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Kenneth W. Soistman, President
Michael Kelleher, Principal

June 19, 2020

Dear All Saints Catholic School Family,

Our school community takes seriously the challenges that affect our students. The civil unrest that our city and nation has been experiencing has, in one form or another, touched the lives of all of us. Throughout the course of Catholic School's history in the United States, our schools have stood as a beacon of hope and opportunity for all creeds, colors, and nationalities. Now, more than ever, we are called to respond in tangible ways to work for racial justice.

Taken from our school mission statement, All Saints offers students a "structured, holistic, disciplined, diverse, and safe-environment." Therefore, in keeping with our mission and in partnership with the School Advisory Board, we are pleased to announce the establishment of a "Diversity Committee." This committee will examine and initiate conversations of race, culture, inclusivity, and promote programs, policies, and practices that are culturally relevant and supportive. This is an act of systemic change.

We recognize there is a myriad of news, media, and resources to guide parents toward a response that can bring peace and justice. It is All Saint's commitment to bring to light those resources that align with our faith and values. We look to our local faith leaders for their well thoughtout and prayerful responses to guide our steps and accompany us on our journey toward justice. Within our own Diocese of Richmond, Bishop Barry Knestout and the Office For Black Catholics have responded to the civil unrest brought about by unjust actions. On May 30, 2020 Bishop Barry Knestout issued this response to the community of believers: <https://richmonddiocese.org/bishop-knestout-statement-on-the-death-of-george-floyd-and-unrest-in-richmond/>.

Futhermore, the Office for Black Catholics of the Diocese of Richmond also held a "Prayer Service for Racial Healing" on June 11, 2020. Please find the link at: <https://richmonddiocese.org/prayer-service-for-racial-healing-livestream/>. During this service, Bishop Knestout delivered a homily on the nature of the sin of racism along with our proper response as Christians. We hope you find it helpful.

Proudly, we share the eloquent graduation words of our All Saints Class of 2020 Valedictorian and Student Government President, Shanetonio Martin, who stated: "It will take all of us to work for justice and towards brighter days and better futures."

Faithfully,

Michael Kelleher, Principal
Kenneth Soistman, President

All Saints Catholic School Advisory Board

