The Sister Thea Bowman Fellowship at Xavier University is an undergraduate research program designed to financially support exceptional students as they develop new scholarship in their fields. The program is named after Sister Thea Bowman, a Franciscan Sister known for her dedication to education, cultural identity, and scholarship. Open to undergraduates from any major, the Fellowship encourages students to engage deeply in scholarly projects that further their development as scholars and extend their academic fields. Through collaboration with faculty mentors, students either develop new ideas or contribute to existing projects, dedicating 5-15 hours per week to their research. This program not only fosters academic growth but also personal development, aligning with Sister Thea’s life mission of educational empowerment and community enrichment. The text below will be included on the Fellowship webpage to clearly show Fellows how their work lives out our shared Xavier values. - prepared by Kat Morris, Director of Undergraduate Research

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The Sister Thea Bowman Fellowship program at Xavier University embodies core Jesuit values through its focus on reflective scholarship, discernment, solidarity, service rooted in justice and love, cura personalis, and magis.

**Reflection** is central to the Sister Thea Bowman Fellowship. Fellows are encouraged to delve deeply into their chosen scholarly projects. This reflective process involves critical thinking about specific academic disciplines and compels Fellows to consider their personal contributions to knowledge and society. The program mirrors Sister Thea Bowman’s own life, which was marked by a profound reflection on her identity and heritage, inspiring Fellows to explore and affirm their own cultural and personal identities within their scholarly pursuits.

**Discernment** is a key aspect of the Fellowship, requiring students to integrate their emotions and rational thoughts when choosing and developing their projects. This aligns with the Jesuit tradition of discernment, where decisions are guided by a consciousness of one's inner experiences and the external needs of the world.

**Solidarity and Kinship** are fostered as Fellows work closely with faculty mentors and peers, creating a community of scholars who support and learn from each other. This collaboration is not confined to the academic sphere but extends to forming bonds that reflect a shared journey of intellectual and personal discovery. The program’s emphasis on kinship particularly honors Sister Thea Bowman’s legacy of bridging diverse communities and fostering mutual respect and understanding.

**Service Rooted in Justice and Love** is evident as the Fellowship encourages projects that not only contribute to academic fields but also address societal challenges. Fellows are motivated to use their scholarship as a means to advocate for and implement change, embodying the Jesuit call to social justice. This service is rooted in a genuine love for knowledge and a commitment to using that knowledge to better the world, reflecting Sister Thea Bowman’s life of service through education.

**Cura Personalis,** or care for the whole person, is an essential value reflected in the program’s approach to mentorship and development. Faculty mentors are tasked with recognizing and nurturing the individual talents and needs of each Fellow, ensuring that their academic and personal development is harmonious and integrated. This personalized attention helps each Fellow thrive as a scholar and as a person.

**Magis,** or the pursuit of the greater good, is a guiding principle for Fellows as they are encouraged to ask how their work can contribute to the greater good. This quest for excellence in service of God and others drives the Fellows to not only achieve personal academic success but also to consider the broader impact of their work on the community and the world.