

**Resolution 027**  
**A Resolution to Greater Unify the University by Replacing Controversial  
Icons**

**Sponsored By: Senator Schlee**

**Co-Sponsored By: Senator Suarez, Senator Crnkovich, Senator Scott, and  
Senator Lackey**

***Whereas,***

The Catholic University mission statement is as follows:

“As the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States, founded and sponsored by the bishops of the country with the approval of the Holy See, The Catholic University of America is committed to being a comprehensive Catholic and American institution of higher learning, faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ as handed on by the Church.”<sup>1</sup>

***Whereas,***

A painting titled “Mama” by Kelly Latimore that depicts George Floyd as Jesus was commissioned and hung up in both the Campus Ministry office and the Columbus School of Law building in February 2021.

***Whereas,***

The artist has ambiguously admitted that the painting is meant to represent George Floyd as Jesus, but President Garvey has decided to interpret the painting differently.<sup>2</sup>

***Whereas,***

The painting located in the Columbus School of Law was reported to be stolen and President Garvey informed the community that it had been replaced with the copy of the painting that had been located in the Campus Ministry office. He also explained how the painting would not be removed due to his “no cancellation policy.”

***Whereas,***

The university has recently made great strides in ensuring that they address racism and other related issues through the creating and publishing of the Thea Bowman Report with various proposals to improve diversity and inclusion across the University. Additionally, the Student Government Association has uplifted these efforts by hosting events for the community to come together and discuss these issues.

***Whereas,***

This icon is seen as blasphemous, offensive, and at the very least confusing not only to students but many in the general public and only serves to further divide the community.

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<sup>1</sup> [At a Glance – The Catholic University of America | CUA](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/interview/iconographer-kelly-latimore-sees-god-plain-sight>

**Whereas,**

The purpose of sacred art is not to make a political statement but to promote worship, adoration, and faith “in the transcendent mystery of God”.<sup>3</sup>

**Whereas,**

The Columbus School of Law is its own entity and makes its own administrative decisions, but the Undergraduate University and Law School often work together on projects and collaborate. It is evident that the decision to display this painting was originally a concerted effort to make a statement across both schools.

**Whereas,**

There are few representations of the African American community in theological artforms on our campus currently and the University could increase and amplify those voices in a way that is consistent with the University’s mission.

**Whereas,**

There are other paintings and icons that do a much better job at making a genuine, good faith effort to reflect the universality of the Catholic Church that also do not divide and confuse the University and larger Catholic community.

**Be it enacted that,**

The Student Government Association Senate, acting in its official capacity as the representative of the undergraduate student body of The Catholic University of America, hereby requests:

1. The removal of all paintings titled “Mama” from all University buildings.
2. That the University makes a conscious effort to reach out to our greater Brookland community and work toward replacing these paintings with other forms of art that represent diversity and bring forth representation of the African American community in a non-political and uncontroversial way.

Agreed to by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ yeas to \_\_\_\_\_ nays on this date: \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ abstaining and \_\_\_\_\_ not present.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Abigail Anger  
*President of the Student Government Association*

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Monica Wallace  
*Vice President of the Student Government Association*

<sup>3</sup> Catechism of the Catholic Church 2502