



November 1, 2024

Dear University Community,

Located as most of us are in our beloved Scranton and the surrounding Area, at a time when the will of the people of Pennsylvania is so vitally important, I am sure you have been receiving – like me – a constant barrage of calls, texts, emails and mailings ahead of the 2024 Election. Together with endless election ads, this may feel overwhelming at times and perhaps we have felt the urge to tune it all out. However, paying attention to and engaging with the social realities of our nation is central to our responsibility as citizens and active members in society.

As students, faculty, staff and alumni of a Jesuit and Catholic institution of higher education, we should heed the supplication of Pope Francis that we not remain indifferent to politics – “None of us can say, 'I have nothing to do with this.'” Rather, we are called to participate in the pursuit of the common good and Tuesday’s election provides us with one such opportunity.

Voting is not the beginning or end of our engagement in society but it is an integral piece and we should always be mindful that the privilege to vote is not universal in our world.

In anticipation, I invite you to gather for a “Prayer for our Nation on Election Eve” on Monday, Nov. 4, at 4 p.m. in the Amphitheatre of the Dionne Green. This will be an occasion to reflect on our anxieties and hopes and to come together to pray for a peaceful election, to commit ourselves again to love of neighbor across our differences, and to pledge to work toward unity in the coming days, weeks and months as we prepare for a Presidential transition.

Additional resources will be available next week, including [transportation](#) on Election Day to the polling location for the campus area, and [programs](#) during the week to practice self-care and reflection. My thanks to the many offices, departments, and clubs – students, faculty, and staff – who have worked so hard this fall to register voters and coordinate educational programs and opportunities for respectful conversation and dialogue.

As the late John Courtney Murray, S.J. said, “Neither as a doctrine nor as a project is the American proposition a finished thing.” It is up to each of us to do our part in faith and love to carry it forward. As we move through this pivotal time in our nation’s history, I pray for

God's protection of and presence to our campus community. With the help of His grace, let us press on in building the Kingdom of God, a kingdom characterized by peace, justice, mercy, and an authentic love and concern for all, especially the most vulnerable among us.

Yours faithfully,

Joseph G. Marina, S.J.

President