Dear Upstander,

This has been a very busy and exciting week for the Tyler Clementi Foundation! On Monday we were honored and very pleased to announce the beginning of a new initiative inviting Catholic bishops in the United States to join with us in standing up against violence, harassment and bullying of at-risk LGBT youth. At this point in time Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, Archbishop John C. Wester, Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Bishop Robert McElroy, Bishop Edward Weisenburger, Bishop John Stowe, Bishop Denis Madden, Bishop Steven Biegler, Bishop John P Dolan, Bishop Ricardo Ramirez, Bishop Anthony Taylor, and Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz have all added their names to the statement. The support from these bishops against bullying is a historic step in the Catholic Church's ministry and outreach to LGBT people.

The full statement, “God Is On Your Side: A Statement from Catholic Bishops on Protecting LGBT Youth”, as well as a few articles of the vast global press coverage, can all be found on our website.

We are grateful to have found common ground to begin conversations with Catholic leaders. With this groundbreaking statement, these bishops are saying that all God's children, including our LGBTQ siblings, deserve kindness, respect, and compassion. It is a beginning where we can all agree. We all need to begin someplace, and it’s never too late to join in on this all-important conversation. We welcome all leaders of the Catholic Church to add their names.

We are hoping all Catholic leaders will join us and be an Upstander for the youth sitting in their pews. Everyone needs to know and feel they are supported and cherished by their faith leaders. It can make the difference between life and death.

If you would like to show your gratitude and support to the bishops for their boldness and courage, please add your name and/or comments here. In addition, please reach out and encourage your own Bishop to join us in sharing love and hope into our world by adding their name to our statement.

We also announced this week that a new Youth Ambassador cohort will begin on February 15th. Please share with all your friends that we are looking for high school-aged youth interested in making a difference in their spheres of influence.

All Youth Ambassadors are mentored by our dynamic, caring, and knowledgeable Program Manager, Ryan Smith. They will learn about a vast range of topics including anti-bullying 101, communications styles, forms of discrimination, change theory, and promoting kindness and compassion with a diverse group of students from across the country (all via zoom). All this will lead to planning and implementing an anti-bullying action in their community.
Please share this opportunity widely to all your children, friends, teachers, and especially high school-aged students.

Of course, for all these great initiatives to happen we need your help. If you are able please consider becoming a monthly donor in support of our work. If that is not an option for you at this time, please consider a one-time donation. All donations are greatly appreciated.

With gratitude,

Jane Clementi
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pronouns: she/her/hers

We could not support our bullying prevention programs like #Day1 and the #Upstander Pledge without the support of people like you.

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