



March 31, 2008

A Call to Action for Mount St. Mary's University Students

Dear Students,

As we approach the final weeks of this semester I write to call your attention to a critical issue that we face as a community. The data are clear that the next six weeks are the most dangerous for alcohol and drug abuse and the problems associated with such on campuses throughout the country.

I need your help

I ask your help in eliminating the risky behaviors that are associated with over indulgence in alcohol. While clearly the majority of you take your responsibilities seriously, sadly we also know that some students do not, and their abuse of alcohol and drugs puts them and others at severe risk of injury, and God forbid, even death.

So today I ask for your help in the following ways:

1. Socialize in a responsible manner, with moderation. The sign of maturity is moderation in all you do.
2. If you see someone who has had enough to drink, say, "Enough!" and keep the person away from other drinks. No doubt the person will not be happy at the moment, but later will be thankful and value your caring friendship.
3. If you see someone who needs help, seek immediate assistance. Contact an RA, one of our student life staff, a public safety officer, a coach, a faculty member, or me. Do not assume that the person will just sleep it off.
4. If you know someone who has a problem with abuse of alcohol or drugs, please let one of us know. It is a very responsible way to show that you care. We can provide "no penalty" help in many ways.

Our Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct for students is very clear. We will not tolerate underage drinking, drunkenness or the use of illegal drugs on campus. I have asked Executive Vice President Soller, Dean Post and Chief Titler to continue to strictly enforce our Code and deal with violations in a strong, clear manner. While I do not want to expel students, serious violations of our Code, especially in regard to abuse of alcohol and/or drugs will result in expulsion.

Do you have, or know someone who has a problem?

If you have a problem with alcohol or drugs, it takes maturity and courage to first admit it to yourself, and then seek help. We have that help available and can provide it to any student in need, confidentially and without penalty. I have known far too many students who have failed to admit their problems and subsequently ruined their lives, and those of their friends and families.

We are a Mount family

One value that characterizes us here at the Mount is our care for each other. Our bonds generously extend well beyond our own circle of friends to all who call this University home. Like all families, we have responsibilities to each member. Chief among these is to keep each other safe.

Please know that while I may worry deeply about your safety, I am confident that the vast majority of you will be responsible young adults over the next few weeks.

May the peace of Christ be with you!



Thomas H. Powell
President

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