Academy Community,

We are living through very trying times. Even as a viral pandemic continues to tear through our country, we also confront chilling images reminding us that racism and injustice still imperil our ideals of equality and liberty.

Our mission statement poignantly pairs two equally important objectives: “to promote the disciplines of academic excellence and moral responsibility within our young women.” Our wise sponsors, the Sisters of Charity, recognized from the beginning that one is not worth much without the other. The Sisters live their Christianity through a commitment to social justice and service to the poor and underserved. As a learning community rooted in the Catholic faith, we strive to educate young women who will, indeed, pursue justice and seek opportunities to serve.

Discrimination, inequality, and violence scar all of us. The immediate impact is suffered by those targeted, but those of us who remain untouched must also reckon with the harm perpetuated by hate. We have said it many times during the COVID-19 nightmare, and we say it again in this social justice context: we are all in this together.

So how do we respond to these challenges? We build a community in which intolerance is condemned, one in which we embody our values and embrace each other, embrace our neighbor, embrace the stranger. We celebrate compassion. We celebrate goodness, diversity, and our shared capacity to do unto others. We use not just our words, but our thoughts and our deeds, to build a stronger, inclusive, and more loving world.

As we celebrate the graduation of the Class of 2020, let us all take hope in knowing that our young women are prepared to make their mark on this world. And let us find comfort in knowing that their Academy education has instilled in them a devotion to Jesus Christ and his love for all humanity. "Love one another, as I have loved you ... By this shall all men know that you are my disciples."

Sincerely,

The Academy