



The Rule of St. Benedict identifies murmuring as the most serious and destructive sin against God. There is a cultural trend to take to social media to express concerns or frustrations. This approach can cause great damage, and in some cases irreparable harm, to both the target of the post, whether an individual or the University, and the author. Both the target and the author are often misinformed, out of context, half true, or not true at all. The difficulty is that once such a post is made, it cannot be permanently retracted, even if superficially deleted from the platform upon which it was posted. This opens both the author and target of the post to damage that cannot be undone. Because of the swift nature of social media interaction, it is extremely difficult to retroactively change the current of public opinion and rehabilitate the character of an individual or institution regardless of the veracity of an inflammatory post. Furthermore, inappropriate content posted in poor judgment has long-lasting effects upon the student and damages the reputation and public perception of the target of the post, whether an individual or the University.

The University has placed a great deal of care in establishing processes, policies, and procedures to give all students a productive way to raise an issue, bring a grievance, and seek redress where appropriate. Students are expected and encouraged to utilize these options. See www.umary.edu/dignity for more information.
