

Hello, Class of 2015!

I hope your summer is going well and you are excited to start your Xavier career. We cannot wait for you to arrive. As high school has ended and the summer fun continues to fade, it is only a short time longer that you being school again. This time you'll be beginning a school year that will start a whole new chapter of your life. I can only guess that you have a million questions about life at Xavier—I know I did as an incoming first-year—so as the Community and Spiritual Coordinator for Manresa: Xavier's New Student Orientation, I hope to answer your questions about the service and faith programs available at Xavier University.

### **What if I'm not Catholic?**

Although this is a Catholic Jesuit University, this does not mean you have to be Catholic. Xavier welcomes all faith traditions and forms of spirituality. College is a great time to grow in faith, and Xavier provides many outlets to assist you along your faith journey. 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 *Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice* can be valuable resources for you. Xavier also has several clubs that encourage students to focus on better understanding, appreciating, and exploring their spirituality and love of service.

### **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 several Jesuits connected to campus, as well as several Jesuits that live 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 at 8 AM, 12PM, and 5PM in Bellarmine Chapel, located in the center of campus. On Sundays, there are student Masses at 4PM and 10PM. The 4PM Mass traditionally is a "low key" Mass presided by Fr. Al Bischoff, a beloved Jesuit that lives in Husman Hall. The 10PM Mass, on the other hand, is generally more "up beat" and a much larger gathering with a student choir. The two options allow students to choose the Mass that best fits their mood and personality. If you are interested in assisting in either Mass services, students can sign-up in the Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice. Bellarmine Chapel also serves as a local parish that serves the surrounding community, because of this additional Masses are offered at other times, which students are 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](http://www.xavier.edu/interfaith) for more information.

### **Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice**

Xavier's Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice offers many opportunities to help you get in touch with the person you want to be. The Center for Faith and Justice 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. As well as providing opportunities for you to explore your faith, the Center has numerous opportunities that allow you to serve the community in ways you may have never experienced before. You can check out the Dorothy Day Center's website at [www.xavier.edu/cfj](http://www.xavier.edu/cfj).

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 enrich your love of service. 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](mailto:manresa@xavier.edu). Enjoy the rest of your summer and we will see you soon!

Bobby Nichols

Manresa CORE - Community and Spiritual Coordinator, 2011