



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

300 Main Building Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-5602
tel (574) 631-3802 fax (574) 631-4782 email provost@ND.EDU

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Dear Notre Dame Colleagues,

Normally, I would begin as provost by physically making the rounds to visit with all of you, seeing each of the buildings where the important work of our University gets done, and listening to your ideas and aspirations for Notre Dame. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has made all those in-person meetings more complicated. As a result, we are working on some creative ways for me to get to know you and the University. More soon!

My special thanks to Tom Burish, who has been an important mentor and who has done so much to help me in the transition to Notre Dame. His hard work and creative approaches have formed an enormous legacy that supports us all.

I realize the challenges of COVID-19 will consume much of our time in the fall semester and likely throughout the upcoming academic year. While I recognize the importance of attending to the myriad complexities the coronavirus poses, I hope that we will also devote time to collectively developing and advancing our strategic ambitions for the University.

We must remember, as our University Mission Statement expresses, that "God's grace prompts human activity to assist the world in creating justice grounded in love," which calls us to cultivate "a disciplined sensibility to the poverty, injustice, and oppression that burden the lives of so many." Consequently, for me and for Fr. John, foremost among our ambitions for the University is directly and meaningfully addressing diversity and inclusion challenges on our campus, particularly for our Black sisters and brothers.

Some of you may be aware that my family was able to immigrate to the United States because of a fellowship that Notre Dame offered my beloved now-departed father. Papa Con, as we called him, eventually became a professor at the University of Detroit. In a recent conversation with one of my brothers, we talked about what it might be like to walk around Notre Dame's campus with Papa Con. We imagined him visiting his old digs in the engineering building and stopping to pray at the Grotto. I concluded by telling my brother that in the end the walk would conclude the same way all our conversations with our father did when we visited him at his office at the University of Detroit. He would: ask us a math question; if we answered correctly, declare that we deserved some red Jell-O cubes; and break into singing De Colores as we walked to the cafeteria. I wish you all could have known my father – I feel I know this place through him.

Despite the challenges before us, I am incredibly excited to begin this journey together at Notre Dame. I know I will learn an enormous amount from all of you.

The public health researcher in me cannot stop myself from concluding with:

Wear a mask.

Practice physical distancing.

Wash your hands often.

[And soon] Complete your daily health check.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our wonderful University.

Yours in Notre Dame,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marie Lynn Miranda', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Marie Lynn Miranda, PhD
Professor of Applied Computational Mathematics and Statistics
Charles and Jill Fischer Provost