

To see
all things new
in Christ



PRAYERFUL PREPARATION
FOR THE FEAST OF ST IGNATIUS

TO SEE ALL THINGS NEW IN CHRIST



Compiled by
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Day - 1**PAMPLONA AND LOYOLA: CONVERSION TO CHRIST****Introduction:**

During this year, the Society of Jesus worldwide, and the entire Ignatian family, celebrate the 500th anniversary of St Ignatius' conversion in 1521. While the general theme of this jubilee year is **conversion**, the underlying invitation related to this conversion is, to "See everything new in Christ." (2 Cor 5:17).

Our world faces new challenges today. Covid-19 alone has shattered our normal ways of life. We need faith to see realities around anew. The conversion of Ignatius was not completed instantly, following his fall in Pamplona. This incident, however, set a new course for his life. It turned his life upside down and forced him into self-examination. Out of this spiritual awakening, Ignatius had a burning desire for holiness and a zeal to do great things for God, which ultimately led him to a lengthy process of surrendering self-love and self-glory.

Grace: Lord, grant me the gift of interior freedom to seek your will in my life.

Hymn: Change my heart O Lord

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, as we begin the novena in honour of St. Ignatius, we pray that we too may have that cannon ball experience which would purify our way of life and guide us to offer ourselves totally for your greater glory. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading:

(Reading from the Autobiography of St Ignatius of Loyola)

"From this lesson he derived not a little light, and he began to think more earnestly about his past life and about the great need he had, to do penance for it. At this point, the desire to imitate the saints came to him, though he gave no thought to particulars, only promising with God's grace, to do as they had done." (AB 9)

"And so he began to forget the previous thoughts, with these holy desires he had, and they were confirmed by a spiritual experience, in this manner. One night while he was awake, he saw clearly an image of Our Lady with the holy Child Jesus. From this sight he received, for a considerable time, very great consolation, and he was left with such loathing for his whole past life, and especially for the things of the flesh, that it seemed to him that his spirit was rid of all the figures that had been painted on it. Thus, from that hour until August `53 when this was written, he never

gave the slightest consent to the things of the flesh. For this reason, it may be considered the work of God, although he did not dare to claim it nor said more, than to affirm the above. But his brother as well as all the rest of the household came to know from his exterior, the change that had been wrought inwardly in his soul.” (AB 10)

Reflections:

The word Loyola means the place of mud. Inigo was a true son of Loyola and shared a sense of pride, honour and loyal service.

Inigo's reaction to the treatment of his wounded leg, which had been very severely damaged, revealed more about him. In him there was strength, not only of body which enabled him to endure excruciating pain and recover, but also of mind which enabled him to determine his priorities and accept the means necessary to attain the end. Besides the physical wound in his leg, he was "wounded" in his understanding of the purpose of life. It was then that Inigo gave himself to the Lord and became a true knight of the Kingdom.

Petitions:

Response: Holy Father Ignatius pray for us.

1. Let us pray that our constant spiritual renewal and growth in our capacities and talents may help us to transcend our secure boundaries and hence desire only the Glory of God. **R/**
2. Let us pray that in our testing times and resolute temptations of our personal life and in our missions, may we never give up, but always trust in God's providence. **R/**
3. Through the intercession of Ignatius, let us pray ardently to live our life in the Society with honesty and faithfulness. **R/**
4. God gave him a fresh perspective and a clear vision. Let us pray that we have the openness to the new perspectives we receive in our 'cannonball moments', and be passionate to journey with it just as Ignatius did. **R/**
- 5 Let us pray that our lives and choices may inspire others to make a fruitful spiritual journey, bring ideological change, promote social responsibility and foster humanity in the world. **R/**

Our Father.....

Concluding Prayer:

Almighty God, open our hearts and help us to recognize your presence in our life, as St. Ignatius did. We, the sons of St Ignatius, with contrite hearts, beseech your blessings upon us every day in our journey of life, so that St. Ignatius may lead us from narrowness, disenchantment and isolation, to the frontiers of faith, hope and love to see all things new in Christ. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concluding Hymn : Noble Knight – Page 32

The Angelus

Day - 2

MONTSERRAT - CONSOLATION THROUGH MOTHER MARY**Introduction:**

Today, on the second day of Novena in honour of St Ignatius of Loyola, we reflect on the theme “Montserrat: Consolation through Mother Mary”.

As he reached Montserrat Ignatius made his general confession after which he offered his sword and dagger to Our Lady of Montserrat and gave his garments to a beggar and dressed himself like a beggar. This symbolic gesture indicated that Iñigo was ready to forego his old self and then on, he was a new man. The soldier became a pilgrim.

The pilgrim had a sense of one who felt, journeyed and opened oneself to God. His pilgrimage was a search for some deeper understanding of the meaning of his life. ‘The Life of Christ’ and ‘The Lives of Saints’ had begun to affect Iñigo and helped him to begin his inward journey. The pilgrim began to discover what God was and who he was before God. This discovery led him to go to the Holy Land.

