

Response to Tragedy | September 12, 2001
A Message from the President to the USF Community
Rev. Stephen A. Privett, S.J., President of the University of San Francisco

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students:

I write on the occasion of a tragedy whose immensity we still do not understand and may never satisfactorily comprehend.

During this time, I encourage all of us to do whatever we can to offer reassurance and support to one another. It is good for us to be together at times like this. As a community committed to the pursuit of truth, it is important that we suspend judgment and avoid harmful speculation that can only serve to exacerbate the situation. Let us make a special effort to be particularly sensitive to those students, staff and faculty who are most affected by this tragedy. Let us recall that deeper than all the superficial differences that distinguish us, one from another, is the common humanity that we share. We are brothers and sisters all, members of the one human family of God.

We take this occasion to remember all those individuals who have been touched, directly or indirectly, by this tragedy. Let them be a special object of concern, prayer and thoughtful reflection in the days ahead.

Finally, let us reaffirm our commitment to the underlying values of the University, as articulated in the Vision, Mission and Values Statement approved by the Trustees on the very day of this tragedy. We know more poignantly than ever the world's need for leaders who will fashion a more humane and just world. We can see clearly now the need to pursue a common good that transcends the interests of particular individuals or groups, and that reasoned discourse and persuasion rather than coercion and violence are the best tools for creating a world of justice and peace.

The University will continue to make its resources available to members of the community. I ask that you refer to the University's [homepage](#) for updated information about USF's continued response to the situation.

I take this opportunity to thank all of you for the sensitivity and compassion that you have shown to one another at this painful moment. May God continue to bless our efforts to be "men and women for others" and guide our leaders down the path of wisdom, compassion and restraint in responding to this tragedy.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Privett, SJ
President