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Sustainability and the Mission Reflection

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I am immensely grateful for the learning opportunity that our Sustainability and the Mission course has provided me over the past several months. While I am not a religious person, I am a knowledge-craving person with an innate desire to continuously discover and grow. That paired with my passion for protecting the environment is what pushed me to sign up for this program. At Xavier, I’d heard a few people mention being a “Laudato Si” university, but I never really had any understanding of what that meant. I loved learning more about that, exploring all the different places on campus, and connecting with the individuals who are doing the work every day to make that title really mean something for the Xavier community. I have recommended the program to many coworkers who I know are interested in participating in the future. As someone working in recruitment marketing, I also look forward to finding ways to incorporate this into future work so that students understand what it means, as well.

In general, I was also shocked to learn about the Pope’s commitment to the environment and sustainability efforts. Not because I don’t think it aligns with what he stands for, but mainly because he is so open and direct about it all. What impressed me the most was all of the attention placed on the intersectionality of environmental care. The emphasis on how environmental devastation will impact the poor and disadvantaged before others is something I don’t think a lot of people fully understand.

In the world we currently live in, I appreciate (more than anything else) the opportunity to be in spaces with likeminded people who are committed to making the world a better place. That was truly the best part about this program. When it feels as if things are really falling apart around you and there is nothing you can do to stop it, we need as many reminders as we can get that people aren’t giving up or backing down. Reminders that hope is not lost and that, if we continue to care for one another, it never has to be.