

## **Rev. Brian F. Linnane, S.J.**

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As we look at today's universities, we can see how effective they have been in bringing questions of social justice forward. As an institution, Loyola University Maryland is proud of its commitment to justice, and we recognize that as being a fundamental commitment on the part of any university – but a special one for a Jesuit university. It would be easy to consider justice as an add-on, an extra option. But universities, their faculty, staff, and students, have an obligation to recognize that a commitment to living justice is essential to a university's existence. As the president of Loyola, part of my role is to remind our community never to lose sight of that.

Here at Loyola, inspiring to learn, lead, and serve in a diverse and changing world means we are all challenged to reflect on what is morally right and wrong, and understand our duty to change hearts, open minds, and to make the world more just for all. We talk about a faith that does justice, and as Baltimore's Jesuit, Catholic university, certainly Loyola communicates and models such commitment through words and actions.

Yet, we can only push the conversation on how Loyola lives justice so far. First, we must ask ourselves why it is imperative for us to both live justly and work for justice. That

is, individually, a life justly lived will lead one to come up against the fundamental questions: “Why am I here?” “What is the purpose of my life?” And the answer should not, and cannot, be reflective of just professional pursuit. Life’s purposes are much broader than one defined task. They are predicated on commitments about and to a society in which individual virtues must be leveraged to the advancement of justice; where a fulfilled life reflects the fullness of one’s personhood, and all that entails, rather than one single personal or professional role.

We should always be growing and changing and becoming a better version of ourselves. An individual engaged by and with Loyola’s mission has so much to offer in the service of justice. Living justice at Loyola requires a promise to question situations where people are left behind, and a commitment to use one’s talents to serve.

One of my greatest joys is that I have the privilege of leading a community where we put justice into action – and where we continue, in the Jesuit sense of embracing that constant challenge to improve, to urge one another to do and be more every day.