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A Vigil of Prayer and Public Witness

Chaplain's Office

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Exchange of Sign of Peace

Closing Prayer ~ Thomas Landy
Director, Center for Religion, Ethics, and Culture

A Vigil of Prayer and Public Witness

In Solidarity With the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2010
Mary Chapel
College of the Holy Cross

5:30 PM

After the final blessing and recessional, we ask that we depart from this vigil in a reflective, respective, respectful silence.
Opening Prayer - John Savard, S.J.
Rector Jesuit Community, Assistant Chaplain,
Office of the College Chaplains

Community Confession (please read together)

We confess to you Almighty God that we have sinned; through our thoughts and in our words; through what we have done and what we have failed to do.
We confess that we have not always been brothers and sisters to one another.
We confess that our own fear has been an obstacle to our standing in solidarity with one another, that our ignorance has caused others pain, that our tolerance of jokes, stereotypes, and slurs has left some among us feeling unsafe and unwelcome.
We confess that our own silence strengthens the voices of hatred and fear.
We ask you, O God, to have mercy on us and forgive us our sins through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading - Helen Whall
Professor, English Department

Witness Reflections:
Jacqueline Peterson, Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students
Marybeth Kearns-Barrett, Interim Director, Office of the College Chaplains
Jeff Godowski, ‘13

Matt Harper, ‘11
Thomas Landy, Director, Center for Religion, Ethics, and Culture

Renewal of Commitment - (please read together)

Compassionate God,
We are here to give ourselves to you and your people. It is through what we are and do that others will come to know you.
We are here to bring peace to those who suffer, and healing to those in need.

We are here to witness to the world, That our Holy Cross community will not tolerate hatred, ignorance or irrational fear. In a particular way today, we stand in solidarity with our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender sisters and brothers, knowing that the benchmark for what kind of community we are, is measured by the wellbeing of the most vulnerable among us.

God, Parent of the poor and oppressed, we ask for your help. You have shown us how to be faithful in the midst of persecution.
You have taught us to become sight for the blind, voices for those who cannot speak, and hands for those who need to be lifted up.
We pray all this in the name of Jesus. Amen.