



Mission Project Summary: The Jesuit Rhetorical Way of Proceeding

In my mission project, I propose to develop the institutional potential for what might be called the "Jesuit rhetorical way of proceeding." Jesuit rhetoric as *eloquentia perfecta* has a long and distinguished history going back before the 1599 *Ratio Studiorum*, and it is today being revitalized at several Jesuit universities through efforts to transform core curricula. This vision of Jesuit rhetoric includes the teaching of written and oral communication together, engagement with digital media and visual literacy, emphasis on ethical discernment and social justice, and immersion in new contexts of a diverse, globalized society. I hope to use Jesuit rhetoric as a focus for developing new pedagogical, curricular, and research initiatives that highlight what is distinctive about Jesuit education at the present time and for the future.

My project plan includes these three goals: (1) contributing to the training and hiring of instructors for Rhetorical Arts at LMU; (2) initiating conversations with LMU faculty and administrators about Jesuit rhetorical education as one distinctive way of carrying out LMU's mission and strategic plan; and (3) facilitating connections between LMU faculty and faculty members at other Jesuit schools to foster joint projects in Jesuit Rhetoric in the areas of teaching, research, and service.

I have already met with key administrators in trying to implement objectives (1) and (2), including the Director of the University Core Curriculum and the new Director of the Academy for Catholic Thought and Imagination. Related to objective (3), I have helped organize a meeting to establish an international network of scholars interested in planning at least two conferences. The biggest challenges include sustaining faculty interest and obtaining funding for the conferences.

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