



As this issue of *Canisius Magazine* goes to press, all of America continues to reel from the shootings at Virginia Tech. It seems unimaginable that events like this could occur on a university campus but once again we are reminded that our campuses are not always the islands of tranquility that we like to imagine.

As the shock begins to fade, the obvious questions are being asked and universities around the country will need to examine what can be done to prevent something like the Virginia Tech tragedy from occurring on their campuses. This will involve careful scrutiny of campus security and student support services, such as mental health counseling.

Canisius will be no exception, although we have somewhat of a head start. Our urban location has forced us to address security challenges and I am pleased to report that we do quite well on this score. The college's well-developed Crisis Response Plan has been praised by Erie County emergency coordinators as a model for other schools. It is not just a document that sits on a shelf but one that is regularly reviewed in tabletop emergency simulations and in real life.

Our public safety officers were accorded peace officer status through legislation passed by the New York State Legislature in 1999. This entitles Canisius public safety officers to take advantage of the same types of training that city, town and village police officers receive. They regularly work hand-in-hand with the Buffalo Police Department on neighborhood issues and their professionalism is consistently praised by the city.

While we would not begin to think that something like this could never happen at Canisius, we would like to think that our commitment to the Jesuit principle of *cura personalis*, or care for each individual, will put us in a better position to identify a person who may be estranged, acting oddly, repressing anger or threatening violence. But the Virginia Tech shootings remind each of us that we have a responsibility to our neighbor and that we must act in these situations.

As we continue to struggle with these difficult questions, I would ask you to take a few moments to pray for the victims at Virginia Tech and their families.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vincent M. Cooke, S.J." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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On the Cover  
On the links at Park Country Club,  
**Donald J. Barnett '50** is among a new  
generation of people who are changing  
the notion of what it means to grow older.

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