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Dear Mercyhurst Community,

On this Juneteenth, as we commemorate the emancipation of enslaved African Americans, I am mindful that freedom is not achieved passively. Lasting freedom requires daily effort from all of us. In a nation and world that continue to tolerate racism, violence, and division, let us all do our part to bring healing and hope to others.

As we long for freedom from racism, may each of us truthfully confront our biases and the ways in which racism penetrates our lives. As we long for freedom from violence, may each of us actively practice nonviolence in our daily attitudes and actions. As we long for the freedom to be our unique, diverse selves, may each of us courageously express our own viewpoints and beliefs,