



June 2, 2020

### **Message to the La Salle Community**

“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.” *Brother Donald Johanson, FSC, Visitor, Lasallian District of San Francisco New Orleans*

As a La Salle College Preparatory family, we believe that our God calls for us to live in solidarity with all victims of injustice. We are a diverse school, representative of the greater community we are part of. We value the equality and inclusion of culture, race, gender, capacity, diversity, language and status. Our inclusive Lasallian Community is deeply concerned by the recent events leading to the death of those made in God’s image, the inequities that divide our country and the bias of the human mind.

From their first day on campus, our students learn about the five Lasallian Core Principles: Faith in the Presence of God, Quality Education, Inclusive Community, Respect for all Persons, and Concern for the Poor and Social Justice. God has called us to take action in all aspects of our society and use our knowledge to transform our world through social change and Christian principles and to live in solidarity with the most vulnerable.

Solidarity is not just a feeling of compassion, distress, or misfortune; it is a call to action, within us first, and then searching out appropriate support systems that will help us leverage this action. This is what God has entrusted to us. We, as a school community, must do our part to insist on eliminating racism and bias, restoring dignity in others, and overcoming the actions of others that would tear it down. We pray that our community leaders and civil servants will work with us to search out and support the most vulnerable and live in solidarity with those affected.

We pray for the family of George Floyd, and all others affected by human destruction, racism, and bias. May our prayers, and our actions, allow peace and justice to live in the hearts and minds of our youth, schools and communities.

May we all learn, serve, and lead in these difficult times and may we find faith and guidance in the presence of God.

St. John Baptist de La Salle.....Pray for us.

Live Jesus in our Hearts.....Forever.