June 11, 2018

University of Detroit Mercy Joins the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities in expressing support and solidarity of Central American University (UCA) of Nicaragua

DETROIT—University of Detroit Mercy (Detroit Mercy) announced today that the institution stands with all members of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) against attacks and death threats issued against Chepe Idiaquez, S.J., rector of Central American University (UCA) of Nicaragua over the past several months.

As reported by many international media outlets this past April, peaceful demonstrations in Nicaragua that protested new government policies resulted in more than 100 deaths. In addition, 125 individuals were killed during a Mother’s Day march on May 31.

Chepe Idiaquez, S.J., rector of UCA of Nicaragua, is a strong advocate for peaceful negotiations and should not be forced to endure death threats and other forms of suppression. As an institution of higher education in the Jesuit tradition, UCA’s mission is to provide students with an education, professional formation and to encourage their commitment to a just, humane and environmentally sustainable world. Violent suppression of those demonstrating peacefully is unacceptable and encourages unrest.

As a result, Detroit Mercy joins with other AJCU member institutions in supporting the June 1, 2018, statement of the Provincial of the Central American Province of the Society of Jesus in helping to publicize the unfortunate and inhumane treatment of those engaged in peaceful demonstration in Nicaragua.

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About University of Detroit Mercy
University of Detroit Mercy is Michigan’s largest and most comprehensive Catholic university, sponsored by the Religious Sisters of Mercy and the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits). Today’s University boasts the heritage of two founding institutions: the University of Detroit, founded in 1877 by the Jesuits, and Mercy College of Detroit, founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1941. The two consolidated as University of Detroit Mercy in 1990. Detroit Mercy offers more than 100 undergraduate, graduate and professional academic degrees and programs through seven schools and colleges. Detroit Mercy educates the whole person, focusing on the value of excellent academics, service to the community and a deeper spirituality to prepare graduates to live lives of purpose. For more information, please visit www.udmercy.edu.