

November 16, 2016

To All Students, Faculty, Staff, and Administrators:

Around the United States, from New York to California, various students, immigrants, and individuals, whom some perceive as "not real Americans", are being targeted with unsettling frequency. We stand with them.

No incidents have occurred or will occur on this campus. Of course, they would not be tolerated.

Elizabeth Seton was a teacher, the first American born Saint recognized by the Church. She was also a daughter of the American Revolution. A patriotic American, she found in Catholicism an understanding of our common humanity, a commitment to human dignity, and a profound appreciation of our obligations to each other. So have her Sisters of Charity, who first came to New York 200 years ago in order to serve immigrants and the disinherited. So does this college, which they founded.

Across our country, some people who either do not share these values or do not recognize what they mean for our republic have been sanctifying anger and even bigotry in a scrim of patriotism. There are seeds of fascism in such behavior.

Our college lives its founding values with conviction and confidence. We are also part of a larger community. We seek not only to serve but also to inspire and lead. We lament that populist anger threatens to subvert our democratic values in the name of promoting them. We object.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles L. Flynn, Jr." in a cursive script.

Charles L. Flynn, Jr
President