

June 12, 2020

Dear Friends of Cristo Rey,

These are incredibly challenging times. The senseless death of George Floyd has left me shaken, angry, and wondering how yet another black person in America could die in such circumstances. Not since the 1960s have racial and ethnic tensions been so intense. This moment we are in calls for soul-searching, discourse, and action. But what action will make a real difference is the big question.

If we truly desire to build a more equitable society, an important step is to make sure all children receive a good education regardless of where they live, their race or ethnicity, or their family income. Today, more than half the children attending U.S. public schools qualify for free and reduced-price lunch—the highest percentage ever recorded. The best way to end the cycle of poverty is a good education.

The reason I worked so hard to help bring a Cristo Rey High School to San Diego is because it exclusively serves families of limited economic means, and prepares students for the professional workforce. The school is committed to combating institutional racism to help students overcome poverty and prejudice. At Cristo Rey San Diego, 96% of registered students are students of color, with the average family income of \$34,000.

It is essential that we remain people of faith, hope, and love. We must recommit ourselves to creating a society where everyone has the possibility of liberty, prosperity, and justice.

In peace,

Deacon Mike Daniels

Board of Directors

CRSD Feasibility Study Co-Chair

Cristo Rey San Diego High School is a 501(c)3 organization, EIN 82-1922472.