

Statement on Our Commitment to Diversity, Justice, and Human Dignity

“The development of peoples depends, above all, on a recognition that the human race is a single family working together in true communion, not simply a group of subjects who happen to live side by side (Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate, par. 53).”

True to our Trinitarian heritage, the DeMatha community takes the unity and love of the Most Holy Trinity as its model for human relationships. We strive to be in solidarity with those who suffer the hardships of the human condition, including racism, injustice, and other affronts to human dignity. As a community, we accompany those who seek healing, justice, forgiveness, mercy, restoration and reconciliation.

The leadership of DeMatha Catholic High School, a school founded on the principles and values of the Order of the Most Holy Trinity and of the Captives (the Trinitarians), and faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church, affirm the following statements:

- *Created in the image of the one God and equally endowed with rational souls, all men have the same nature and the same origin. Redeemed by the sacrifice of Christ, all are called to participate in the same divine beatitude: all therefore enjoy an equal dignity. (Catechism of the Catholic Church № 1934)*
- *Every form of social or cultural discrimination in fundamental personal rights on the grounds of sex, race, color, social conditions, language, or religion must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God's design. (Gaudium et Spes 29 § 2)*
- We are committed to building and maintaining a community which promotes a profound respect for the other, encourages dialogue rooted in love, is equitable in its treatment of students, faculty, staff and the community, upholds the dignity of the human person, and values the life experience of individuals.
- The prayer of Jesus is that ***all may be one*** (John 17). We embrace this prayer for unity and we rejoice in the natural diversity of God's creation. The various cultures and circumstances found in the DeMatha community enhance the perspectives, world views, gifts and talents needed to respond to the universal call to holiness.
- We are committed to creating a learning environment in which each student may share his experiences, talents, and abilities to lead and serve others in a way that is rooted in faith, compassion, justice, and love and is expressed through service to those in need, to the persecuted and to those marked by the hardships of the human condition.

Our Christian response to the pain and division caused by the sins of racism, discrimination, injustice, and assaults on human dignity, is the unity brought about by recognizing our shared membership in the one human family and by fostering healing, reconciliation, and forgiveness.

Approved by the Class B Members on November 2, 2022