

## INTRODUCTION

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the first edition of the University of San Francisco's book on our Jesuit mission, spirituality and traditions. This book is a product of the USF Council on Jesuit Mission with the help of many faculty and staff contributors.

We present this inaugural volume as an invitation: an invitation to take part in an ongoing, dynamic and lived conversation on what it means for us to be a Jesuit university.

You might be asking yourself: What do USF's Jesuit identity and mission have to do with me and with my job? What are USF's expectations of me, and what can I expect from USF based on its Jesuit mission? How does this identity take shape in our classrooms, labs, offices, committee meetings and interactions with students? What if I'm not Catholic, Christian, religious, a believer? How does the diversity of faith and spiritual traditions lived and shared at USF enable us all – students, faculty and staff – to realize the fullness of our humanity and develop into intelligent, sensitive and responsible members of society\*?

Colleagues from across the University have offered their responses to such questions on these pages. We hope that you will find inspiration in their shared personal stories. Also included is biographical information on St. Ignatius of Loyola (founder of the Jesuits), an overview of Ignatian spirituality, excerpts from classic documents on Jesuit higher education, and a sampling of prayers and poems from many faith traditions. We offer this book as a resource, a conversation starter and an invitation to reflect on what it means for you to teach, learn and lead at USF, for each of us has a part to play in influencing the future of this university.

To learn more about USF's Jesuit mission and identity, please visit the Mission Council website ([usfca.edu/missioncouncil](http://usfca.edu/missioncouncil)), where resources, programs and events for faculty and staff are listed. The Council welcomes your feedback, comments and suggestions.

Sincerely yours,



**JULIA DOWD**  
Director  
University Ministry  
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**DAVE MACMILLAN**  
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\*FROM THE USF 2028 PLANNING DOCUMENT. FOR THE FULL TEXT PLEASE VISIT:  
[WWW. HTTP://USFCA.EDU/PRESIDENT/USF\\_2028\\_PLANNING\\_DOCUMENT/](http://WWW.HTTP://USFCA.EDU/PRESIDENT/USF_2028_PLANNING_DOCUMENT/)