



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

November 23, 2021

Dear Santa Clara Law Students, Staff, and Faculty,

In this season of Thanksgiving, I want to express my profound gratitude each of you. Sherry and I, and our pup Charlie, feel so blessed to have joined the Santa Clara Law community. You have opened up your homes and your hearts to us, and we are so thankful.

As we have discovered to our great joy, Santa Clara Law is much more than a law school; it's a transformative learning community built on relationships rooted in loving kindness. One of our law school's greatest distinctive strengths is our Jesuit, Catholic Mission, which calls us all as people of all faiths to: care deeply for each other (to practice *cura personalis*); to use our talents, tenacity, and tenderness, in the service of and with others; and to have an abiding faith that although the arc of the moral universe may seem very long, it does bend toward justice.



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True to our Mission, we also have been working together to advance the Universal Apostolic Preferences. Those beautiful preferences are built upon a foundation of relationships. They lead all of us at Jesuit Universities to: show others the way to God; to walk with those whose human dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice; to accompany our students in the creation of a hope-filled and diverse future; to collaborate in the care of our common home.

These powerful Universal Apostolic Preferences remind us that our transformative education at this great law school is, at its core, relational. Our relationships have nourished us, buoyed us, sustained us, and inspired us, as we continue to meet the persistent challenges of a global pandemic and an awakening to racial injustice. We need each other to learn, to grow, to care, and to build the future of justice. Thankfully, we are not alone. We were made for love.

And so my dear friends, in this sacred time of Thanksgiving, let us all be mindful of, and grateful for, the loving relationships in our own lives—our relationships with family, close friends, classmates, colleagues, faculty, staff educators, and our incredible alumni network of mentors and supporters.

I wish you and your loved ones a wonderful Thanksgiving, overflowing with gratitude for the many blessings we share.

With warm regards and immense gratitude,

Michael J. Kaufman (He/Him/His)
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