Grace: As pilgrims, on our spiritual journey, we pray for the grace to discover who God is for us and who we are before God.

Hymn: Lord I offer my life to you

Opening Prayer:

Almighty ever-living God, we pray that as companions of St. Ignatius in this least Society of Jesus, we may serve your Majesty in obedience and follow your Son perfectly. Amen.

Reading: (A reading from the book *Testament and Testimony* by Parmananda R. Divarkar, S.J.)

He went on his way to Montserrat, thinking as he always did of the exploits he would perform for the love of God. He decided to keep a vigil of arms one whole night, without sitting or lying down, but standing a while and kneeling a while, before the altar of Our Lady of Montserrat, where he resolved to lay aside his garments and to don the armor of Christ. So, leaving this place, he set off, thinking as usual, of his resolutions.

On the eve of Annunciation to Our Lady in March, at night, in the year 1522, he went as secretly as he could to a beggar—and stripping off all his garments he gave them to a beggar; he dressed himself in his chosen attire and went to kneel before the altar of Our Lady. At times in this way, at other times standing, with his pilgrim’s staff in his hand, he spent the whole night.

Reflection:

The heroic act of Ignatius, had a significance that perhaps even Ignatius himself did not fully realize. He was exchanging his material arms – his dagger and sword – for spiritual ones, to engage in the spiritual battles that he would be involved in. He chose to place them at the feet of our Lady towards whom he developed a filial devotion. It was she who would continue to bring him to Jesus, intercede for him to gather companions and form a group named after her Son. It is she who continues to intercede for us, the sons of Ignatius, to carry out the mission with zeal and fervour.

Petitions:

Response: Holy Mother, pray for us sinners.

1. That as Ignatius sought the intercession of the Virgin Mary, especially at crucial moments of his life to obtain special favours from God, we too may turn to her trustingly, invoking her blessing on our lives and mission, let us pray. **R/**
2. That by surrendering to the Lord our swords of whatever type or design- the weapons we use to cause divisions, disgrace and disparities-we may, without being defensive, safeguard peace, love and joy in our communities, let us pray. **R/**
3. That our pastoral service may bear much fruit under the patronage of the Virgin, who holds a place which is the highest after Christ, let us pray. **R/**
4. Help us, Lord, to have the true spirit of Ignatian obedience, not merely of external execution, but of the will and of the intellect as well, let us pray. **R/**
5. That imitating Ignatius' chivalrous solicitude to honour Mary and a fervent zeal in singing her glory and benefits, we may foster in the laity, a true devotion to Our Lady so that they may be drawn to her, and by her to her Son, let us pray. **R/**
6. That as Ignatius sought the intercession of the Virgin, especially at crucial moments of his life to obtain special favours from God, we too may turn to her trustingly, invoking her blessings on our lives and mission, let us pray. **R/**

Our Father.....

Concluding Prayer:

St Ignatius, intercede for us that we too may be born anew in Christ as we surrender our dream of being valiant knights and all the lofty ambitions that accompany it. You were completely confident that the gains of your service to the New King were far greater than those you surrendered. May God grant us the interior freedom to surrender our lives to gain much more in the service of our King Jesus Christ. We make these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: ಬಾಳೆಂಬ ಕಡಲಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತೆ.....(Kannada Hymn)

The Angelus

Day -3**MANRESA: CONNECTION TO THE CREATOR AND THE CREATION****Introduction:**

With deep personal experience, intellectual illuminations and decisive insights into spiritual matters and the interior life, Ignatius was enlightened to a new way of seeing things and understanding reality. He realized that everything he had ever learnt or received was a sheer gift of the 'divine majesty'. The principle and foundation [Sp Ex 23] presents to us, God as creator of us and of all that is in this world, determining us to live and use creation as responsible custodians.

In today's world, how often do we fail and succumb to the evil temptation of vain glory and ingratitude of attributing our own growth and living to our own efforts? Let us pray, therefore, that as Ignatius, we may always be ready to wonder at the newness of creation and thus consider it as God's gift.

Grace: Lord, Creator of the entire universe, grant us the grace to see all things new in Christ.

Hymn: Spirit be a Spirit in this time of searching for new life – Page 30

Opening Prayer:

Holy father Ignatius, you spent much time praying in a cave in Manresa assessing your knowledge of good and bad spirits. In flame our hearts with the same spirit to understand the signs of the time and respond to it with renewed and discerning heart. May God pour out his spirit upon all those who have been chosen to bring back all humanity to God the creator.

Scripture Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Autobiography of St. Ignatius of Loyola:

Once, the manner in which God had created the world was presented to his understanding with great spiritual joy. He seemed to see something white, from which some rays were coming, and God made light from these. But he did not know how to explain these things, nor did he remember too well the spiritual enlightenment that God was imprinting on his soul at the time.

