



Saint Adalbert Catholic Academy

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Elmhurst, NY 11373
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March 30, 2021

Dear SACA Families and our extended SACA community,

The recent wave of anti-Asian hate crimes and hate incidents leaves us in the Saint Adalbert Catholic Academy community heartbroken for the lives that have been lost and all those who have become victims across our borough, city and country. Our prayers go out to all those who are grieving.

At Saint Adalbert Catholic Academy, we are proud to be part of a community that is home to many families of Asian and Pacific-Islander heritage. St. Adalbert Parish is the place of worship for a large, vibrant and active Filipino community as well as many others of Asian and Pacific Islander descent. We know firsthand the value that our diversity brings to our collective lives. It pains us to see so many Americans become targets of hateful acts because of their cultural backgrounds.

Our Catholic faith teaches us to love all people as sons and daughters of God and that every person possesses an inherent dignity made in the image and likeness of God. Because of these core values, we must condemn this violence and the hate that motivates it unequivocally and with one voice. Even for those of us whom these crimes and incidents have not personally affected – being one community – we must stand with each other and share the grief, hurt, and fear that so many around us are feeling. Racism has no place in our society.

We stand in solidarity with our Asian, Asian-American and Pacific Islander students, families, staff, alumni, fellow parishioners, and the wider community. We affirm our commitment to celebrate the incredible diversity that defines SACA and the surrounding Elmhurst neighborhood. May we be a shining example of a safe and inclusive environment built on faith and sharing God's love with one another.

As always, we are committed to the safety and well-being of our students. We know our teachers have worked to develop trusting relationships with their classes. We continue to encourage all students that, if, at any point, someone feels concerned for their safety or needs someone to talk to, please do not hesitate to speak to your teacher or Mr. Morris, so that they may help.

We also care about the mental health of all members of our extended SACA family. If you feel you are in need of support at this time, here are two resources that you may find helpful:

- [NYC Well](#): NYC Well is your connection to free, confidential mental health support. Speak to a counselor via phone, text, or chat and get access to mental health and substance use services, in more than 200 languages, 24/7/365. Text "WELL" to 65173* or call 1-888-NYC-WELL.

- [APISAA \(Asian, Pacific Islander and South Asian American\) Therapist Directory](#): The Asian Mental Health Collective has compiled a list of APISAA therapist across the U.S. This link directs you to those therapists in New York.

Together, let us all continue to pray for an end to racism and prejudice in our world and walk together to make our city and our world a better and ever-welcoming place. We pray for an end to the senseless violence that hatred brings forth. We raise these prayers in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Sincerely,

Saint Adalbert Catholic Academy Board of Directors