Dear Class of 2025,

Resiliency: Resilience is “a process of overcoming the negative effects of risk exposure, coping successfully with traumatic experiences, and avoiding the negative trajectories associated with those risks” (Olsson, Bond, Burns, Vella-Brodrick, & Sawyer, 2003; Perez et al., 2009, p. 153).

On behalf of the Center for Service and Justice at Loyola High School of Los Angeles, welcome. By now each of you has started your Cub journey in your CY1 classes. There you are learning and gaining the essential skills to navigate successfully your first-year experience.

With the events of 2020 seared into our memory as we have experienced the difficulty of quarantine, it is evident that a new level of consciousness has awakened in our world. As Americans have wrestled with what has been called a triple pandemic: COVID-19, the Movement for Black Lives and Racial Equity, as well as the severe economics ramifications for over 40 million unemployed Americans, the Loyola Community has been called to live our Mission intentionally in the most prophetic way.

Pope Francis reminds of this calling when he challenges Jesuit educators to form “mature people who are simple, competent and honest, who know how to love with fidelity, who can live life as a response to God’s Call, and their future profession as a service to society.” As an integral component of the Loyola High School educational experience, the service and justice program invites (and challenges) you to experience “what it means to labor with and for others in building a more just world.”

During each of your four years at Loyola, you will “engage in an articulated sequence of service and reflection opportunities that lead you to experience a sense of solidarity with the poor and marginalized” (Our Way of Proceeding, Standards and Benchmarks for Jesuit Schools in the 21st Century). This journey begins with your freshman retreat in October followed by the Annual Community Walk. These two requirements will mark the expectations for service during the course of your first year.

There are so many ways to become involved in our service program. Details outlining the first year expectations will be outlined in Canvas at the start of the school year. As an active member of CY1, you are becoming familiar with Canvas (our student information system). On your student dashboard, you will find a Canvas Course Card titled “Community Service 9.” This is what we use to provide information concerning service and justice expectations for your first year and various optional opportunities that you can participate in. There is so much to do. Take the first step and come visit our center (located next door to Cub Corner).

Enjoy the summer. Spend time with family and friends. Finally, listen to this very special message from Senior Charlie Legaspi, a member of the Arrupe Leadership Team and one of our community youth leaders / organizers in the City of Los Angeles. Many blessings.

AMDG,
Dr. Rodriguez, Director
Mrs. Moran, CY Instructor / Community Service Coordinator
Rev. Jerry Hudson, SJ / Reflection Coordinator
Mrs. Patricia Salvaty, Administrative Assistant