

AFMIX XI Reflection/Capstone

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University Relations

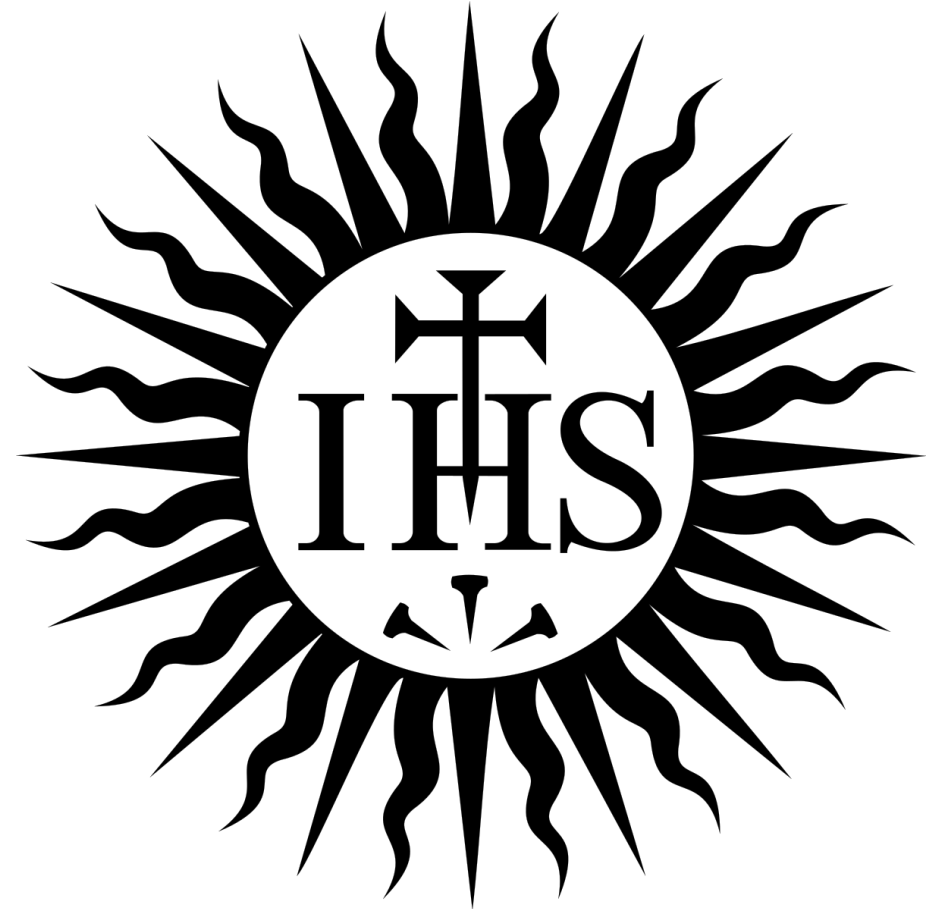
I graduated from Xavier University in the early 1990s not completely understanding what I had just experienced or having an understanding of the Ignatian values and Xavier's Jesuit Catholic tradition. As an alum, I always felt a connection to my alma mater and the Xavier Community but it was not until I returned as a staff member that I truly learned of the Ignatian culture and my role in it. Being part of the University Relations division first in the Annual Fund and now supporting the Vice President of University Relations, I feel it is where I am meant to be. The work we do for the University, our potential students, our alums, and friends is summed up perfectly by the University Relations mission statement: *To connect and engage alumni, parents and friends in the spirit of Jesuit Catholic higher education to build and grow the University campus, identity and academic programs.*

After I was here for a few years, I decided to participate in the AFMIX program. I learned more in depth about Ignatian history and the values I had been so proud of since my graduation and how those values are core to our university mission as well as our divisional mission. Making decisions based on these values and our mission are crucial especially this past year with all the hardships and suffering due to the pandemic. Although I was somewhat disappointed we could not meet in person the last 2 semesters of AFMIX, the foundation we now had helped us to be better and more compassionate co-workers and friends. We pulled together as a division and a community to succeed even in the most difficult of situations. The 2 principles or values of Ignatian spirituality I feel influenced me most during this past year were *Magis* and *Cura Personalis*. These embody the love I have for God and my faith as well as for my passion for our mission here at Xavier University.



Magis – This is very important to how I live my life and how I go about my work here at Xavier. Generosity and striving for excellence go hand in hand when working with my colleagues as well as with our donors, alums, and friends. I continually strive to improve but never at the expense of others. Our division is so successful because of the way we work together for our common goal: to provide the means and opportunity for others to experience the Catholic Jesuit tradition and education Xavier has to offer through fundraising. We also look for ways to assist the student after they arrive on campus. Raising dollars for the Student Emergency Fund and The Store are examples of responding to the needs our students. Seeing the impact of our efforts on students, parents, alums is truly rewarding. University Relations gives out a Magis award every quarter to someone who goes above and beyond in their work here. I am happy to say I received this award recently.

Cura Personalis – I truly believe we were put on this earth to care for each other. This drives everything I do and think about each day whether in my personal life or work life. I believe everyone is a child of God and deserves to be treated as one. Reaching out to others, helping in any way I can is a way of life for me. I see the compassion and respect the staff have for each other here in our division as well as across campus. Giving a friendly smile or positive word to someone especially not knowing what they are going through goes a long way. Understanding where a friend or colleague is coming from is crucial to working together successfully and truly showing care and building trust. Also, in caring for my whole self, I strive to balance my work life and personal life. I am very privileged to work in a division that encourages this and enables all to do so.



Cura Personalis