

Common Phrases in Jesuit Education - Simple & accessible definitions

provided by Loyola University Chicago's Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy (FCIP)

People for and with others, in the service of humanity – We are educating our students not for their own benefit, but so they may lend their beliefs, intellect and talents to walk with and stand for other people, particularly the poor and those whom society has marginalized or oppressed. We are preparing them for a life of solidarity, citizenship and service to a world that desperately needs them.

Finding God (or Truth, Humanity, Beauty, Love) in all things – With this lens, we acknowledge the presence and possibility of Goodness in all people, experiences and things of creation, especially in those where we least expect it. From the environmental crisis, grief over a lost loved one, or refugees sleeping in tents in our neighborhoods, we orient our students (and ourselves) to the challenging practice of looking for and experiencing the reality of the divine in the present moment and in the hardest, darkest places. This is the call to hope.

Cura Personalis – The modern Jesuit translation of this Latin phrase has come to mean: “care for the whole individual.” The idea is that our education aims at holistically enlivening and caring for all aspects of our students and their lives, not just their academics. This includes caring for their emotional, spiritual, and physical lives.

Magis – This Latin word means “more” or “greater.” In the context of Jesuit education, this value compels us to strive for excellence in all things, seeking *more*. However, this is not *more* in terms of work, money or power, but rather more hope, more rest, more faith, more love, more prayer, more forgiveness and more connection.

Contemplatives in action – St. Ignatius and his companions founded the Society of Jesus at a time when many other religious orders were living monastic lives of solitude and prayer. The first Jesuits heard the call to build upon their reflective practices to more actively follow their hearts’ desires to use their intellect and gifts in getting their hands dirty and meeting the practical and spiritual needs of their neighbors and the world.

Accompaniment – Critical to St. Ignatius’ life, work and spiritual formation were his companions: people walking along with him through his experiences. They were his friends, supporters, inspirations and loving challengers. In modelling this example, we are reminded of the importance of being present with and to one other as we journey together through the seasons in our lives: joy and sadness, success and failure, consolation and desolation.

Age quod agis – This Latin phrase is understood to mean “Come as you are” or “Do what you are doing.” In this context, we are looking for educators and students to dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to whatever they engage in. This requires self-awareness, derived from reflecting upon one's gifts and directions, and bringing a joyful fervor to those efforts. This closely relates to another Ignatian call to **Go forth and set the world on fire**.

Agere contra – The translation of this Latin phrase, “to act against”, uplifts the principles of care and concern – especially for those who have been marginalized – that compel graduates of Jesuit tradition to question the status quo. In orienting toward what is right and good (even if it is not common or expedient), we utilize our education to fight *against* our hopelessness (or desolation) and toil *for* the betterment of all individuals, society, and our common home, Planet Earth.

Faith (*in God, Goodness, Humanity, Education, Truth*) **that does justice** – We all believe in something greater than ourselves. This education compels us to lean into those beliefs – in God, Truth, Beauty, etc. – which serve as motivation and direction for pursuing justice in our thoughts and deeds. This is about more than developing skills and training for future jobs. We aim to guide and mold students to earnestly and faithfully discern their gifts and talents, growing into the best versions of themselves and ready to be leaders in pursuit of justice.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam (AMDG) – St. Ignatius dedicated himself and all his endeavors “to the greater glory of God,” the meaning of this Latin phrase, which is also the motto of the Jesuits. Applying this orientation to our education and future relationships and work anchors our values, actions and dispositions in the awesome potential of Goodness, Truth, and Beauty beyond ourselves.

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