

AFMIX Cohort XIII

This was a big AFMIX cohort! In addition to meeting many others at Xavier, I've been given the gift of individual spiritual direction through the full Spiritual Exercises. Why was I chosen? Perhaps because I (almost) always do my homework :) Regardless, I'm deeply grateful.

In everyday life, the Exercises flow over 32 weeks, with an hour set aside for prayer & spiritual practice each day. I was able to do this most weeks, & saw my practice & my life grow deeper & broader. My theme became "making space" to listen for God's call, be it as it may. After many years as a nurse leader, caring for the sick and dying became personal for too many friends & relations. I learned to look for opportunities to simply be with those who needed my gifts.

Through the exercises, I walked with Jesus during his public mission. Although my missions to care for the sick & teach have always been clear, I created more space in my life by learning to ignore the pressures of busywork & annoyance. As I read scripture, many passages were very familiar, but sometimes I felt sad. There was little that spoke to women; there was nothing written by women. Yet, here I am.

Lent & the passion sparked compassion but I felt deep desolation for the state of our world. I nurtured myself by caring for my students & entreating them to reflect.

As I enter the final set of weeks in the Spiritual Exercises, & Easter, I look forward, with hope & love, to my favorite time of year.

Thanks to Mark McLaughlin, Joe Shadle & the CMI, my place of respite.

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Reflection & Project

I shall begin the Spiritual Exercises with hope in my heart.

The Exercises are arranged into 4 sets of "WEEKS," as if one were on a traditional & long retreat.

"WEEK 1" of the IGNATIAN SPIRITUAL EXERCISES: GETTING TO KNOW MYSELF

As I read scripture, poetry, & read some more, I journal & begin writing. I've always loved poetry, especially Jeremiah, Isaiah, the Psalms, song lyrics, Shakespeare, John Maysfield, William Blake, & poetry for children.

My Favorite Hopeful Bible Verses & More Poetry

Paraphrasing Isaiah by Eileen Alexander

One day, the sun sets.
Awake to a new day with the Light of the World!
Be one with the Light!
We feel your warmth.
We cherish each day.

Inspired by:

"Your sun will set no more
Nor your moon wane,
But Yahweh will be your everlasting light"
Isaiah 60:20

"If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me."
Jeremiah 29:13

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD.
Jeremiah 29:11a

"WEEK 2" of the IGNATIAN SPIRITUAL EXERCISES: ACCOMPANYING J.C. ON MISSION

As directed by our Mission Statement and the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus, 1548, section 456 (pg 3 Faculty Handbook) to "engage in disputations often," I take seriously my mission to "educate each student intellectually, morally, and spiritually." Each term, my students reflect on the relationship of course content to the Ignatian Values. My graduate students are especially hungry for this opportunity and it is most gratifying for all of us.

I start writing Haikus & practicing the piano (when no-one is home). It took some time to find my sheet music, especially Day By Day (Godspell), as it had been quite a while. Jingle Bells was right on top, so I started with that.

Haiku Prayers by Eileen Alexander

Haiku are simple poems in 3 lines, with 5 syllables, 7 syllables, 5 syllables.
Try it! Once you feel the rhythm, you can't stop!

WE'RE ON A MISSION

New Testament 2.0

Where are the women?
We make ev'rything happen!
We walk with Jesus!

Sometimes You Need A Bossy Good Samaritan

At the hospital
God's right hand on my shoulder
His left ov'r my mouth ;)

Inspired by:

"The secret of quality is love. You have to love your patient, you have to love your profession, you have to love your God." -Avedis Donabedian

FOR TEACHERS

Animate the mission

We hope to inspire!
How might we measure mission?
See our students' acts!

FOR STUDENTS

Beyond Your Frame of Reference

Explore your prayers!
Find your service to mankind.
I am here to help.

“WEEK 3” of the IGNATIAN SPIRITUAL EXERCISES: THE PASSION

In this Jubilee year, “Pope Francis invites the faithful to “journey together in hope,” and to take the opportunity of the upcoming Lenten Season to ask ourselves whether we are truly willing to heed God's call to change our lives.” <https://www.mercyworld.org/newsroom/pope-s-message-for-lent-2025-an-invitation-to-journey-together-in-hope/>

This is hard. I don't feel hopeful. I feel doubt & desolation. My Spiritual Director helps me to stay focused on the themes I've uncovered & find hope by turning outward, rather than inward.

DOUBT**We Lived the Stories in Books 1-66**

Where are the women?
If only we were writers
with a nom de plume!

Blah, Blah, Blah

You bogart power
Long prayers steal my soul
Free me with brev'ty!

Faux Leadership & Turn-Around-Time

Balancing measures
Assure no harm to others
How long is your TAT?

Paternalism

Where are the women?
This church of ours welcomes not.
How shall women speak?

Cannon Ball Run 2

Íñigo, S.J.
Warrior, courtier, saint
Did you make amends?

The Irony of Good Friday

Who nam'd Good Friday?
Holy or Long, but best is
Horrible Friday.

FOR POLITICIANS**Desolation**

Oh! Where to begin?

America lost its way.
Oh! Where will it end?

“WEEK 4” of the IGNATIAN SPIRITUAL EXERCISES: JOY and CONSOLATION

CONTEMPLATION OF THE LOVE OF GOD

God Is

What does it all mean?
Wallow in complexity,
Celebrate chaos!

Daily Examen 2.0

Thanks and petition
What happen’d? How did I feel?
Look ahead with love.

LOOKING AHEAD WITH HOPE

Love begets change

I change for myself,
I change for the almighty,
Love changes the world.

The price of autonomy is service & altruism.

Is service enough?
What price is autonomy?
Love and altruism.

A New Day Dawns

Behold ev’ry day!
Pray. Think. Feel. Work. Love. Serve. Live.
God looks out for you.

Rah- Rah- Rah! Go St. Peter Faber Academy!

I’ve been wondering
Why no university?
It is about time!

LOVE OF OTHERS

Who Do You Love?

Do love stories end?

I think not. Love stays forever.
You live in my heart!

“We will begin these rites, As we do trust they'll end, in true delights.

-Wm Shakespeare, As You Like It, Act 5, Scene 4