



## **NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY TRAGEDY**

February 15, 2008

Dear Colleagues:

The shootings at Northern Illinois University are a reminder that our open college campuses are not immune from the violence that plagues too many communities in this country and around the world. Our prayers and condolences go out to those at Northern Illinois and to their President, John Peters, a member of the John Carroll class of '67. I know the John Carroll family will keep John in their thoughts. Our common prayer is that the violence that took the lives of these students continues our commitment to the ways of non-violence that characterize the life and teaching of Christ.

During this time of concern, I want to let the John Carroll community know that concerns with safety and security continue to be at the forefront of our thoughts. We have detailed emergency plans in place, which we update regularly. We are exploring the timeline for implementing identification card access and new security cameras for our residence halls. The campus is served by a well-trained and professional campus safety services department with officers on 24-hour patrol. We regularly review safety procedures and realize the significance of this practice in light of the Northern Illinois tragedy. Like many other universities, we will review, evaluate and reflect upon what can be learned from these events to improve our planning and response.

In addition, we are ready to launch a text-messaging system that can send emergency information directly to cell phones. Within the next several weeks, you will be provided with the information to register and subscribe.

Also, please take the time to review the university's comprehensive emergency procedures posted on the web site home page, located at <http://www.jcu.edu/campuslife/css/emergency>.

The University Counseling Center and Campus Ministry staffs are available to speak with anyone who seeks counseling (216.397.4717) or pastoral services (216.397.4283).

Please join me in praying for the members of our extended community at Northern Illinois University and keep President John Peters in your prayers to give him strength and compassion as he responds during this very difficult time.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert L. Niehoff, S.J." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Reverend Robert L. Niehoff, S.J.  
President, John Carroll University