Reflection:

At Manresa, St Ignatius of Loyola felt that God was teaching him like a school master. The graces which he received were intellectual lights and as he says, were placed by God in his understanding. Even the imagery which he used to describe and explain them came from these understandings, rather than from anything visual. The principle and foundation, and Contemplation to Obtain Love in the spiritual exercises portray God as Creator of the entire creation. God does not stop there! He penetrates into every life form just like the rays descending from the sun to give life. God is not only confined to His heavenly glory but also seen laboring in creation, thus we can find God in all things.

Questions for reflection:

- Do I spend quality time in prayer every day?
- How often the Principle and Foundation of the spiritual exercises is reflected in my Jesuit life?
- Am I caught up with the created things more than being with God the creator?
- Am I open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in my Jesuit life?

Petitions:

Response : *Holy Father Ignatius, pray for us...*

1. That we may be graced with the same spirit of faith, openness, courage and generosity that motivated St. Ignatius to seek the greater glory of God in everything, let us pray. **R/**
2. That through a growing consciousness of God's presence and involvement in our lives, we strive to make better choices at every juncture of our lives, let us pray. **R/**
3. That we may remain constantly alert to God's presence and whispers amidst our busy surroundings and overloaded intellects, especially in our exercises of piety; and allow the Divine Master to teach us His ways like a schoolmaster, let us pray. **R/**

4. That the Lord enlighten our minds too, as He enlightened the mind of Ignatius, so that we can fulfill our ministry with right discernment that would allow us to see everything from God's perspective, let us pray. **R/**
5. That we create a rhythm of life which ensures sound human and spiritual values founded on inner freedom and Ignatian indifference, let us pray. **R/**
6. For all the religious, especially the Jesuits, that they be strengthened by the Word of God to be ready and steady to accept all the difficulties that come their way; that they reinvent themselves constantly by resorting to the Ignatian approaches of 'imagination' and 'internalization' to be true contemplatives in action, let us pray **R/**

Our Father...

Concluding prayer:

O Lord, you guided St Ignatius at Manresa in his spiritual journey. We pray that you also guide us his followers, to know and understand the follies of this world and to respond fully to your divine call. May the inspiration of St. Ignatius help us to know your will and fulfil it for the greater glory of God. We make this prayer in your holy name. Amen.

Hymn: Dauntless Ignatius whose generous soul – Page 31

The Angelus

Day - 4**JERUSALEM: COMMUNION WITH THE CHURCH****Introduction:**

During his convalescence, Ignatius decided to go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem to visit the places where Christ Jesus had once lived. Ignatius eventually realized that the call of Jesus was for him to be with the Church rather than to remain in Holy Land. This prompted him to turn his attention to the Church in order to discover his mission. We may say, that it was in Holy Land that Jesus led him to the Church. In the end, this communion with the church enabled Inigo to place himself under obedience to the Pope. Ignatius inspires all of us today to love the Church and work for her growth and preservation.

Grace:

To listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and discover God's mission for us by developing deeper communion with the Church.

Hymn: All over the world the Spirit is moving – Page 30

Opening Prayer:

Strengthen us, O Lord, in these challenging times, to be with the Church, to love her as our mother, to think and feel with her, and bring more people under her care and protection. Help us all to continue the saving mission begun by your Son. Amen.

Reading: Testament and Testimony (45:3- 46:4)

His firm intention was to remain in Jerusalem, continually visiting those holy places; and in addition to this devotion, he also planned to help souls. For this purpose, he had brought some letters of recommendation for the Guardian and gave them to him. He told him of his intention to remain there because of his devotion; but not the second part, about wanting to help souls, because he had not told this to anyone, whilst he had frequently made public the first. The Guardian answered that he did not see how he could stay because the house was in such need that it could not support the friars; for that reason, he had decided to send some with the pilgrims, to these parts. The pilgrim replied that he wanted nothing from the house, except only that when he came sometimes to confess, they would hear his confession. With that the Guardian told him that such an arrangement might work, but he would have to wait for the coming of the Provincial (I believe

he was the head of the Order in that area), who was at Bethlehem. By this promise the pilgrim was reassured and began to write letters to Barcelona to spiritual persons. Having already written one and while writing another on the eve of the departure of the pilgrims, he received a summons from the Provincial (for he had arrived) and the Guardian. The Provincial spoke kindly to him, saying that he knew of his good intention to remain in those holy places, and he had given much thought to the matter; but because of the experience he had had with others, he judged that it was not expedient. For many had had that desire, but some had been captured and others killed, and the order had later been obliged to ransom the captives. Therefore, he should prepare to leave the next day with the pilgrims.

Reflection:

It is not surprising that Ignatius, who during his convalescence, had been fascinated by his reading of the 'Life of Christ', wanted to personally live in the land where Jesus had lived, moved, died and risen. But he learnt, to his dismay, that this was not God's will. God had a larger plan for Ignatius and his companions: namely, to have a heart larger than the world and to serve the Universal Church under the banner of the Cross.

