

AFMIX Capstone Reflection

In the Spring of 2019 I felt a calling to immerse myself in the AFMIX program. At the time I was not sure if it was as a professional development opportunity, concerns for the future of the University or a search for knowledge and answers to things I was unclear on. Turns out it was a combination of all three of those things and more.

As a proud Xavier graduate and also a 20+ year employee of the University, I could see that there was an upcoming void in Jesuit inspired leadership that would be created with the imminent departure of our President, Father Mike Graham. There had already been a noticeable dwindling of the number of Jesuits on campus over the preceding 2-3 decades and when I took stock that Father would soon be stepping down himself, I looked around and it was easy to see that when he ultimately felt called to step down that there may not be a strong Jesuit leader of the University to take his place. There just are not Jesuits around and it was very likely that the next leader would be a layperson. This compelled me to formally prepare myself to ensure that the Jesuit history and influence is not lost on me and that I could better contribute to the University efforts to carry the mission and Ignatian spirit well into the future.

What I have found through my participation in this program has put me at peace. I have realized the burden and obligation is not my own to carry, it is gladly shared by many, many others around campus. The Ignatian doctrine of Men and Women for Others is extremely strong at Xavier. This gives me great confidence in our collective future here on campus, and of those we educate that then go out to set the world on fire.

Being involved in AFMIX has been a great refresher for me, as my formal Jesuit education ended over 25 years ago. To be able to reconnect with the history of Ignatius Loyola and Francis Xavier and recall the foundation of why we are where we are, and do what we do today, was extremely enlightening.

I have also realized in this fast paced world that we live in, that is not that easy to find the time to ground ourselves through reflection and discernment. These tenets are vitally important and I have become much more intentional in my efforts to take time out of my busy schedule to process my role on campus and how I can better serve.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Moran

AFMIX XI – March 2021