



November 20, 2023

Dear Members of the Xavier University Community:

As you know, the Society of Jesus and the Presidents of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) have established a cooperative self-study and peer review process for advancing the Catholic and Jesuit identity of the 28 AJCU member institutions in the United States and Belize. This **Mission Priority Examen (MPE)** has deepened enthusiasm for our shared mission and provided a structure for setting practical goals (i.e. mission priorities) for the future.

An important element of the MPE process is the on-site peer visit by a small group of colleagues from other Jesuit colleges and universities. As the chair of the visiting team for Xavier University (and a proud alumna), I want to express how grateful we are for your generous participation in the Mission Priority Examen. Whether through in-person meetings or other forms of input, we will benefit from your insights. It is our hope to walk with you during this visit, learn with you about the mission commitments – those presently embodied and those aspired to in the future – of Xavier, and offer you feedback informed by our listening and accompaniment that helps you pursue your mission priorities going forward.

Our intention is to root the MPE visit in the style and spirit of the Ignatian Examen, adapted to shared, community conversations. The choice of the term “Examen,” both for our visit and for your own reflection, is intentional. It grounds our process in the gratitude that is inherent in our Jesuit character and emphasizes that the MPE is a reflective and collegial exercise in which dialogue plays a major part.

During the visit, you can expect members of the Peer Visitor Team to engage in a series of listening sessions, asking questions such as:

- What are you grateful for, as you consider the ways in which the Xavier community lives out its Jesuit, Catholic identity and mission values?

- What aspirations and hopes do you have to enhance the understanding and expression of these mission values in the future?
- In what ways might you work toward the *Magis* (i.e., the greater or more universal good) for Xavier's students, faculty, staff, and administration?

Our MPE visiting team is comprised of colleagues active in various dimensions of the mission at other Jesuit institutions:

Brigid Kinsella-Alba

Assistant Director of Mission Engagement
Marquette University

Bill Kriege, M.A.

Director of Campus Ministry
Rockhurst University

Cindy Schmursal, Ed.D. (chair)

Vice President for Mission & Ministry
Creighton University

Rev. Myles Sheehan, S.J., M.D.

Director of the Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics
David Lauler Chair of Catholic Health Care Ethics
Georgetown University

We look forward to learning from and with you during our visit. If I can assist you or respond to any questions or suggestions you may have, please let me know. Additional information on the Mission Priority Examen can be found at <https://www.ajcunet.edu/missionexamen>.

With Gratitude and Blessings,

Cynthia M. Schmursal

MPE Visiting Team Chair

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