Rachel Ritter

AFMIX Reflection

3/26/2025

 Looking back on the past four semesters of AFMIX, I am surprised by the personal progression I have noticed within myself. Coming from a Presbyterian upbringing, to a Quaker college, to not practicing religion at all, this was a chance for me to truly reflect on my relationship with God and how I can look for God in daily life. The framework of AFMIX really laid out some clear guiding questions throughout the two years that sparked a lot of internal dialogue within myself about how I see God involved in my life and profession.

The first semester of AFMIX gave me a really insightful background into the history of the Jesuits and what Jesuit education means. I really enjoyed growing my understanding of the messages and ethos of the Jesuits, while building a foundation for what it means to be a Jesuit University today. I think this background was imperative to understand how the University functions, and how our Jesuit heritage infiltrates every single department and office on campus.

The next three semesters provided me with space and a framework to deepen my understanding of what working for a Jesuit university means to me. The ability to vocalize how I see the Apostolic Preferences play out in my day to day work, combined with diving into the First Principle and Foundation gave me a really clear look at how I want God to be involved in my personal and professional life. After many virtual conversations, I think my colleagues really opened my eyes to how powerful the Jesuit influence can be within the University and world at large.

One of the most powerful aspects of my AFMIX experience was our weekly expression of gratitude. I believe this gave our group a great opportunity to open up about personal wins and losses, while keeping a positive twist. This truly encouraged me to stop and think about where I see God in the everyday, which could be from the most mundane form, to an incredible experience. That reflection each week reminded me to slow down, be intentional, and appreciate the little things I see every day. From these weekly reflections, I have developed some guiding questions to carry with myself beyond the final classes of AFMIX.

*How did I spread joy today?*

*Where did I see God today?*

*Did I personify Magis and Cura Personalis today?*

*Have I expressed gratitude to those I am grateful for?*

*What I am looking forward to?*

*Is there a way that I can take ownership of my relationship with God and how that plays out in my work?*

*How am I embracing service to others?*

*What small steps can I take tomorrow to better myself and others?*