The Jesuit, Catholic Tradition at Santa Clara

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Santa Clara University
1. Background

Current Director of Campus Ministry
–Came to SCU in 1965 as 1st year student, majored in Math
–Graduated 50 years ago, in June 1969
–Joined Jesuits 50 years ago, September 1969
–Ordained priest 40 years ago, in June 1979
–Taught mathematics and computer science in 1975–76 and since 1982
–Lived in Residence Halls for 4 years as a student, and for 10 years as a Resident Minister in 1980s & 1990s.
Group has mixed familiarity with Catholic Church and Jesuits.

“Catholic” refers to Christians who are connected with Pope in Rome. Christianity was united until East-West break around year 1000, and further divisions in 1500s (Luther 1521, Henry VIII–1534) and subsequently.
“Jesuit” refers to a specific group of Catholic men ("monks") who live in community and are bound together by vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Formal name: “Society of Jesus.” Other Catholic groups (men and women) include Benedictines, Dominicans, Franciscans. Each group has a distinctive “flavor,” history, tradition, emphasis.
Jesuits are known for education, universities, high schools, and, recently, Cristo Rey schools, Nativity schools.

Approximately 220 Catholic colleges in U.S., of which 27 are associated with Jesuits. About 190 Jesuit institutions of higher ed in the world.
St. Ignatius Loyola

Born 1491, Basque region, northwest Spain.

Died 1556

Founder of Jesuits — papal approval 1540
Grew up as a courtier and soldier. Fought in battle of Pamplona (1521).
Right leg shattered by canonball and recovered in family castle.
He was so vain, he had doctors break leg again and reset bone. (Always limped)
During convalescence, only had two books to read, “Lives of Saints” and “Life of Christ.”

Experienced a change of direction of life. After much prayer (Manresa, Spain), some travels (Holy Land), and other experiences, he realized he wanted to dedicate his life to service of God and society.
Life changing questions

1. How am I living a life of meaning?
2. How can I make the greatest difference in the world?
   — He realized he needed education. In 1528 he moved to the University of Paris.
   — There he met St. Francis Xavier (roommate, missionary to India and Japan).
   — Jesuit order grew out of university experience.
Time of change in the world and unrest in religion.

Birth Ignatius 1491 — Columbus expedition 1492.

Ignatius in Paris 1528 — Luther 1521, Henry VIII—1534
3. PHRASES ASSOC. WITH JESUIT TRADITION

— Finding God in all things (Jesuits involved in opera, astronomy, science, mathematics — subjects not associated with universities in 1500s, 1600s.) (35 craters on moon named after Jesuit scientists)
— Care of the whole person (academic, physical, emotional, spiritual – all interconnect)
— service for others.
— faith is linked to justice
— “Magis” (Latin word for “more”). Going beyond the typical, the expected.
— “Discernment” — good judgments need self-knowledge and reflection, weighing all facts and possibilities. Need self-knowledge through reflective process of “Examen” (what are the “shadows/valleys” and “lights/hills” in my life over the last x hours? Where have I found God? Where has God found me?).
4. JESUIT TRADITION AT SCU

— “Competence, Conscience, Compassion” (in community)
We want students to have a solid grasp of their chosen discipline, act in ethical ways, and realize the plight of the less fortunate in society.
— Core curriculum invites students to ponder significant questions, through courses in Ethics, Religious Studies (3 courses), World Culture, and experiential learning courses.
— Small classes make it possible for students to become friends with faculty who have a deep impact on them
5. DEEPEN RELIGIOUS EXP./ HONOR DIVERSITY

— Diverse student background: 1st year class, 36.3% Catholic, 17.2% other Christian, 2.7% Hindu, 1.3% Jewish, 1.3% Buddhist, 0.9% Muslim, 0.8% other religions, 14% “None,”, 20% no response.
— Campus Ministry tries to “accompany” all students, whatever religious background (or no religious background). Sponsor “inter-faith” suppers, especially for “seekers,” those who claim to be “spiritual” but not “religious”
— 30 Jesuits at SCU (20 associated with University, 2 grad students, some work for Province).
— 70 Jesuits associated with SCU School of Theology at Berkeley (20 faculty/staff, 50 students)
— Core curriculum (mentioned earlier)
— Centers of Distinction, especially
  — • Ignatian Center (coordinates immersions, and local placements related to “experiential learning” courses)
  — • Markkula Center for Applied Ethics (lectures on contemporary ethical issues)
Campus Ministry!!!

— 12 on staff (3 assoc. with Mission Church)
— 13 Spirituality Facilitators (grad students who live in RLCs to serve as adult presence, host weekly open houses, available in times of crises)
— 3 Jesuit priests in Residence Halls
— 33 student interns/assistants who help with programming (e.g., choir, readers at Masses, altar assistance, media assistants, programming with grad student outreach)
— Retreats (**First Year Retreat, Overnight, Oct 25–26**): provides time to get off-campus, decompress, build relationships, think about non-academic important topics.
— CLC (Christian Life Communities): small spirituality sharing groups, meeting weekly, with social and service components.
— Formal Catholic Masses: Sunday 10am, 5pm, 8pm. Monday-Friday 12:05pm.
— Devotions practices: Adoration, Praise and Prayer worship.
— Interfaith dinner discussions
— Ad hoc socials
— Support other religious groups, e.g., Muslim Student Association (Iftar, breaking the fast during Ramadan), Jewish Student Union (Passover Seder), CORE (Non-Catholic Christian faith sharing group).
— Available for 1-on-1 conversations/ accompanying students/ “spiritual direction”
Responding in time of Crisis

— Coordinate services when faculty, staff, student death happens.
— During 2018–19 coordinated services for synagogue shooting, mosque shooting, Catholic Church bombing.
— Provide pastoral support at other times of spiritual need.
Sacred Spaces

— Mission Church
— Meditation Room (Benson) (no religious symbols)
— Multifaith sanctuary (St. Joseph’s Hall) (no religious symbols)
— Meditation Room / Wellness Room (Charney Hall/Law School)
— Mission Gardens!!
College is special time for students to grow in many ways — intellectually, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

SCU’s Jesuit tradition tries to enable all these aspects to mature in an integrated way.

Time is needed for growth.

There is no guarantee. We provide freedom to make choices. Trust your children, and encourage them to use all the resources available on campus, both academic and non-academic.
Jesuit tradition emphasizes **reflection**, to grow in clarity and appreciation.

John Dewey: “We do not learn from experience, we learn from reflecting on experience.”

Memories can be wonderful, even holy events.
Thank you!
Safe travels.

www.scu.edu/cm
(4) Theoretical Computer Arithmetic Concerns

Suppose real numbers are accurate to 6 places.

(a) Let $A = 9.87654 \times 10^2$ and $B = 9.87655 \times 10^2$ (next higher real number).

THEREFORE, $B - A = 0.001$

(b) Let $A = 9.87654 \times 10^{28}$ and $B = 9.87655 \times 10^{28}$ (also next higher real number).

THEREFORE, $B - A = 1.0 \times 10^{23}$. 
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\[ \Rightarrow \text{ Distance from earth to star Sirius is } 5.2 \times 10^{13} \text{ miles. Few digits accuracy may fool you into thinking the answer is more correct than it really is.} \]