



A letter from the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., in response to racial issues at the University of Missouri and elsewhere

November 13, 2015

Throughout our long history, DePaul has been intentionally and deliberately diverse so that our students' educational experience includes opportunities to learn from others whose life experiences and perspectives are quite different from their own. Our diverse community has brought with it a richness of individuals with a wide range of experiences and cultures, which have helped all of us appreciate our differences and better understand the global world in which we live. This has been a strength of our institution and an integral part of our university's mission.

I am especially proud of our DePaul students, faculty and staff who stood in solidarity yesterday, along with students from many other campuses across the United States, in an effort to draw attention to the continued discrimination that exists in our society, including in higher education.

I ask that we all use this opportunity as a teachable moment — to pause and reflect on the ways in which our own words or actions as individuals may, from time to time, fail to support inclusiveness and respectfulness to others in our community — to reflect in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul on ways we can continue to create an inclusive environment where all are welcome and supported — and most important, to always be willing to listen to the voices in our midst.

There are many places in which student voices are daily heard and supported, ranging from members of the faculty and staff to the Dean of Students Office, University Counseling Services, the Center for Identity, Inclusion and Social Change, as well as University Ministry. Throughout the university, let's use the events at the University of Missouri and elsewhere this past week to strengthen our resolve, to listen to one another's experience and to support one another, however we can. Together, let's ensure that DePaul University is a place of community, a place where discrimination and racism have no place.