



December 2, 2019

Letter to the Deans and Directors of Jesuit Business Schools

Dear Deans and Directors,

Recently, the Society of Jesus announced that it had completed a lengthy process of selecting four “apostolic preferences,” which were subsequently approved by the Pope. These preferences are meant to inspire us to recommit our energies to our present work and, at the same time, call us to reimagine what we might do. They are meant to move us to “walk more closely” with others, especially young people and those who have been left on the margins of our society.

These four preferences challenge us to work together **to show the way to God through discernment**; that is, through careful listening and planning, **to walk with the poor and outcasts of the world, to accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future** and, finally, **to collaborate in the care of our common home**. The four themes have inspired a group of colleagues in the leadership of Jesuit schools of business from the six regions of the world to reflect on the key role that our schools play in shaping the economy, the world of business and many of the enterprises that support our common social life and welfare.

Over the last nine months, 12 business education leaders met at the invitation of the International Association of Jesuit Universities (IAJU) to consider how Jesuit business education might address the growing challenges to the reigning economic order. The task force members were especially inspired by Pope Francis’s encyclical, “Laudato Si,” and by the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals. They listened to the voices of concerned students, to faculty who have taken a lead in reinventing business education and to a host of thought leaders interested in forging a new economic paradigm.

This IAJU Task Force has prepared the following white paper, entitled “A New Inspired Paradigm for Jesuit Business Education.” It hopes to present the case for a re-examination of how we prepare the next generation of business leaders. It asks us as academic leaders in Jesuit business education globally to inaugurate a conversation within our schools and among the faculty in our Jesuit network and beyond: how can we respond to the global challenges which we and our students will face, challenges that are more evident each day? How can we better prepare our students to lead in the creation of a more inclusive and just world?

We encourage you to share this document with your faculty and other interested stakeholders and get their feedback on the document and the questions at the end. On February 2, 2020 at the AACSB Deans' conference in Nashville Tennessee from 2:00pm - 5:00pm, we will be hosting an open forum to discuss the white paper and learn your suggestions about next steps. If you are not able to join this open forum, please share your feedback by email to Donna Rapaccioli, Dean, Gabelli School of Business, Fordham University, at rapaccioli@fordham.edu, our Task Force Chair.

Thank you for your interest. We look forward to your thoughts and input. Do not hesitate to share this paper with your faculty and others for their reactions and advice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Garanzini SJ". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Michael J. Garanzini, SJ
Secretary for Higher Education
Society of Jesus
Email: Mgaranzini@fordham.edu