**AFMIX Capstone Reflection: Rooted in Purpose, Open to Growth**

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Participating in AFMIX over the past two years has given me something I didn’t realize I was missing: space to reflect—not just on my role at Xavier, but on the bigger picture of why I do what I do. My background in organizational leadership and ethical, values-based business has always shaped how I approach my work—but AFMIX added a more reflective, mission-centered dimension I hadn’t expected.

Coming into this experience without a traditional faith background, I wasn’t sure how the program would resonate with me. But I quickly realized AFMIX wasn’t about belief in a specific doctrine—it was about learning to lead with care, intention, and awareness of the people and values that shape a community. The Jesuit tradition, especially the concepts of Cura Personalis and discernment, challenged me to think more holistically about my work—not just what I do, but how and why.

I strive to lead with a servant leadership mindset, and AFMIX gave that approach deeper roots. Taking the time to consider the whole person—not just their title or task—has shifted how I approach problem-solving, collaboration, and decision-making. It reminded me that leadership is less about control and more about accompaniment—walking with others, asking the right questions, and creating space for growth.

The painting I created to accompany this reflection is an abstract tree—bright, in motion, layered with meaning. Each branch includes a value or theme that surfaced throughout AFMIX: Discernment, Magis, Cura Personalis, Solidarity and Kinship, and others. These are no longer abstract concepts—they’ve become part of how I understand my role at Xavier and the kind of environment I hope to contribute to.

The tree symbolizes how I see this journey. The roots are my grounding foundation—my values, education, and experience. The branches reach up and out, shaped by new perspectives and experiences. The many colors reflect change, complexity, and creativity. Growth isn’t always linear or tidy, but it’s always possible. It is our ever-constant in this world.

AFMIX has helped me see that being part of a Jesuit university isn’t about fitting into a mold—it’s about showing up with purpose, humility, and a willingness to serve. It’s about aligning action with values and being open to transformation—yours and others.

This program didn’t ask me to change who I am. It gave me space to grow into who I’m becoming. And like the tree in my painting, I plan to keep reaching.

