



JUSTIN-SIENA

June 1, 2020

Dear Justin-Siena Community:

Yesterday was the Feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples and the Church by a God who loves us deeply. That same Spirit is alive and moving among us every time we seek the path to which God calls us.

Justin-Siena students and families come from all walks of life, different colors and creeds, numerous countries and schools. Together we knit a community that is **ALLHEART**; whose roots are the Core Principles of a Lasallian school: quality education; respect for all persons; inclusive community; social justice and concern for the poor; and faith in the presence of God.

The recent events throughout the United States after the death of Mr. George Floyd stirred something in people young and old, Black and White, certain and confused. As a Lasallian Catholic school, we unite our hearts and efforts seeking peace and justice. There is no doubt these are challenging times, and let there be no doubt we stand with the voiceless and marginalized in all ways. While we may not agree on the means by which we bring about wholeness, we can agree that as a community of faith we seek a society in which all people feel heard, safe, and cared for.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops [released a statement](#) on May 29, which said in part, "Racism is not a thing of the past or simply a throwaway political issue to be bandied about when convenient. It is a real and present danger that must be met head-on. As members of the Church, we must stand for the more difficult right and just actions instead of the easy wrongs of indifference. We cannot turn a blind eye to these atrocities and yet still try to profess to respect every human life. We serve a God of love, mercy, and justice."

At Justin-Siena our Mission Statement calls us to "prepare students to serve and to lead in an ever-changing world," and we take that call seriously. Our school is assembling an opportunity for students to listen to and learn from one another later this week--check Schoology for more details--as one means by which our students can process, be together, and grow. While the school year may have ended, education never ceases.. May we continue to learn and to grow, and provide resources and support to one another, especially as our young people try to make sense of what is unfolding.

May we have the courage, fortitude, creativity, and wisdom to bring about a more peaceful and just world, and to encounter one another with **ALLHEART**.

Sincerely,

David J. Holquin
President