Finding God in all things

Le Moyne College President Dr. Linda LeMura is guided by the wisdom of St. Ignatius of Loyola

By Eileen Jevis

"He who carries God in his heart bears heaven with him wherever he goes." — St. Ignatius of Loyola

Dr. Linda LeMura adheres to three pillars of leadership: conscience, compassion, and commitment. Her approach is rooted in the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola, whose 500-year-old tradition continues to shape the mission of Le Moyne College, where LeMura has served as president since 2014.

As the first female president of a Jesuit institution of higher learning in the United States, she is guided by St. Ignatius' words, "go forth and set the world on fire." The Jesuit principle of discernment also plays a major role in LeMura's leadership style. "When faced with a challenge or new circumstance, we take a step back, re-evaluate and, if necessary, set a new course of action," she explained.

LeMura has dedicated 23 years of her career to Le Moyne College, previously serving as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences beginning in 2003 and as provost from 2007 to 2014. She deeply values the college's Catholic Jesuit mission, its faculty, alumni, and students. LeMura proudly highlights Le Moyne's strong return on investment, noting that over 96 percent of graduates are employed or attending graduate school within six months of graduation.

Jesuit values in action

Monsignor Neal Quartier, rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse, has known LeMura for many years through her work at Le Moyne and the now-closed Our Lady of Pompeii School. He came to know her better when serving three terms on Le Moyne's Board of Trustees. "What impressed me most about Linda is that her commitment extends far beyond higher education," he said. "I especially witnessed it through her commitment to the education of children at Cathedral Academy while it operated out of Pompeii. She has always been a strong advocate for the poor and those in need."



COURTESY LE MOYNE COLLEGE

Dr. Linda LeMura greets Pope Leo in June 2026. She was part of a group of presidents of Jesuit colleges and universities who were granted an audience with the pontiff.

Msgr. Quartier said LeMura truly lives out the Gospel and the values of Jesuit education — not simply in her professional responsibilities, but in the way she lives her life and relates to others. "She lives out the values of St. Ignatius of Loyola, particularly his call to find God in all things, to serve others, and to be a person for and with others," he said. "Her accomplishments are many, but I believe her



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Dr. Linda LeMura is the 14th president of Le Moyne College and the first female president of a Jesuit institution of higher learning in the United States.

greatest strength is in the way she brings her faith, compassion, and commitment to everything she does."

As a lifelong Catholic, LeMura said she believes every person has the potential to reach their God-given purpose. Her faith serves as a guiding force to deepen her relationships with others, she shared, and it helps her be a better listener and colleague, including with individuals she may disagree with or who might question her decisions.

Even though her schedule makes it challenging, LeMura enjoys interacting with students any chance she gets whether through formal programs, volunteering, or by asking how they're doing when she walks across campus. She said it's her favorite part of the job. "As a lifelong educator, I recognized long ago how satisfying it is to be around young people and feed off their innate creativity, natural curiosity, and ambition as they develop into confident and adaptable adults," she said.

Looking ahead

Like many colleges across the country, Le Moyne is navigating a challenging higher-education environment, with a decline in enrollment of college-aged students — often referred to as the demographic cliff — and the rising costs of providing the high-touch, personal education for which Le Moyne is known.

Still, under LeMura's leadership, Le Moyne experiences significant growth, particularly in its fundraising initiatives. For instance, its Always Forward Campaign, which launched in 2021 and centered around its 75th anniversary, successfully concluded by raising more than its $100 million goal. The campaign also had a huge impact on pushing the college's financial endowment past the $300 million mark.

The college is also well positioned for future success by offering an array of graduate programs, explained LeMura.

Le Moyne's Physician Assistant Studies program is one of the strongest in the nation and is helping to fill the dearth of new PAs in the healthcare sector. During her tenure, LeMura said the college has consistently added strategic graduate programs, such as those for family nurse practitioner studies and occupational therapy, to help meet the need for compassionate healthcare providers.

The college's recent move to Division I athletics, which became official earlier this year, provides a key enrollment draw, as well. "Students can attend Le Moyne and compete at the highest level of athletics, while still getting a distinctive classroom and campus experience that you can only find at a small institution," she said.

That same forward-looking approach is shaping Le Moyne's response to Micron's semiconductor manufacturing complex being built in Central New York. "There is vast potential for new jobs, both technical and non-technical," LeMura said. This fall, the college is launching an undergraduate program in applied physics that will directly feed into Micron's technical jobs. "There will also be an enormous need for health care professionals, teachers, psychologists, human resource specialists, and other jobs that support the surge of new residents the Micron facility is expected to bring to the region," she explained.

LeMura said they are proud to draw upon the Jesuit education tradition which combines strong academics, ethical leadership, and cura personalis — care for the whole person. "In accordance with the spiritual convictions of St. Ignatius of Loyola, this tenet is our north star and guides us always."