

December 11, 2014

Racism

The recent events associated with Ferguson, MO, and New York, NY, have been disconcerting, disappointing, and stressful on so very many levels. They have forced many of us to question the concept of "justice" and to wonder for whom does the term apply. Some of us feel a "call to action" as a result of these recent events. Some of us feel helpless, afraid, and/or angry. At the same time, some of us feel – actually, "felt" is a better term - a sense of comfort in knowing that those things were happening in places very different from where we are. But, alas, racism has reared its ugly and unwelcomed head here at St. Mary's College.

There are members of our community who are struggling with man's inhumanity to man borne out of fear and ignorance. We are a community of educated individuals who pride ourselves on our abilities - singularly and collectively - to think rationally and critically; to act humanely and respectfully. These attributes must apply to circumstances we encounter both within and beyond the classroom, on- and off-campus. Acts of racism and discrimination should be non-viable here at St. Mary's College of Maryland. I am quite disappointed to learn that this is not the case.

Acts of racism and discrimination are unacceptable and will not be tolerated on our campus. It is my expectation that we treat all members of our community with respect. Every member of our community has the right to feel safe, welcomed, and respected on our campus and surrounding property. Every member of this community has the right to have her/his voice heard without fear of bodily harm or emotional distress. Likewise, every member has the right to choose not to speak for or against any perceived indignity or inhumanity. Regardless of your position, you must remain respectful of other persons and property.

It is a stressful time of the year for everyone. We are each responsible for the members of our community. Let us be supportive of one another. Let us watch out for and take care of each other. If we cannot do these things within this small community that prides itself on the unifying ethos known as the St. Mary's Way, the world is much worse off than I ever imagined and St. Mary's College of Maryland is just another small school filled with average, self-centered people doing unspectacular things. We can and must do better.

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