



THE CATHOLIC AND JESUIT IDENTITY

of SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY



INTRODUCTION

A Jesuit education aims to form the whole person. As a Jesuit, Catholic university, Saint Louis University offers students a distinctive educational experience. Built on a spiritual, intellectual and social tradition almost five centuries old, SLU provides opportunities and an environment that encourages the full flourishing of our students in every aspect of their humanity.





OFFICE OF MISSION AND IDENTITY

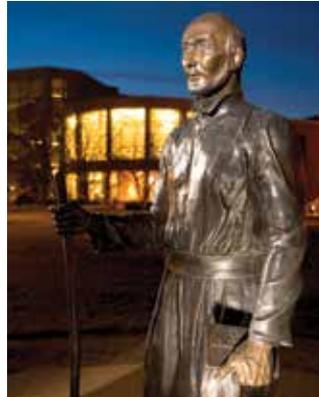
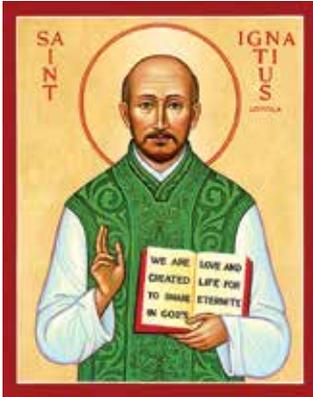
WHEN THE SOCIETY OF JESUS WAS FOUNDED, IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA DESCRIBED THE ULTIMATE AIM OF THIS RELIGIOUS ORDER TO BE THAT OF “HELPING SOULS.” The Society was, and is, primarily a missionary order in this sense. Soon after the founding, Ignatius and his companions discerned that establishing schools and undertaking the ministry of teaching youth constituted a particularly effective way to accomplish this greater mission. Centuries later, Jesuits would describe the ministry of teaching and operating institutions of higher education as a way of contributing greatly to “the total and integral liberation of the human person, leading to participation in the life of God himself” (General Congregation 33). From within this tradition of Jesuit education, then, the true “liberation of the human person” is always before us as our aim. This liberation is sought not only in our students, but in the faculty and staff who serve the students. In a very palpable way at Saint Louis University, though, this aim is always given clarification and depth for ourselves by orienting our educational endeavors not ultimately for ourselves, but for the sake of those in the world who are most vulnerable and in need of that liberation in very concrete ways. We refer constantly to the elements of our university mission statement which recall that we are here to “pursue truth for the greater glory of God and the service of humanity.” These ideals profoundly shape the culture at Saint Louis University, and they are the reason we attract students, faculty and staff who are truly “mission driven.”

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Fr. Christopher Collins, S.J.". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "C".

Father Christopher Collins, S.J.
Assistant to the President for Mission and Identity

ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

Born into a noble Basque family, Ignatius of Loyola prepared for life as a courtier loyal to the Spanish crown. While recovering from a battle injury, Ignatius began a conversion that turned his focus from seeking his own glory and fame to imitating Christ and the saints, who sought the glory of God and the service of neighbor. It is for this reason that the unofficial motto of the Society of Jesus became *ad maiorem Dei gloriam* (for the greater glory of God).



IGNATIUS' LIFE

1491

Born in Basque region of Spain

1521

Experiences conversion while recovering from wounds during a battle at Pamplona

1522

Commits to a new life while visiting Montserrat, then moves to Manresa for life of prayer and hospital work

1523

Makes a pilgrimage to Jerusalem

1524

Begins formal studies in Barcelona and starts writing the Spiritual Exercises

1528

Begins philosophy and theology studies at the University of Paris

1534

Vows to serve God and help souls along with like-minded companions

1537

Ordained a priest

1540

Founds the Society of Jesus

1540-1556

Serves as Superior General of the Society of Jesus

1556

Dies in Rome

SOCIETY OF JESUS



After his conversion, Ignatius went back to school. He and his friends, Francis Xavier and Peter Faber, who met while they were students at the University of Paris, bound themselves together, along with other like-minded companions, into a community dedicated to “helping souls.” They vowed to be available to be sent anywhere in the world where the need was greatest and the most universal good could be accomplished. Since 1540, the Society of Jesus, also known as the Jesuits, has grown in number and has labored throughout the world, ministering through education, pastoral work and social services.



RENOWNED JESUITS



**PIERRE TEILHARD
DE CHARDIN, S.J.**

Paleontologist and Philosopher



POPE FRANCIS

First Jesuit Pope



GREG BOYLE, S.J.

Founder of Homeboy
Industries



**GERARD MANLEY
HOPKINS, S.J.**

English Poet



GUY CONSOLMAGNO, S.J.

Astronomer and Director
of the Vatican Observatory



**PIERRE-JEAN
DE SMET, S.J.**

Missionary in Western
United States



ALFRED DELP, S.J.

German Resistance Member
during World War II



PAUL MIKI, S.J.

Japanese Martyr



WALTER ONG, S.J.

Scholar of Language
and its Evolution



KARL RAHNER, S.J.

Theologian



MIGUEL PRO, S.J.

Mexican Martyr



**CHRISTOPHER
CLAVIUS, S.J.**

Mathematician
and Astronomer



MATTEO RICCI, S.J.

Missionary in China



**ALBERTO
HURTADO, S.J.**

Social activist and
Hogar de Cristo founder



PEDRO ARRUPE, S.J.

