**Opening Faculty Mass - 2020**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

1. For all who are on the frontlines of this COVID-19 pandemic, especially those in health care, first responders, food service, teachers and day-care providers; for all who are unable to stay at home, but must work to provide for their families, may God continue to protect them and keep them in good health. **We pray to the Lord…**
2. For all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing. For those who have died from this virus and their loved ones who mourn their loss, we grieve with them in their despair. For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection. For the many who are experiencing fear or anxiety, we pray for peace of mind and spirit. And for affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety, we pray for policies that recognize their plight. **We pray to the Lord...**
3. *We remember* Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Aiyana Jones, Akai Gurley, Trayvon Martin, and thousands of others who have lost their lives at the hands of police brutality. We hear the ringing of the 12 shots that were fired at Michael Brown’s body; the 7 shots fired into the back of Jacob Blake. We see the horror in Eric Garner’s and George Floyd’s faces as they uttered their last words, “I can’t breathe.” We grieve the unfulfilled dreams of Aiyana Jones, who was only seven years old and the loss of Breonna Taylor’s life as she was seeking to become a first responder herself. We pray for the families and friends of all these victims as well as all people and communities of color who live in fear, hopelessness and frustration. **We pray to the Lord...**
4. *We name* the unjust acts throughout our nation, the unwarranted deaths and hate-filled acts. Yet, we’re honest enough to also name the reality that has resided on this campus and on our own city streets. For we too, have been unjust, ignorant, silent. We pray that we might deeply long for justice to roll down, that we might invest our lives in changing this devastating, hate-filled story. We ask for the courage to step beyond blindness, indifference, and fear; open our hearts to respect and uplift the dignity of every person. Open our eyes to see the injustices within the church,society and our community here. Open our ears to listen and learn from the experiences of people different from us. Open our mouths to speak out against prejudice, injustice, and inequity. **We pray to the Lord...**
5. For all faculty, staff, and students of Jesuit schools around the globe as we strive in our academic, artistic, athletic, spiritual, service, and community-oriented efforts. May we seek to develop relationships that inspire, offer comfort and hope, and may we look upon our efforts in light of the Gospel – that they are inclusive and restorative to all. May we be passionate about learning and may all we do be for the greater glory of God.

**We pray to the Lord.**

1. In the spirit of Pope Francis who reminds us that to encounter another is to encounter Christ, we pray for those we will encounter this year – in the hallways of BC High, through the laptops and iPads of our students, the trains and streets of Boston, and our family members in our isolation and quarantining. May we be loving in our exchanges. May they change our hearts. May we come know ourselves in a deeper and more profound way through service and prayer. May this uncovering of our true selves nourish our relationships and expand our empathy for others.

**We pray to the Lord.**

1. Our Jesuit spirituality missions us to care deeply for each other. We pray for the souls of those lost to our community over the summer.

May we accompany our friends and colleagues in their time of grief, and hold them in our hearts.

We pray for all those currently struggling with illness, that God grant them and their families strength and healing.

**We pray to the Lord.**