



COLLEGE OF  
MOUNT SAINT VINCENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

To: All Students, Members of the Faculty, and Staff

From: Charles Flynn

Date: November 23, 2015

Subject: Debate on Legacy Symbols of Racism and Injustice

The College of Mount Saint Vincent is among the most inclusive colleges and universities in the United State, public and private. We are socioeconomically inclusive: racially, ethnically, financially diverse.

As scholars and citizens, we should consider thoughtfully and participate actively in the national discussion about legacy symbols of racism and injustice, for these symbols raise questions about how well or little we have progressed as a society and as individuals.

Some colleges and universities seem paralyzed in the face of these enormously important issues, but even then, these debates call us to reexamine both our country's fundamental ideal of equality and our original sin of genocide, slavery, and bigotry. As Faulkner said, "the past is never dead; it's never even past."

Every institution in this country has legacy symbols of injustice. At Mount Saint Vincent and other institutions in the Catholic tradition, we must forever examine and seek to understand the complex history of the Church and the Biblical case for slavery as well as the redemptive call to find strength in the equality of love.

We have a responsibility to join in this national discussion. In this community, we must always seek to recognize and understand what is true. We must seek to live compassionately while expecting the best of ourselves and each other.