

## Sustainability and the Mission Capstone Reflection

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Participating in the Sustainability and the Mission series has been beneficial to me in a number of ways. I had previously participated in the Manresa overnight orientation for new employees and found that experience really enriched my understanding of Xavier, how the Catholic faith guides our mission and it allowed me to make connections with folks that I may not have the opportunity to meet or interact with otherwise. I thought the Sustainability and the Mission series would further allow me to learn about my new workplace and it also aligned with my interest in environmentalism.

I do not come from a Catholic or religious background and prior to joining this group, I wasn't aware that the church had a stance on protecting the environment. Through reading *Laudato si*, I learned that Pope Francis' invites everyone—regardless of background, faith, or culture—to take responsibility for the care of our common home. *Laudato si* calls us to reflect deeply on the spiritual, social and moral implications of our actions. As we talked through these issues as a group, I found that I have some habits that I can certainly improve upon. I've become more aware of my purchasing habits, developed a greater appreciation for the intentional beauty of our campus and implemented tips and tricks I learned from others – like starting a compost pile.

I am grateful that I had the opportunity to connect with others and gain a deeper understanding of our campus mission to promote sustainability efforts. It was refreshing to learn the intentionality behind those efforts and how they are rooted in deep care and connection. I am proud to work for an institution that fosters these learning communities and am grateful to all who took the time to educate and collaborate with us.