

March 16, 2021

Dear Felician Community,

I write this letter to share with you a grave concern regarding the increasing reports of violence against members of the Asian American community. These attacks reflect the troubling perspective of many Americans that the Asian community is responsible for the pandemic. This is a viewpoint couched in ignorance and racial animus. It also reflects the troubling trend that the resort to violence is viewed by a growing segment of our society as acceptable behavior – since the start of the pandemic, attacks against Asian Americans have increased by an alarming 150%. Sadder still, is the fact that included among the victims of these crimes are the elderly and other more vulnerable members of the Asian American community.

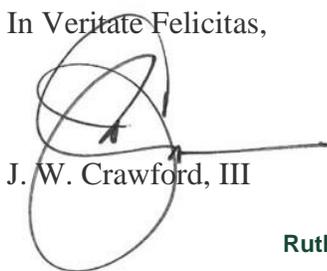
Racially motivated hate and xenophobic rhetoric have no place in our society, and are antithetical to the Felician Franciscan values we work so diligently to embody in all we do. Asian Americans are part of the rich fabric and history of our nation. Felician University stands in solidarity with the Asian American community, and we support all members of our own community of every race, creed, color, national origin, and orientation, against harassment and systemic racism.

Advancing racial equity and economic and social inclusion for people without distinction is critical to the mission and vision of Felician University. Even more important, engaged inclusiveness is what each of us, as individuals, should strive to achieve to bring our institutions, communities, and the nation closer to realizing the “*Beloved Community*” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., envisioned.

I know you all join me in expressing our communal condemnation of the despicable anti-Asian violence that has grown within our midst. In response, we will continue to set the example by living out our Felician Franciscan core values and be the light that repels the darkness that threatens all of us, because injustice anywhere and against anyone, is injustice everywhere and against everyone.

For members of the Felician Community who may have been affected by anti-Asian behavior, or if you know someone who could benefit from support, please reach out to Dr. Ron Gray at grayr@felician.edu or our Counseling Services [here](#). We are Felician Community, and we stand together.

In Veritate Felicitas,



J. W. Crawford, III