Let us pause for a while to introspect on our experiences, past and present, of tussles between our plans and God's will.

Petitions:

Response: Holy Father Ignatius, pray for us.

1. Let us pray for the Holy Catholic Church – That the shepherds of Christ's flock may carry out their ministries with holiness and zeal. May the bond of love grow stronger among the people of God and may they find true meaning in following Christ, the messenger of love. **R/**
2. Let us pray for those who have gone away from the church due to crisis of faith. We pray that they turn away from their painful past, be reconciled with the Church and return to the Lord. **R/**
3. Let us pray for the members of the Society of Jesus and the Ignatian family. We pray that they touch the lives of people with the riches of Ignatian spirituality, so that they grow in deep personal love for Christ and carry out Christ's mission of love. **R/**
4. Let us pray for peace and harmony in present day Jerusalem. We pray that a sense of humanity, sensitivity and care for each other may grow in the people living there. That this holy place be a center of unity for all religions and cultures. **R/**

5. Let us pray for religious harmony in our country, India. We pray for the victims of religious hatred and violence. May those who work for human rights, justice and harmony find strength, enthusiasm and fulfilment in the good works they do. **R/**

Our Father.....

Concluding Prayer:

Gracious Lord, we thank you for the gift of St. Ignatius to the Church and to the world. Help us dear Lord, to be like St. Ignatius, ever to be at the service of the Church and carry out the works of mercy. We make this prayer in your holy name. Amen

Hymn: We stand for God and for his glory – Page 30

The Angelus

Day - 5**BARCELONA, ALCALA, SALAMANCA: COMMITMENT TO STUDIES****Introduction:**

We begin with a quote from the Autobiography of St Ignatius: “At first, it had seemed that the best way to learn how to help souls was by studying the things of the spirit. But God had directed him to a very different form of study; how learning the elements of Latin grammar would profit him in his desire to help others grow in the spirit must have seemed quite a mystery to Inigo. He had already learnt the value of listening to the other person [42], and for him this became more important than talking. No wonder he was surprised that the Lord was directing him to study Latin rather than spiritual realities!”

At Barcelona, Ignatius grew in his desire for study. He realized that, in order to save souls, he needed to be a man of erudition even more than being a spiritual person. “The eleven years of study which followed would be a real test of his perseverance”. Ignatius’ commitment to studies was shown by his willingness to sit with young school children even when he was close to thirty years in age. Let us ask our Father and Founder, St. Ignatius, to kindle in us the desire to acquire knowledge and use it for the service of God’s people.

Grace:

That our studies may not make us proud, but rather motivate us to humbly devote ourselves to the praise and service of the Divine Majesty.

Hymn: Spirit be our spirit in this time of searching for new life – Page 30

Opening Prayer:

God, our loving Father and Mother, we thank you for the gift of St Ignatius, Grant us the prudence to discern and to know the truth - in a world flooded with information – so that we effectively continue the mission of bringing many more souls close to you. We make this prayer in your Holy Name, Amen.

Scripture Reading: 2 Tim 4: 1-8

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful

instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Short Readings from the Autobiography:

Let us refresh ourselves with the inspiration St Ignatius gives us by his resolve to acquire learning, as he says in the Autobiography: “After the pilgrim realized that it was God’s will that he do not stay in Jerusalem, he continually pondered within himself what he ought to do; and eventually he was rather inclined to study for some time so he would be able to help souls, and he decided to go to Barcelona”.(50)

Reflections:

We are in the Covid times, so to say. The situation during the time of St Ignatius was different. One had to go to a college to learn and to obtain a degree. It must have been humiliating for Ignatius, as a grown up man, to sit with young children and learn the rudiments of language and arts. St Ignatius is a great example and model for all of us, stimulating us to keep learning and attaining new knowledge with passion, regardless of our age.

In the Society, however, our apostolic effectiveness comes from our availability more than from our qualifications. All said and done, a Jesuit finds his fulfilment by accepting the Superior’s will as God’s will. That's the beauty of Jesuit availability. Let us pause for some time and reflect on: How ready am I to adapt to the changes? and how available am I for any ministry anywhere in the world?

Petitions:

Response: Holy Father Ignatius, pray for us.

