

Long-term Value Creation and the Ignatian Tradition



Creating long-term value in order to ensure the flourishing of all people is at the heart of the Ignatian tradition. In the context of this tradition, whatever value we hope to create must emerge from a process that creates the space for us to pause and reflect. Rooted in Ignatian spirituality, especially the Spiritual Exercises, and the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm (IPP), Jesuit education seeks to ensure that students go out into the world with a growth mindset that will allow them to be an innovative force for social change.

The iterative process of the IPP centers on a constant cycle of experience, reflection, and action. This process, part of the Ignatian tradition since the time of St. Ignatius, must be founded upon a deep understanding of one's context. This context includes both the reality of the world in which you live and the person that you are.

Leaders and thinkers in the Ignatian mode are proactive and avoid snap responses to an experience.

Through meaningful reflection on our experiences in light of that context, we should be inspired to move towards actions that will create value beyond our own narrow interests. Whatever action we take generates new experiences calling out for evaluation, reflection, and then further action inspired by the lessons of the past. Leaders and thinkers in the Ignatian mode are proactive and avoid snap responses to an experience. St. Ignatius was firm that our better selves emerge when we take the time to pause and reflect before acting. This process of discernment and productive action is meant to continue across our lifetime and should lead to the continual improvement and growth of individuals and our communities.

Not just a trending modality of Silicon Valley, the traditions that inspire a place like Santa Clara University are rooted in deep understandings of what it means to be human and how we can activate an approach to innovation that will create lasting value. Through an Ignatian lens, it becomes clear that a deliberate and reflexive process creates the conditions for high value outcomes with lasting impacts. The value created in such an approach is more than the growth of tangible assets, it is the creation of the conditions for all humanity to flourish in mind, body, and spirit.

Aaron Willis

*Director, Bannan Forum
Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education*



CIOCCA CENTER
AT SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY