Dear Providence Cristo Rey Family,

I write this letter to show support and solidarity in this time of grief, anger, frustration and confusion to say that our Providence Cristo Rey Community is committed to taking a stand against racism. We grieve the losses of our brothers and sisters in Christ to senseless violence committed in the sin of racism. We pray for the families of George Floyd, Amaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Sean Reed and all who have died. In the words of the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, “Racism has rightly been called America’s original sin. It remains a blot on our national life and continues to cause acts of hatred, as recent events have made evident. The need to condemn, and combat the demonic ideologies of white supremacy, neo-Nazism and racism has become especially urgent at this time.” We stand together as a family, as brothers and sisters in Christ, to help remove racism and hate from our hearts. We work together to educate and to learn antiracism. We know that all people receive the gift of dignity from God and that we are called to respect that dignity in each and every person. Our own Archbishop Thompson wrote a pastoral letter We are one in Christ in which he states “Social justice can be obtained only in respecting the transcendent dignity of man. …No one is exempt from the responsibility to support and assist fellow human beings – whether they are from the same family/community, or they are strangers who are foreign to us in some way. Every human person, as created in the image of God, is a member of God’s family.” Our Providence Cristo Rey Community will stand together, shoulder to shoulder and hand in hand with each other and our neighbors as we peacefully forge a better future for all of us. In the coming days you will see videos and letters continuing to show our deep devotion to promoting equity for all. In the coming months and years, we will remain focused on this work of promoting inclusion and justice for all through education, prayer and love.

In closing I would like to share a prayer to Saint Martin de Porres, patron saint against racism with you:

“To you Saint Martin de Porres we prayerfully lift up our hearts filled with serene confidence and devotion. Mindful of your unbounded and helpful charity to all levels of society and also of your meekness and humility of heart, we offer our petitions to you.
Pour out upon our families the precious gifts of your solicitous and generous intercession; show to the people of every race and every colour the paths of unity and of justice; implore from our Father in heaven the coming of His kingdom, so that through mutual benevolence in God men may increase the fruits of grace and merit the rewards of eternal life. Amen.”

Providence Cristo Rey Family, we stand together in Christ against racism.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Leslie A. Napora
Principal of Providence Cristo Rey High School