Dear Rosati-Kain Community,

As you may be aware, the Archdiocese of St. Louis is collaborating with other religious organizations to look into its history with the enslavement of people in a project called Forgive Us Our Trespasses. Recently, stories about this project have been published by the St. Louis Review, as well as St. Louis Public Radio and an audio story on National Public Radio. These articles and interviews refer to local Church leaders Bishop Joseph Rosati, Bishop William DuBourg, and Archbishop Peter Kenrick and their connection to slavery.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis is in the early discovery phases of this project, and updates regarding new information as well as next steps will be shared with the archdiocesan community as more information becomes available. As we await more information, please know that Rosati-Kain High School acknowledges that Bishop Joseph Rosati, after whom Rosati-Kain is partially named, held and purchased enslaved people. As part of Rosati-Kain’s required curriculum, students are taught about the Archdiocese and Bishop Rosati’s history with slavery. These courses make it a priority to provide our students with space to discuss the impact this history has on our community and world as well as analyze the steps we can take to respond appropriately and justly.

It is important to note that this devastating reality of our school’s namesake does not reflect the Rosati-Kain High School of today. In fact, Rosati-Kain's commitment to embrace and serve its diverse population of students, from all backgrounds, is exactly what makes Rosati-Kain distinctive. Each year, Rosati-Kain assesses its need for new initiatives to support our mission of being an inclusive and diverse community, including additions to the curriculum, professional development for faculty and staff, and the expansion of student trips and solidarity experiences.

In addition, following societal issues and the desire to exact change within our school system, we’ve taken further action to launch many more initiatives and programs. To read about some of the initiatives and programs from this past year, which include the retaining of outside consultants, please visit this link. For a year in review and to learn about what’s in store for the 2021-2022 school year, visit this link.

Some, but not all, of these initiatives include: a successful Cultural Competency pilot program which will become a part of the Fall 2021 curriculum; additional professional development for faculty and staff; a professional-led Unity Lab comprised of multiethnic conversations attended by faculty, staff, parents, students, and other Rosati-Kain community members; a 'Truth, Trauma, and Reconciliation' program; listening sessions to address the concerns of alumnae and students; collaboration with the YWCA to host a 10-session diversity program for our parents as part of the mission to eliminate racism; the development of a Rosati-Kain Mentor Program; and a new monthly newsletter containing 'Racial Equity Resources' in which we share these updates and ongoing work with our community.
As a Catholic community of faith, Rosati-Kain High School reaffirms our conviction that racism has no place in this world or our community. We stand committed to diversity and inclusion and support the need for continued calls to listen and take action towards creating a more inclusive society.

If you have questions about the Archdiocese of St. Louis’ Forgive Us Our Trespasses project, please contact the archdiocesan Office of Communications at communications@archstl.org. If you have questions about initiatives or programs at Rosati-Kain High School, please contact me at egoodwin@rosati-kain.org.

Blessings,

Dr. Elizabeth Ann Goodwin
President of Rosati-Kain High School