AFMIX Self-Reflection

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“I’m a human *being*, not a human *doing*.”—Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (emphasis added)

My “learnings” as it were after participating in the AFMIX 13 cohort for the past two years, can be summed up by the docent in the *Ted Lasso* “Sunflower” episode. As Ted Lasso stares at the Van Gogh “Sunflower” painting, a docent appears next to him and begins quoting Vincent Van Gogh:

“One doesn't expect to get from life what one has already learned it cannot give. Rather, one begins to see that life is a kind of sowing time... and the harvest is not yet here.”

The docent continues:

“He was just a humble preacher's son. And yes, he had his demons, but they never stopped him from searching for beauty. Because when you find beauty, you find inspiration. If, that is, you stay as determined as Vincent. Never stop, no matter how many failures. When you know you're doing what you're meant to do, you have to try.”

So, at the end of two years of study, reflection, and discernment, if I am asked “how will I **A**ssure the **F**uture **M**ission and **I**dentity of **X**avier?” I will have to answer: “To be continued . . . “

“And so it goes.”—*Slaughter House Five*, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

“And so it goes with God.”—*Life of Pi*, Yann Martel