



**John M. Parrish**

*Professor and Chair of Political Science*

## **Making Room for Reflection:**

### **Campus and Curricular Resources**

**Project Overview:** This project involves developing a “Resources for Reflection” Toolkit capable of being adapted for use in a wide range of campus contexts. Once the Toolkit is complete, I will consult with various offices and groups on campus to see how they can potentially utilize the resources listed to promote a campus culture of reflection both inside the classroom and beyond it.

**Strategically Significant Rationale:** Reflection is a vital component of Ignatian education; yet of the central elements of the Ignatian pedagogical paradigm, reflection is arguably the most difficult to pursue intentionally within the context of the contemporary university. The reasons for this difficulty are several and diverse: the rapid pace of 21<sup>st</sup> century work life; the “culture of distraction” promoted by rapid technological changes; the values of contemporary academic culture, with its emphasis on constant scholarly productivity and measurable educational outcomes; and a general cultural orientation toward superficiality, avoidance, and skepticism about the spiritual dimension of life. Today all universities, but especially Jesuit ones, will benefit from concerted efforts to make room for reflection on campus, both within the classroom and outside it.

**Project Details:** The toolkit includes the following sections: **(1) What “Reflection” Is and Does** (definition, role in Ignatian pedagogical paradigm, potential benefits – drawing primarily on *Ignatian Pedagogy: A Practical Approach*); **(2) Why We Need to Make Room for Reflection** (unpacking potential challenges to reflective practices within contemporary culture and academic life); **(3) Making Room for Reflection in Our Classrooms and Curriculum** (pedagogical and curricular); **(4) Making Room for Reflection on Our Campuses** (extra-curricular/campus life)

**Indications of Success:** *Faculty contributors* from African-American Studies, Chicana/o Studies, Communications Studies, Economics, English, Music, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science, Theological Studies, Academy for Catholic Thought and Imagination, Center for Teaching Excellence, Hannon Library. *Administrative Offices* include Campus Ministry, Center for Ignatian Spirituality, Center for Service and Action, Facilities Management, Human Resources, Ignatian Leadership Institute, Information Technology Services, Office of Student Housing, Office of Student Success.

**Challenges:** The primary challenges will be encouraging effective cooperation across academic and administrative divisions, and nudging colleagues to adjust their practices, sometimes “against the grain” of contemporary culture and professional expectations.