



St. Michael the Archangel

Diocesan Regional Catholic High School

www.smhsbr.org

June 15, 2020

Dear St. Michael the Archangel High School Family,

But racism still profoundly affects our culture, and it has no place in the Christian heart. This evil causes great harm to its victims, and it corrupts the souls of those who harbor racist or prejudicial thoughts. The persistence of the evil of racism is why we are writing this letter now.

- USCCB, Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love, A Pastoral Letter Against Racism (2018)

St. Michael High School (SMHS) stands unreservedly against racism and all its forms, individual and systemic. We stand in solidarity with those who oppose it, and in unity with those who call for justice.

As a faith community, SMHS is distraught over the actions that led to the death of Mr. George Floyd. One statement is not enough to convey the sadness and heartbreak that we feel; but to be silent is unacceptable. We have a duty to our church, city, alumni, students and their families and to the black community to express our sadness and our resolve to fight racism and social injustice. We realize that whatever we say will not be with the full understanding or depth of hurt that members of our black community feel because we have not walked in those shoes.

SMHS understands that we must lift each other up. We must be willing to open our hearts and minds as we fully listen to each other. As a Catholic school, we believe that black lives matter - today and every day. We will continue to pursue equity, justice and compassion in all we do and never cease in our efforts to eradicate racism. This issue demands change and action, and we will continue to teach to the heart and mind to stand against inequality.

The SMHS mission is to prepare our students to go forth and be leaders and agents of change in our society. In order to do so, we have more work to do as individual leaders and as a school community to model the world we are calling our students to create as *Warriors for Christ*. Working with conviction and resolve to end racism and all its forms is our duty and our calling as Catholics. We are proud to declare it.

We will share in the coming weeks some concrete actions that will be taken to advance these ideals within our school community so that SMHS can be the change we all want to see in our world.

God bless,

Mrs. Ellen Lee
Principal

Mr. Jack Nelson
President

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