

April 21, 2021

Dear Friends of Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School,

Eleven months after the murder of George Floyd, the trial is over and justice has been served. Much has changed and much remains the same.

There is no doubt that, in the last year, my own understanding of inequities in America have sharpened. Just one simple example to demonstrate the point: I have never worried that I might be murdered by a police officer, but now, I certainly understand why any person of color would.



We believe that all of us are called to build the Kingdom of God – on earth as it is in heaven. To build the Kingdom, especially from today's beginning, seems like an unfathomable calling, but maybe more fathomable if we each try humbly to do our own part.

We are optimists at Cristo Rey. We believe in the limitless potential of our country and the people of our country. But we also believe our potential will be wasted if we don't embrace the power of pluralism, diversity, and the dignity of all people.

Our part at Cristo Rey is to love our students. We help them learn the ways of the world so that they are prepared to lead with competence and confidence when it's their turn. Most importantly, we teach them to seek the truth ... to work for justice ... to promote peace ... to accept responsibility for the wellbeing of others.

Those are not just lessons for teenagers. We pray for the strength to do our part and to live those lessons regularly.

Sincerely,

John McConnell
Founder and President

