



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

A message from Jeanne Colleran, Ph.D.

Dear Members of the John Carroll University Community,

With great sadness, but with great clarity about our fundamental Jesuit values, John Carroll University joins other institutions of higher education to condemn the horrific acts of hatred in Charlottesville, Virginia. Our clarity derives from the critical skills we ask our students to master, just as our censure derives from the ethical values we ask our students to live out. With educated minds and hearts, we can easily unmask hate speech from free speech. With educated minds and hearts, we condemn the actions of anyone who affiliates with groups – white supremacists, KKK, neo-Nazis – whose histories are murderous attempts to silence others. Planners of the march promoted and defended it under grotesque claims of democratic freedom, but we see this mockery for what it is.

We know that at John Carroll, we educate men and women who embrace the ethical and intellectual imperative to name an evil for what it is and to speak against it. We are a community where civic, respectful dialogue is the foundation of all of our learning, and where differences are shared and brokered in peaceful ways that promote each other's well-being.

We know that members of our campus community, in myriad and often invisible ways, feel personally vulnerable. Our Jesuit and Catholic tradition calls us to be especially vigilant on behalf of the poor, a mandate that we understand as including the socially vulnerable as well as the economically disadvantaged. What action can we take? Mahatma Gandhi famously advised us to be the change we wish to see in the world. We can take his words to heart by simply but literally greeting each person we meet throughout our day, especially if that person is a stranger. The simplicity of this action, if it grows into our common culture,

bespeaks and gives witness to a truth: that all are unconditionally welcomed here.
All protected. All respected.

Amid these troubling times, I know that we are a profoundly good and decent and
compassionate community. Let all who come to us know this truth as well.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Colleran

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