Laudato Sí Capstone

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How can I capture the things I learned, the inspiration, but most of all the changes in me as a person since joining the Sustainability and the Mission Laudato Sí Program?

When I began the program, I didn’t really know what to expect. Through the opportunities I have been given I have come to realize that Xavier is doing a lot more for the future of our planet than I would have ever expected. The green roofs, the sprinkler system that uses as little water as possible to keep the campus looking beautiful, the gardens and so many things that are being implemented so that Xavier is prepared for a future with the least amount of impact on our environment.

I felt like I was doing my part by recycling, using a water bottle, walking rather than driving to places (not too far away). I felt like what I was able to do was not going to make a much of a difference. After being in the program I realized that I can do so much more by spreading the word and sharing information with others. For example, I am in the process of creating signs for the Mail Center desk showing students which packaging is recyclable and directing them to places that they can easily recycle them. I hope that showing the students what can be done easily, a big difference will be made.

The biggest change I see is in myself after this program, is the way I have been opened. My eyes have been opened to the urgent need that things need to be done now! There is no time to wait. I have become more thoughtful of the connection between my faith and community, both near and far. I have met people that I feel like I know, and with whom I will remain close. I have enjoyed getting their perspectives, ideas and learning what is important to them as individuals. I have learned so much from Joe Shadle and Tim Sundrup as they have led the group and opened my mind and heart.

For all of these reasons I thank you, and will always be grateful that I was part of the Laudato Sí program.