The Pedro Arrupe, S.J. Award is presented to a rising senior who embodies the ideals of Ignatian spirituality and Jesuit education, and is awarded to a student who is committed to promoting justice by working to transform social structures in order to alleviate poverty and oppression.

University Ministry heartily congratulates this year’s recipient, Ria Angelica Laxa - a rising senior who is majoring in Biology with a Child and Youth Studies Minor.

Ria currently serves as president of Culturally-Focused Club Council (CFCC), is a member of the executive board of Kasamahan - the Filipinx-American Student Organization at USF, and works at USF’s Speaking Center.

During Ria’s tenure as president, the CFCC has led an UndocuAlly workshop at SLE’s Student Leadership Conference, built stronger relationships with DECO, and worked with Senate to urge the University to continue funding the Magis Fellowship that supports undocumented students.

In addition, Ria has been active in a mix of student organizations including Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit honor society and Pre-AMSA (American Medical Student Association), has continued her active leadership in Kasamahan, as well as the Tri Beta biology honors society, and Camp Kesem SF.

Congratulations Ria!