1. For the Church: That the Pope, bishops, priests and religious may contribute effectively to the overall good of the people by vibrating with the signs of the times. May they equip themselves with the knowledge and skills needed to be more effective in proclaiming the gospel to the people of God around the world. **R/**

2. For Jesuits and their apostolate: That in line with the emphasis laid by our Fathers General, we may give due importance to the intellectual and spiritual dimensions of our apostolates, and labour under the banner of the Cross, for the creation of a better society to live in. **R/**
3. For Jesuits pursuing studies: That they may deeply invest themselves in acquiring intellectual depth and use the means of imagination, knowledge, analysis, and reflection, to serve the Lord and His people effectively. **R/**
4. For persons affected by Coronavirus: That God the giver of life may protect all those who have suffered in one way or another by the pandemic – the victims, their families, their care-givers and grant us the courage to rebuild our world together, on foundations of justice, equality and peace. **R/**
5. For courage to speak for justice: That intellectuals, educationists, social thinkers, judges, civic leaders, politicians, and priests and religious, may be inspired to speak out on behalf of the poor, the oppressed and the victims of injustice, and that we ourselves be courageous to speak the truth and proclaim the values of Christ. **R/**
6. For the cause of education: That our education system and the New Education Policy benefit all our brothers and sisters in our country, so as to make our students responsible citizens of our country and esteemed members of the global human community. **R/**

Our Father.....

Concluding Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we ask you to bestow on us the grace of Magis that you gave to Ignatius. Make us dauntless like St Ignatius, in proclaiming your Good News with the same zeal that animated him, and learn each day to know your Son Jesus more intimately, love Him more ardently and follow Him more closely, under the banner of the Cross. We make this prayer through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: Thou whose grand heroic story – Page 31

The Angelus

Day - 6**PARIS: COMPANIONS ON MISSION****Introduction:**

St. Ignatius was the heart and soul of the group of friends. His companionship nourished the rich humanity of their bond in his day-to-day relations. He could most certainly speak about "my friends in the Lord" since the friendships born in Paris had true Ignatian paternity. All his friends felt sad when Ignatius had to leave them in an effort to recover his health in Spain, and they experienced joy when they met up with him again in Venice more than a year later." When Polanco spoke of a "first birth," referring to Ignatius's experience with his first group of friends, he was clearly indicating the important role Ignatius played in forming the later group. These companions, trained in the school of Ignatian friendship, kept growing in their profoundly human relationships, even after they dispersed in 1540, in response to the call for apostolic service.

Grace:

We pray that we grow in union of minds and hearts in the service of the Almighty God, like Ignatius and his companions.

Opening hymn: What a friend we have in Jesus.

Opening Prayer:

God our Father and Mother, we thank you for bringing us together as 'Friends in the Lord'. Fill us with a renewed zeal and vigour, to toil in the mission you have given us. Bind us all in your love and kindness to lead a life worthy of our calling. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Gospel: John 15:12–16

This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master is doing. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me but I chose you. I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.

Reflection:

We Jesuits identify ourselves as "Friends in the Lord". It is not a merely natural friendship born of emotional compatibility. Rather, it is a friendship with reference to Christ. It means you, I and Christ. There is always a third person in this relationship between two Jesuits, the Lord. It is He whom we desire to follow, personally and with others. It is He who unites us as His friends. We are first the Companions of Jesus then Friends in the Lord. It is our companionship of Christ that binds us together in this friendship.

This can be clearly seen in Ignatius' letters where he manifests his profound understanding of companionship. St Francis Xavier recalls with tears how touched he was by his friend's words:

“Among many other holy words of consolation in your letter, I was moved by your closing words: ‘Wholly yours, without ever being able to forget you, Ignatius.’ I read those words with tears, just as I write these with tears, remembering the times past and the great love you always had for me and still have.”

Friendship between companions as between Ignatius and Francis Xavier is made with the full commitment of two personalities, in their common pursuit to serve the Lord better and help souls, and thus, in a radical way, to order their friendship for the mission. Because of the call received, the shared life, the discerned mission, the tasks borne, we are responsible one for another.

Petitions:

Response: Lord, bind us together in your love.

1. Lord our God, we are incredibly in need of your power and strength. As we are in the service of the church, we ask you to help us in building oneness among the faithful, so that they grow in love, and share this love with others. **R/**
2. We pray that our community be modelled after you, the triune God. Bless us Lord with the heart of love and care. Instil in us a mind like yours to understand one another. **R/**
3. Loving Lord, as you have called us to be your companions in carrying the cross, we humbly implore you for the grace of love, union and unwavering faith in you, when we face trials and hardships, particularly in our life as a community. **R/**
4. Lord, as friends in the Lord, help us to develop a deeper bond with you, so that we may "love you more intensely and follow you more closely" (SpEx 104), and thus our friendship with one another may truly flow from our friendship with you. **R/**

5. We bring the Society of Jesus in our humble supplication that we be open, generous, united, and zealous to cater to the needs of the people as our first fathers did. *R/*

Our Father.....

Concluding prayer:

Dear Lord we know we are sinners and unworthy. Yet you've called us to be your friends and companions. We thank and praise you for our vocation. We pray, grant us the bond of love and communion that was with Ignatius and his first companions. Bind us together with bonds of acceptance, affection, encouragement and team spirit rooted in you, that we may be able to fight a good fight under the banner of your cross as friends in the Lord. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen

Closing hymn: We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

The Angelus

Day - 7**VENICE & VICENZA: CONTEMPLATION IN ACTION****Introduction:**

The year 1537 is remarkable in the history of the Society as in this year St. Ignatius, in his letter addressed his companions as “friends in the Lord” for the first time. Besides, the concept of the Society had just begun around this time to sprout in their hearts. To further strengthen the bonds among them, Ignatius wished his friends to be contemplatives in action. Contemplation in action would mean, to learn how to be, to learn how to see and to learn how to love just like our first Fathers.

