Questions for Class Discussion of the Three Required Essays

The selected readings will introduce you to the Mercy tradition at Saint Xavier University. You will learn about the rich history of the Sisters of Mercy by whom our university is founded; their work to improve the lives of others through social work, health care and education; and the characteristics that distinguish Saint Xavier University in its mission, motto, architecture, and symbolism.

First Essay:


Answer the following questions:
1. What is the concept of cruelty that Sister Carol describes?
2. What is the “realistic hope in a world of persisting cruelty?”
3. Who is Catherine McAuley? Describe her in a short biography.
4. What were Catherine’s three primary concerns?

Second Essay:


Answer the following questions:
1. When and where did the Sisters of Mercy begin their social work?
2. What is meant by a “donors’ spiritual duty?”
3. What did the Sisters of Mercy do at Providence Row?
4. Why were the Sisters of Mercy omitted from the literature that reported on social welfare work? Give two reasons.

Third Essay:


Answer the following questions:
1. What is the benefit of a liberal arts education, where you learn about political liberty, history, cultural awareness, apart from training in a single subject?
2. What are “the messages encoded into the physical structure of the University itself?” Define some of these.
3. Describe the symbolic meaning of the flags on the university flag pole.
4. What are the seven areas of learning? Where are they displayed, and why is an eighth needed?
5. What is the University Motto and what does it mean?