To: Faculty, Staff and Students  
From: Mark C. Reed, Ed.D., President  
Re: In Solidarity with Fr. José Alberto “Chepe” Idiaquez, S.J., in Nicaragua

Throughout the spring, the Nicaraguan government and its citizens have violently clashed in response to governmental reforms to the social security system and to President Ortega’s third consecutive term in office. In keeping with the Society of Jesus’ tradition of serving justice, the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA), a fellow Jesuit university in Managua, has loudly denounced the suppression of peaceful demonstrators. Their calls for negotiations between protestors and the government have provoked threats of danger and violence, including some aimed directly at Fr. Idiaquez, UCA’s Rector and President.

In recent weeks, Saint Joseph’s has supported the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) in an expression of support for UCA, peaceful demonstrations and social justice. Today, we join many of the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities across the United States and others around the world in publicly offering our institutional support and prayers of solidarity for our brothers and sisters in Nicaragua and at UCA.

As a Jesuit, Catholic institution, we support a commitment to peace, justice and social action. I encourage our campus community to learn more about the situation in Nicaragua, which has been covered by America Magazine and AJCU. And please keep those affected by this unrest and those working to resolve the conflict in your prayers.