

In what was an expected email from Father McShane after an egregious act of racial violence occurred that prompted everyone with a moral compass to say *something* despite the fact that this terrorism is *not new*, I have to admit that I am tired and unimpressed by his response. As a senior at Fordham, I have seen several violent and racist acts occur on our campuses that have not elicited such a response from our president. This commitment to protecting students feels hollow.

Where was our support when the n word was carved into the door of a black student his second week of campus? Where were the intentional conversations that should have been at a minimum *attended* by the administration about anti-Semitism when there were swastikas carved into school property? These events were investigated but called “bias incidents”. I have heard stories of students yelling racial slurs on campus at other students but that has seemed to be met with silence.

These emails are not enough for me. As a black student at Fordham University, I feel consistently like I am not wanted on my campus. I feel unprotected and neglected. When a hate crime occurs on our campus or nationally, I need more than an email that expresses heartfelt concern and compassion to the victims. I need *action* and I need a *commitment* from those who follow the motto of being “men and women for others” to actively practice what they preach. I do not feel supported, heard or respected by the President of my University currently, and I hope that before I graduate my feelings will change.

Please be sure to follow FCLC Black Student Alliance for updates on programming surrounding the protection of students of color on our campus.

In Solidarity,
Mikaela Peyton Berry
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FCLC '18