work that is already being done, the Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) initiative on campus will expand to include a parent committee. Currently there is an adult D&I Committee that is made up of a cross-section of administrators, faculty and staff, and a student D&I Committee (D.I.S.C.) for students. The school's diversity and inclusion activities, which are currently displayed on an internal website, will soon be displayed on our external D&I web page to showcase the school's D&I efforts.

CB will continue to host its annual *Respect for All Persons Week* and invest in diversity and inclusion training for all members of the school community. This year, we will also begin our school year with a discussion for all faculty, staff and students regarding social justice, and the racial insensitivity that has plagued our nation and our local community. Part of that discussion will ensure that every person on campus, and their families, are aware of channels to share concerns including our Anonymous Alerts app, which allows individuals to report instances of bullying, harassment or other apprehensions anonymously.

To all students, alumni and families, we want you to know that we hear you. You are safe here. You are loved. On behalf of the faculty, staff and administration, please know that we are committed to listening, learning, and doing the work to ensure that we are living our Lasallian Core Principles of Respect for All Persons, Inclusive Community, and Social Justice.

Sincerely,

Crystal LeRoy, Ed.D.
Incoming President

June 2, 2020

Dear Families:

On May 25, the world watched in horror as George Floyd's life was brutally taken at the hands of police officers in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Since then, we have watched our city, our country, and our world react to this tragedy with emotions ranging from prayerful sorrow to deep-seeded anger. We have seen transformative acts of love and compassion juxtaposed against horrific acts of violence.

We stand with our global Lasallian Catholic community in praying for Mr. Floyd, his family, and his loved ones, as we pray for the victims of racial injustice and violence everywhere. We pray for peace in our community, and in our hearts, as we stand resolutely against abhorrent acts of racism and violence. We remain committed to upholding our Lasallian Core Principles of respect for all persons, inclusive community, concern for the poor and social justice, and quality education. Above all, we take solace in knowing that we are all united in the holy presence of God.

In February of 2017, school leaders crafted a Diversity and Inclusion Statement to encapsulate the school's commitment to diversity and inclusion that reads, in part, *"We envision a community that goes beyond the tolerance of difference to one that is guided by social justice, cultural competence and engaged citizenship where all voices are respected and valued. We believe that inclusivity is essential to building a stronger Christian Brothers community and achieving the standards of excellence to which we aspire."*

Our work as educators and leaders is now more important than ever. We strive for, and work toward, a world in which every community goes beyond tolerance of differences to one that is guided by social justice, cultural competence and engaged citizenship where all voices are respected and valued. We pray that every community recognizes inclusivity as essential to building a better world.

[Click here](#) to find the Prayer of St. Francis. We hope that it gives you comfort and peace during this difficult time.

Live Jesus in our Hearts!

Lorcan P. Barnes, President & Crystal LeRoy, Ed.D., Incoming President

**Message from
Br. Donald Johanson,
FSC, Brother Visitor**

Social: