



21 September 2026

Dear Members of the Loyola University Maryland Community:

As you know, the Society of Jesus has established a cooperative self-study and peer review process for advancing the Catholic and Jesuit identity of the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States and Belize, and with our Canadian partners. Administered collaboratively with the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU), this **Mission Priority Examen (MPE)** has renewed enthusiasm for our common mission and provided a structure for setting practical goals 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 Loyola Maryland, I want to express how grateful we are for your generous participation in the Mission Priority Examen, over recent months. 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 and potential of Loyola, and offer you feedback that helps you refine 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 prayerful 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 Loyola 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?

- Where do you see yourself and your work in the Mission Priorities advanced in the self-study?
- In what ways might you work toward the Magis (i.e., the greater or more universal good) for Loyola's students and those who guide and work with them?

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

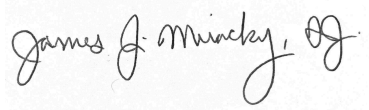
- **James Miracky, S.J.** is currently the Vice President for Mission Integration & Ministry, Saint Peter's University. His decades of experience in Jesuit education includes serving as an Associate Professor and Chair of English at the College of the Holy Cross, as Dean of Loyola College of Arts and Sciences at Loyola Maryland, and Provincial Assistant for Higher Education in the USA East Province of the Society of Jesus.
- **Christopher M. Bacon** is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences at Santa Clara University (SCU), where he specializes in food security and sustainability transitions, agroecology, and participatory action research. He holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and completed postdoctoral work in Geography at UC Berkeley. A Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, Dr. Bacon's National Science Foundation-funded research involves SCU students working with cooperatives, farmers, and communities in Central America and California. Dr. Bacon co-founded SCU's Environmental Justice and the Common Good Initiative, and co-chaired the AJCU's Laudato Si' Commission 2023-2025.
- **Barbara Maylone Karper** currently serves as Assistant Vice President of the Grace Center for Faith and Community at Le Moyne College, where she helps lead initiatives in Mission Integration, Campus Ministry, Faith Formation and Retreats, Cultural and Social Engagement, and The Le Moyne Way. Throughout her career, Barb has held leadership roles in student development, alumni and community engagement, and equity and inclusion.
- **Cheryl McConnell** is the 29th president of Saint Joseph's University. Dr. McConnell is in her 39th year of leadership in Jesuit higher education. Previous leadership positions held include provost, dean, faculty senate president, department and division chair, and Center for Teaching and Learning director.

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://ajcunet.edu/mission-and-identity/missionpriority-examen/>.

The team and I are looking forward to our conversations, and on a personal note, I am looking forward to re-connecting with old friends from my time there!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James J. Miracky, S.J." The signature is written in a cursive style with a small "S.J." at the end.

James J. Miracky, S.J.

MPE Visiting Team Chair

Vice President for Mission Integration and Ministry

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