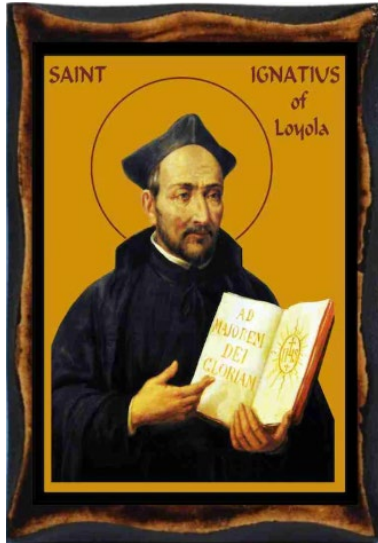


## An Ignatian Reflection



As this Ignatian Leadership Seminar series comes to a close, as part of the task of completing this capstone, I have reflected on how truly amazed and impressed by my colleagues in this cohort. They have embodied the principles of St. Ignatius of Loyola, *cura personalis*, *magis*, and discernment, along with aiming to serve God and others with excellence and a commitment to justice and have portrayed Xavier University as an institution that truly lives out its mission, day in and day out, throughout every nook and cranny of the campus, across every department.

I was born into a family of Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Christians, and throughout this seminar series, I was excited to explore the overwhelming amount of similarities between my faith and the Jesuit tradition, along with the unique aspects of the Jesuit tradition which make Xavier University the perfect place for anyone who wants

to put their faith, love, and compassion into action, or to be renewed in the understanding of God's role and purpose for us in our daily lives.

Therefore, given my background, I had not been exposed to much of the work of St. Ignatius, and his writings, especially the Spiritual Exercises, were mentioned several times throughout the semester. And so bought a copy of the work for myself to read in addition to our assignments, and now I would like to offer some reflections on a few specific passages.

The first is on the first day of the second week, St. Ignatius reminds us of how much we are loved by our benevolent God, through the Incarnation. St. Ignatius states, "The Three Divine Persons looked at all the plain or circuit of all the world...and how seeing that all were going down to Hell...determined in Their Eternity, that the Second Person shall become man to save the human race." Keeping this saved view of humanity in mind with our students I believe will be very beneficial, where the love and caring that we can show them will help serve as a reminder of God's love for us. It is also important for us to remember who God chose to reveal this great mystery to, the Theotokos, ever-virgin Mary, and Joseph her betrothed, along with in the Nativity, in the second contemplation, the shepherds herding sheep in the fields of Bethlehem of Judea. The Logos, the Word of God, the Son, and Second Person in the Holy Trinity, took of His kingly robes adorned from Eternity, and took on our form, the form of a servant so that we may be saved. It is also within this narrative, that St. Ignatius reminds us, why this mystery has taken place, and focuses the gaze of our soul to the Cross, to the "hunger, thirst, heat and cold, injuries and affronts" that Christ was willing to endure to redeem mankind so that we may enjoy everlasting life in God's Kingdom. I have always been deeply fascinated by the major feasts of the church, and none of greater importance than the Nativity, the Crucifixion, and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our active remembrance, and participation, in Christ's birth, death, and resurrection is what it truly means for us to be called Christians. Whosoever proclaims my death and professes my resurrection has life in me.

We are called to be more than what we are. That is why it is important to remember the words of St. Ignatius, in everything I am able to do here at Xavier, all for the greater glory of God!

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XSIL-100 Capstone Project