The world we live in, is a hurried world of schedules and rushing and cramming. There’s almost too much to do and seldom any time to stop, relish and to be. This is the world in which we are called: to be, to see and to love. Through the intercession of St. Ignatius, may we be able to see all things new in Christ and find Christ in all things.

Grace:

We pray for the interior knowledge of so great a good received, in order that being entirely grateful, we may be able in all to love and serve the Divine Majesty. (Sp. Ex 233)

Opening hymn: Oh Lord, my God

Opening prayer:

God our Father and Mother, you are Omnipresent in light and darkness, joys and sorrow, in life and death. Grant us we pray, the heart of St. Ignatius, who discovered you in every person, event and experience, in every place and every creature, that we may actively participate in your mission of loving and healing the world. Amen.

Reading from the autobiography of St. Ignatius:

In Venice the pilgrim also endured another persecution, with many saying that his effigy had been burnt in Spain and in Paris. This business went so far that a trial was held and sentence was given in favour of the pilgrim. The nine companions came to Venice at the beginning of 1535. There they separated to serve in various hospices. After two or three months all went to Rome to obtain the blessing for their journey to Jerusalem. Not being able to go to Jerusalem, they returned

to Venice in the fashion they had gone, that is, on foot and begging, but divided into three groups and in such a way that they were always of different nationalities. (93)

It fell to the pilgrim to go with Faber and Lainez to Vicenza. There they found a certain house outside the city, which had neither doors nor windows :- Two of them always went out to seek alms in the city twice a day, but they got so little they could hardly maintain themselves. (94)

After the 40 days, master John Codure arrived; and the four together decided to begin to preach. The four went to different piazzas and began to preach on the same day and at the same hour, first shouting loudly and summoning the people with their caps. Their preaching caused a great stir in the city and many persons were moved with devotion, and they received in greater abundance the material goods they needed. (95)

Reflection:

Being ‘contemplative in action’ is an Ignatian gift for us today. We are called to a life of prayer that leads us into actions, which expresses love and generosity in deeds. Being Contemplatives, we pause every day in silence, reflect, be still and be with God. Ignatian Contemplation in Action is nothing but how our prayer forms and transforms us and helps us discern how we are being invited to share the love of God that we have experienced with people out in the world. Who could be a better example than our Lord Himself, who paused, prayed and acted? Being a Contemplative in Action calls us to be too profound, prophetic and bold witnesses.

St. Ignatius and his companions’ actions followed their prayer. They lived a life of the poor, served in hospices of Venice and preached at Vicenza. It was all a process. A process to show to the world the daily incarnation of the second person of the Trinity. Today, we are called to be the same.

(PAUSE AND REFLECT)

Petitions:

Response :Lord hear our Prayer.

1. That as an apostolic body in the Church, we pray that you guide the Leaders of the Church Pope, bishops, priests, deacons, ministers and catechists in the same spirit to fulfil the mission you began. **R/**
2. Loving Holy Spirit, we thank you for confirming our vocation to the Society of Jesus. We intensely ask for consolation so that we may live and serve the Lord in all things and inspire the youth of today to embrace the consecrated life to do greater good in today’s consumeristic world. **R/**

3. Help us to make our communities ‘youth-friendly’ and create a space in us where young people can feel welcomed and find solace and support. **R/**
4. For the grace to have a deep sense of presence of God in all creation and in all that we do. **R/**
5. That the love of God makes us discover and love him in all things, especially in our fellow human beings and lead us to deeds of love. **R/**
6. That all the victims of Coronavirus throughout the world receive the healing touch of God, frontline workers receive the necessary grace and strength to cater to the needs of the coronavirus pandemic victims. **R/**

Our Father.....

Concluding prayer:

Heavenly Father, your servant Ignatius set us an example to contemplate and move into action in our apostolic works. Grant us the grace to contemplate: to surrender wholly to you and to see attentively the sensitive issues around us. May we show our solidarity with the poor, hungry, sick and the lonely with love that is a genuine response. *Amen*

Final hymn: Dauntless Ignatius whose generous soul – Page 31

The Angelus

LA STORTA: COMPANIONS OF JESUS CARRYING THE CROSS

Introduction:

During this year we, the Jesuits, are celebrating the Jubilee year of Ignatius' conversion. One of the profound experiences Ignatius had, besides Pamplona experience, was the experience at La Storta. The La Storta experience confirmed Ignatius' calling, to be a companion of Jesus. This experience of Ignatius has inspired Jesuits down the centuries. We, too, being inspired by this experience, have said "yes" to be companions of the Lord in this least Society.

