



December 11, 2020

At our December 4 Board of Trustees meeting, I shared with the Board my decision on how we will change the name of the residence hall and dining complex in the middle of our campus, now called Bishop Edward Fenwick Place. Following up on the recommendation of the ad-hoc committee assembled some weeks ago by Janice Walker and Kyra Shahid to complete this process on our behalf, I am pleased to inform the University community that we will be changing the name of this important campus landmark to Justice Hall. [View more details on the process and final decision.](#)

As the committee suggested, we will likewise affix other names to the four towers that make up the residence hall portion of the complex. These names will, however, not be permanent but rather rotated over some yet-to-be-determined period of time to allow us to hold up examples of individuals whose commitments to justice—and specifically to racial justice—can inspire our own. I will ask Janice, Kyra and the committee for their advice as to how best to proceed with this part of the process. As to the timing of the overall name change, it will become effective on July 1, 2021, the first day of our new fiscal year, to permit time to ready lettering for the building itself, changing the name on campus maps, etc.

A variety of conversations in these last months have led me to conclude that, regrettably, no name to replace Fenwick's would have met with the universal applause of the campus. Nonetheless, I have found myself persuaded by the arguments advanced by the committee on behalf of this proposed name and am happy to endorse their recommendation. I hope you will join me in thanking them for their important work on our behalf. More, I hope you will join them and me in recommitting yourself to the ongoing work of justice in ways proper to a Catholic Jesuit university, through the work you do daily—which is, of course, precisely the intent of this change.

Warm regards to you all as the semester and this year come to a close!

Mike

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President
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