



# MOTHER MCAULEY

Liberal Arts High School

To our Mother McAuley Community,

As a Mercy school founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, we are called to act on the Mercy Critical Concerns, two of which include ending racism and practicing nonviolence. We echo the sentiments shared by the Mercy Education Systems of the Americas, our sponsoring network:

*Mercy Education System of the Americas (MESA) stands in solidarity with those who have been shaken by the murder of George Floyd, the most recent victim in a tragic series of senseless violence against people of color. His death reminds us that racism remains a critical issue in our world today, and the ensuing violence that has erupted across the United States challenges us to strengthen our commitment to nonviolence. We stand with those who support and participate in peaceful protest, including religious, government, and civic leaders and organizations that are working together to bring about nonviolent communication in service of unity.*

To accomplish this, we must "work for peace through prayer, education, and personal and communal practices of nonviolence." At McAuley, we recognize the need to improve in these incredibly important areas. Mother McAuley must be a safe place where we can learn and where we can celebrate our cultural differences. We must and will honor the dignity of all individuals and work together to put an end to racism and inequality. It may not have been this way at McAuley when you were a student, but we are committed to ensuring all current and future young women who enter our doors -- especially those of color--feel safe, welcomed, supported, and celebrated.

It is understandable to ask for immediate plans from the school, but systemic change requires careful thought, consideration, and input from various groups, including students, parents, faculty, staff, and community members. While we, too, wish to have all the answers and the ability to share with you an all-encompassing plan today, we ask for your support and understanding in allowing McAuley to thoughtfully, carefully, and inclusively create an actionable plan with measurable outcomes. With your support, we are confident we will create and communicate this plan in the coming weeks.

Now more than ever, it is an important time to guide your daughter in her thoughts, words, and actions. Remind her of the importance of clear and kind communication both in-person and through social media channels. Remind your daughter of the importance of mutual respect. Remind your daughter of the words attributed to Mahatma Gandhi: "**Be** the change you wish to see in the world."

In this spirit, let us pray - and act - to end racism and promote peace. Let us pray - and act - to appreciate and keep our first responders safe as they selflessly protect us, especially during this time. Let us pray for all of our beloved communities and for our world:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.

In Mercy,

*Mrs. Eileen O'Reilly*

Mrs. Eileen O'Reilly

Principal

*Mary Klingenberger*

Mrs. Mary Klingenberger

President