

Hello, Class of 2013! I hope your summer is going well and you are excited to start your Xavier career. We cannot wait for you to arrive. As the summer ticks away, you are probably curious about many aspects of campus life. As the Spiritual and Community Coordinator for **Manresa: Xavier's New Student Orientation**, I will focus this email on the spiritual aspects present on Xavier's campus.

What if I'm not Catholic?

Although this is a Jesuit University, this does not mean you need to practice Catholicism. Xavier welcomes all faith traditions or forms of spirituality. College is a great time to grow in faith. There are several resources available to help you find places of worship in a close vicinity to campus. Xavier's Offices of Interfaith Community Engagement and Campus Ministry can be valuable resources for you. Xavier also has several clubs that encourage students to focus on better understanding, appreciating, and exploring their spirituality.

Xavier's Jesuit Tradition

Saint Ignatius of Loyola founded the Society of Jesus in 1534, and its members are now commonly referred to as Jesuits. Xavier University is one of twenty-eight Jesuit universities in the United States. There are approximately 18 Jesuits connected to campus, including four living directly on campus in the residence halls. The Jesuit mission aims to educate students intellectually, morally and spiritually, with rigor and compassion toward lives of solidarity and service. You can see the university's full mission statement that incorporates the Jesuit values by visiting <http://www.xavier.edu/jesuit/mission.cfm>.

Student Masses

Xavier offers daily student Masses throughout the week at Bellarmine Chapel, located in the center of campus. On Sundays, there are student Masses at 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. The 4 p.m. Mass tends to be a low key Mass with approximately 150 students in attendance. However, the 10 p.m. Mass is a larger gathering with around 350 students in attendance and a student choir. You can choose the Mass that best fits your style. Students also have the opportunities to take special roles in church services. If you are interested, you can sign-up with Campus Ministry. Bellarmine Chapel also serves as a local parish which has additional Masses anyone is welcome to attend. The parishioners enjoy seeing the occasional student in attendance.

Interfaith Community Engagement

Xavier's Office of Interfaith Community Engagement works to create and strengthen a sense of community among individuals of diverse faiths on campus, in Cincinnati, and on the regional and national levels. Interfaith Community Engagement is a student-centered initiative that both allows individuals to deepen their personal faith and enhance their understanding of other traditions. Visit www.xavier.edu/interfaith for more information.

Campus Ministry

Xavier's Office of Campus Ministry offers many opportunities to help you get in touch with the person you want to be. Campus Ministry offers several retreats and programs throughout the school year that provide an opportunity for you to explore your faith and build relationships with other students. You can check out Campus Ministry's website at www.xavier.edu/campus_ministry.

Finally, I just wanted to encourage you all to take advantage of the resources that are offered on campus. College can be a great time to strengthen your spiritual understanding and really make it your own as you grow, change and mature. If you have any questions at all feel free to call our office at (513) 745-3662 or send us an e-mail at manresa@xavier.edu. Enjoy the rest of your summer and we will see you soon!

Joel Valentino
Manresa CORE-Spiritual Activities Coordinator, 2009