



February 6, 2024

Dr. Colleen M. Hanycz  
President  
Xavier University  
3800 Victory Parkway  
Cincinnati, OH 45207

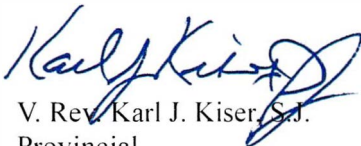
Dear Colleen,

At the Higher Education Colloquium in September, the principal goal was to have a discussion on what it means to be a Catholic Jesuit university in the Midwest Province. A secondary goal was to produce a document promulgated by the Province that would be helpful to the six sponsored universities in the discernment of their mission. Enclosed is the document that came from the working group headed by Fr. Michael Graham, S.J. I am grateful to Fr. Graham and the committee for their efforts to engage with each of the universities in the creation of this document and for their time and energy in the document's production. I also want to acknowledge that this document marks a very concrete example of how the UMI universities can collaborate with each other for a common goal. We continue to grow into deeper collaboration through these experiences.

Our hope is that this document will be helpful to you and your team as you continue to deepen and widen the Catholic Jesuit mission of your university. The document has been uploaded on the Province website (<https://www.jesuitsmidwest.org/statement-on-jesuit-and-catholic-identity/>) so that it is accessible to you and your team. Feel free to use it in any way that might be helpful. Parts of it could be quoted for publication or used as a discussion document for conversations about mission and identity. I could imagine many groups, departments, and board committees finding it helpful when discussing Jesuit and Catholic identity.

Thank you to all of you for your leadership in this most important work of Catholic Jesuit higher education.

Sincerely in Christ,



V. Rev. Karl J. Kiser, S.J.  
Provincial

Enclosure

Cc: Mr. Vincent C. Caponi  
Dr. Rachel Chrastil  
Dr. Debra Mooney  
Rev. Walter C. Deye, S.J.

Society of Jesus

773 975 6363 | f 773 975 0230 | [jesuitsmidwest.org](https://jesuitsmidwest.org) | 1010 N. Hacker Street | Chicago, IL 60642



## STATEMENT ON JESUIT AND CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Looking to the future with hope, the six universities of the Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus, in concert with the Midwest Province Provincial Superior, affirm the following as constitutive of our specifically Jesuit and Catholic identity:

- Created as they are in God’s image and likeness, our students are always at the center of our mission. They and their futures are God’s very dream – as are all who work at these graced places, and all at our doorsteps and beyond as well.
- We agree wholeheartedly with the judgment of a past Superior General of the Society of Jesus that “the real measure of our Jesuit universities lies in who our students become.” Hence, an education that blends academic excellence with commitment to the Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus is at the heart of all we do, the better to ready our students to contribute lives of service to the world around them.
- Our universities act as the thinking heart of the Church, where the riches of the Roman Catholic Intellectual Tradition – its questions and perspectives, its grounding in the liberal arts and sciences – encounter the contemporary world in all its messiness and possibility.
- Reflection, dialogue, and discernment are fundamental to our way of proceeding, as we seek to read the signs of the times in light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, especially from the perspective of people who are poor and marginalized.
- We invite all members of our university communities to bring forward the riches of their traditions toward our common project of understanding, justice, and reconciliation.
- From our commitment to Roman Catholic Social Teaching flows our commitment to creation and its care as well as our commitment to the values underlying diversity, equity, and inclusion.