Missionary in Hiroshima
and former Superior General



**JOSÉ MARÍA
RUBIO, S.J.**

“Apostle of Madrid”



SPIRITUAL AND SOCIAL VISION

The Jesuit spiritual tradition seeks to *find God in all things* – divine revelation, the natural world, human experience and every academic discipline that explores these orders of knowledge. Through active discernment, students at a Jesuit university are encouraged to discover their place in the world and how they can responsibly act to create a more just and humane society.

MEN AND WOMEN FOR OTHERS

In an atmosphere that strives to integrate contemplation and action, it is our experience that our students consistently become men and women characterized by well-developed minds, generous hearts and reflective souls. SLU provides a myriad of opportunities for service experiences, both locally and globally, that promote thoughtful reflection and understanding of the root causes of the problems that so many of our fellow human beings face. Motivated by these challenges, SLU graduates recognize that in whatever their chosen professions, they can serve a higher purpose and work for the greater good.



“GOD IS AT WORK. THE KEY THING IS TO HELP, NOT GET IN THE WAY. OUR PASSION IS FOUNDED ON THE CERTAINTY THAT WE ACCOMPANY THE PEOPLE WITH THE GUARANTEE THAT GOD IS WITH US.”

FATHER ARTURO SOSA, S.J., SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS
FROM CARACAS TO ROME



JESUIT EDUCATION

By offering challenging academics, service opportunities, exposure to global cultures and faith development, SLU prepares students to thoughtfully respond to the world's challenges with the gifts that have been cultivated in them throughout the course of their education. At SLU's campuses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain, students seek to achieve academic excellence in the arts, humanities, natural and social sciences, business, engineering, health sciences and other professional disciplines.



EXAMPLES OF JESUIT EDUCATION AROUND THE WORLD

**GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY**
Washington, DC

BOSTON COLLEGE
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

**LOYOLA MARYMOUNT
UNIVERSITY**
Los Angeles, California

**SAINT PETER'S
UNIVERSITY**
Jersey City, New Jersey

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY
Seattle, Washington

SPRING HILL COLLEGE
Mobile, Alabama

**PONTIFICIA
UNIVERSITÀ
GREGORIANA**
Rome, Italy

**PONTIFICIA
UNIVERSIDAD
JAVERIANA**
Bogotá, Colombia

**UNIVERSIDAD
DE DEUSTO**
Bilbao, Spain

**CAMPION COLLEGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF REGINA**
Regina, Saskatchewan Canada

SOPHIA UNIVERSITY
Tokyo, Japan

SOGANG UNIVERSITY
Seoul, South Korea

**L'UNIVERSITÉ
SAINT-JOSEPH**
Beirut, Lebanon

**ATENEO DE MANILA
UNIVERSITY**
Manila, Philippines

ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE
Kolkata, India

ARRUPE COLLEGE
Harare, Zimbabwe

**CAMPION HALL,
UNIVERSITY
OF OXFORD**
Oxford, England UK

**"IN JESUIT EDUCATION, THE DEPTH OF LEARNING
AND IMAGINATION ENCOMPASSES AND INTEGRATES
INTELLECTUAL RIGOR WITH REFLECTION ON THE
EXPERIENCE OF REALITY TOGETHER WITH THE CREATIVE
IMAGINATION TO WORK TOWARD CONSTRUCTING A MORE
HUMAN, JUST, SUSTAINABLE AND FAITH-FILLED WORLD."**

**ADOLFO NICOLAS, S.J.
CHALLENGES TO JESUIT HIGHER EDUCATION TODAY**



CURA PERSONALIS

This distinct feature of Jesuit education is an approach that seeks caring holistically for an individual. It involves the cultivation of one-on-one relationships that respect a student's dignity and helps create a sense of initiative and responsibility.



A CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Grounded in the Catholic intellectual tradition, SLU is committed to helping students discover truth that is accessible by way of both faith and reason. Our community welcomes students from every faith tradition, as well as students who might have no faith commitments. We seek to deepen the spiritual lives of our students and to help them understand and respect traditions different from their own, always with the aim of looking for ways to work together for the improved state of the human family, encouraging and defending the dignity of every human person whom we believe to be made in the image and likeness of God.

“CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OFFER EVERYONE AN EDUCATION AIMED AT THE INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE PERSON THAT RESPONDS TO THE RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE TO HAVE ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING”

**POPE FRANCIS
ADDRESS TO THE CONGREGATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION**



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Saint Louis University is the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity. The University seeks excellence in the fulfillment of its corporate purposes of teaching, research, health care and service to the community. It is dedicated to leadership in the continuing quest for understanding of God's creation and for the discovery, dissemination and integration of the values, knowledge and skills required to transform society in the spirit of the Gospels. As a Catholic, Jesuit university, this pursuit is motivated by the inspiration and values of the Judeo-Christian tradition and is guided by the spiritual and intellectual ideals of the Society of Jesus.



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY'S NAMESAKE – LOUIS IX

The namesake of both the city and the University, Louis IX reigned as King of France from 1226 to 1270. A compassionate layman, Louis was a leader known for his championship of justice, devotion to faith and family, as well as his service to the poor.

“ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA TOLD HIS FOLLOWERS: ‘GO FORTH AND SET THE WORLD ON FIRE.’ AT SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY, THAT IS WHAT WE DO – WE IGNITE A DESIRE TO LEARN AND TO SERVE, TO THINK CRITICALLY, CREATIVELY AND COMPASSIONATELY – TO BLAZE TRAILS IN THOUGHT AND ACTION.”

**DR FRED PESTELLO, SLU PRESIDENT
INAUGURAL ADDRESS**



SLU.EDU/MISSION-AND-IDENTITY



**SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY™**

— EST. 1818 —

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