



Wednesday, September 12, 2001

Catholic Campus Ministry director speaks at memorial

Lisa Brown, director of Catholic Campus Ministry at Oakland University St. John Fisher Chapel University Parish, made the following speech at Wednesday's memorial service:

It is a privilege to be with you here today to share in this time of national mourning, and certainly not a small amount of disillusionment. I pray that we may find strength and comfort in one another, and I think that just the fact that we gather in honor of the lives lost Tuesday says a lot about who we are as an institution, and as a community of faith.

I call us a community of faith, because I think, regardless of our religious heritage, color, culture or nationality of birth, we all share, as human beings, a great faith that one day we will live in a world of peace and good will, a great faith that someday acts of violence and destruction such as we experienced Tuesday will no longer exist. Because, truly, don't we all, doesn't every person here, deep in their heart, long for and dream of a world where we can live in love, safety and mutual respect? As a university that nurtures and educates the leaders of tomorrow, this dream is something we share, a dream that we will continue to work towards together, and I believe, someday realize a future world of integrity, hope and peace.

I have a great faith in the people that make up the community of Oakland University the students, faculty, staff, administration and service providers I have faith that we are good-hearted people who are experiencing great pain in the wake of this national tragedy. And I believe that God shares in our mourning, as well as in our dream for a better world.

Truth and beauty have a way of transcending our own human boundaries and labels. We recognize it in an instant. And I think, as human beings, we can all identify today with these simple, comforting words.

Blessed are the humble in spirit, for they share in God's dream for our world.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice and righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.

Let us all hold each other in prayer, as well as our brothers and sisters in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., and struggle together to remain a hopeful and peaceful people in the aftermath of this crisis. And let us focus on the dream we share, the true unity in diversity that is the hallmark of Oakland University.

SUMMARY

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, September 12, 2001

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