During this prayer, we praise and thank Abba Father, for choosing Ignatius to be the companion of his beloved Son, in November 1537 and for assuring his assistance and providence in his endeavours and Society's mission. We ask Mother Mary, who interceded that Ignatius be placed with her Son, to intercede for us that we, too, become worthy companions of her Son Jesus.

Introductory Prayer:

Loving Father, we humbly implore you to bless us with the grace of openness to experience Your Spirit's movement within us, and to respond to it generously, as St. Ignatius did at La Storta. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Grace: To become companions of Jesus carrying the cross.

Hymn: Father in my life I see...

Readings: Matthew 16:24-26

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For, what does it benefit a person if he gains the whole world but forfeits his life?"

Reflection:

St. Ignatius had the desire to be placed with Jesus Christ. Throughout his life, he contemplated the mysteries of Christ and he wanted Christ to be in every event. He continued to ask this grace from God through the intercession of Mother Mary. He testified in his autobiography that he received this grace in the chapel of La Storta.

(Let us meditatively read this poem and make this our prayer too.)

Conceive me Mother in your womb;
 I shall be born to you.
 Conceive me Mother in your womb;
 Give this poor sinner a new life.
 Conceive me Mother,
 Give me your flesh and blood,
 Flesh to be shared and blood to be shed.
 Conceive me Mother,
 Let my heart be formed in your womb;
 The heart of love and forgiveness,
 Like unto your Son.
 Conceive me Mother in your womb,
 Let me be placed with your Son;
 That I shall be in the company of your Son.
 Conceive me Mother in your womb,
 That when I die I shall rest on your lap.
 Conceive me Mother in your womb;
 Let me be your beloved son.

Petitions:

Response: *Abba Father, place us with Your Son.*

1. We pray that we too may imbibe the Ignatian spirituality and trust completely in his divine providence, that he too will place us with His Son as he promised to our founder St. Ignatius. **R/**
2. From the beginning of our inception, Jesuits are well known to discover new things and to see everything new in Christ. Let us pray that during this Jubilee, that we too might see everything new in Christ and spread the treasures of Ignatian spirituality to the people in need. **R/**
3. During this Corona virus pandemic, let us all unite as one family and help the people who are suffering from this deadly virus and continue to help them in all their needs, physical and spiritual, and accompany them in carrying their daily crosses. **R/**

4. Let us pray that we zealously serve the people who are in dire need of our helping hand and be life to others as Ignatius did after he reached Rome driven by his experience at La Storta. **R/**

5. Let us pray that we also be able to follow in the footsteps of our early Jesuits in our missions and in all that we do, by becoming the voice of the voiceless and by reaching the unreached. **R/**

Our Father.....

Concluding Prayer:

Merciful Father, in the tiny Chapel of La Storta, you rewarded the burning desire of St. Ignatius by accepting him as your servant under the banner of the Cross. Today, we ask you to bestow on us similar zeal to be at your service in this contemporary world. Guard us from the temptation of escaping from the struggles and uncertainties. Help us to be responsible in creating a better world through our selfless service. Mary, our Mother, be our strength and light to serve your Son through the Society. We ask this through the intercession of St. Ignatius. **Amen.**

Hymn: If you wish to be my disciples....

The Angelus

ROME: CARING FOR THE COMPANY OF JESUS**Introduction:**

Along with two of his companions, Peter Faber and James Laynez, St. Ignatius decided to go to Rome and place themselves at the disposal of the Pope. It was a few miles outside of the city that Ignatius had the second most significant of his mystical experiences. At the chapel at La Storta where they had stopped to pray, Ignatius felt God the Father telling him, that he will be favourable to him in Rome and that he would place him (Ignatius) with His Son. From this moment, the journey to Jerusalem ceased to be the focus of Ignatius' ideals. The offer of themselves to the Pope became his all-encompassing ideal.

Grace: We humbly join St Ignatius in begging for the grace “to be placed with the son” under the banner of the cross.

Hymn: Be not afraid (*Sacred Symphonies No. 319*)

Opening prayer:

O Lord, in your providence you guided Saint Ignatius to found the Society of Jesus. Bring to fulfilment the work you began in Ignatius and in so many of his sons in the Society. As we celebrate the Ignatian jubilee year, bestow on us the same spirit as that of Ignatius and the first companions. Grant, that we be ever zealous to radiate your love, despite the evil that surrounds us. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scripture reading: Jn 21:15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do

not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Reflection:

At their last halt before Rome, Inigo stepped in to the tiny half ruined chapel of La Storta. Once more he revealed to His divine master all that occupied his mind and heart. Then, all on a sudden, it was Manresa again. A mystical illumination penetrated in to the very depths of his being, an illusion which he would never again forget, and he felt impelled to describe it to his companions who were waiting by the road side. Laynez would later write: He told me that it was as if God the Father had impressed these words on his heart: **I WILL BE FAVORABLE TO YOU IN ROME**. Since our father did not understand what the words would signify, he added: “I do not know what will happen to us; perhaps we shall be crucified in Rome”. Then he said it seemed to him as if he beheld Christ with the cross on his shoulder, and by his side the eternal father who thus spoke to his son; “I desire you to take this man as your servant”. Jesus accepted him with words: “It is my will that you serve us”. Consequently, he had an immense devotion to the name of Jesus, and desired his company to be named the Society of Jesus.

Petitions:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. Over the centuries many men and women are served and are serving under the banner of the cross on God’s mission which was entrusted to St. Ignatius very near Rome. We pray that God bestow plentiful grace on these labourers of God’s mission. **R/**
2. Let us pray for the Superior General: that as the world goes through turmoil and helplessness, he discern what is better for the catholic church and the Society of Jesus in these critical times. **R/**
3. Ignatius gave us a tool of discernment to identify God’s gift to each of us. We pray that all the faithful get assistance from priests and religious sisters to discern God’s gift and plan for them. **R/**
4. St. Ignatius, prayed fervently and insistently’ ‘**TO BE PLACED WITH THE SON**’, and his prayer was granted. May God grant the same grace to the whole Society of Jesus. **R/**
5. That God give us the grace to know his presence in our everyday lives, to know him as our constant companion in times of loneliness, sadness, suffering and uncertainty. **R/**

Hymn: Keep me in the hollow of your hand (*Sacred Symphonies No. 363*)

Our Father.....

Concluding prayer:

O God, for the greater glory of your name, you chose St. Ignatius, to be your servant, to labour for Christ and your Church, under the banner of the cross. Grant us the grace of being his sons in the Society that bears your Son's name, that through the help and example of our Father Ignatius, we may spend our lives on earth for the cause of faith and justice. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Angelus



Hymns:

All over the world

1. All over the world, the Spirit is moving
 All over the world, as the prophets said it would be
 All over the world, there's a mighty revelation
 Of the glory of the Lord
 As the waters cover the sea
2. All over the church, the Spirit is moving...
3. Deep down in my heart, the Spirit is moving...

We stand for God

We stand for God and for his glory,
 The Lord supreme and God of all.
 Against his foes we raise his standard,
 Around the cross we hear his call.

Ch: Strengthen our faith, Redeemer,
 Guard us when danger is nigh,
 To thee we pledge our lives and service,
 Strong in a trust that ne'er shall die (2)

We stand for God, let us be loyal,
 Our love proclaim with every breath,
 To Christ our King and Lord of lords,
 We will be faithful unto death.

Spirit be our spirit

Spirit be our spirit in this time of searching for new life
 open inner spaces with the fullness of your love

spirit let us now be and forever transformed for all humanity.

Movement of your presence, heals and deepens our hope to freely live.
 Gift of heart where truth spring, from the goodness that you have sown

spirit let us now be and forever transformed for all humanity.

Thou whose grand heroic story

Thou whose grand heroic story
 Makes our hearts beat high with praise
 Holy Father, throned in glory
 Hear the prayers thy soldiers raise,
 Still the battle round us rages
 Still our foes press thick and fast,
 Those same foes whose hateful army
 Thou didst combat to the last

Help us, soldier saint, to follow
 In the steps that thou hadst trod
 Marching ever bravely onward
 'Neath the standard of our God,
 Heeding not the wounds and labours
 Never seeking for reward;
 Only for the greater glory
 Of our Leader and our Lord.

Dauntless Ignatius

Dauntless Ignatius whose generous soul,
 Early ambitions made glory its goal.
 O with what courage you conquered your pride
 Setting the worlds empty honors aside.

**Knight of our Lady, courageous and true,
 Lead us to battle, we'll march under you.
 Noble Ignatius, your comrades we'll go
 Fearlessly forward to conquer the foe.**

Soon to your side in the army of God
 Rallied companions and forward you trod,
 Glad in the sorrows of Jesus to share
 Proud of the cross which his follower's bear.

Tender as Christ to the wayward and weak,
 Stern when was needful in anger to speak.
 Like a true soldier, as gentle as brave,
 This was your conquest, to strengthen and save.

Noble Knight

Noble Knight, leader of a brave array. lead us on, O lead us on

We will fight neath thy sway (2)

What tho' foes gather near, we don't fear (2) We'll not shun, we'll not quit this our noble career.

We will fight ever true till death to thee:

true to God to faith and thee. true to thee.

Lead us on gallantly, ever on valiantly

'Neath thy banner to fight

for the Church and its right.

All for God's own greater glory is our cry,
our battle cry!

Not for gain, nor in vain is our strife in this life;
but for God who is our king
all our hearts to him we bring.

Growing stronger and stronger

as fighting lasts longer

and purer and purer

to make heaven surer

with crosses and trials

and many denials –

we'll fight! But to die true loyal to our king
who reigns on high!

Ignatius lead us on - till we die!!

