

# **Praying with Jesuit Saints and Blessed**

*Community Prayer Book for the Jesuits*

**2020**

**Golden Jubilee Year of the Kohima Jesuits**

## **Praying with Jesuit Saints and Blessed**

Community Prayer Book for the Jesuits

**Published by:** Kohima Jesuit Region  
Jesuit House, PB 20  
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Jahaz Ghat, Uzan Bazar  
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**Printed at:** Bhabani Offset & Imaging Systems Pvt. Ltd.  
7 Lachit Lane, Rajgarh Road, Guwahati-781007

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## Foreword

Remembering our elders who have gone before us, admiring their virtues, looking up to them as exemplars of our life-mission and praying through their intercession has been a rich tradition of Catholicism for centuries. Perhaps no other Christian denomination can boast of a long list of saints, the numerous novenas in their honour and the many feasts in their remembrance as in the Catholic Church. *Praying with Jesuit Saints and Blessed*, a community prayer book for the Jesuits compiled by Fr Michael R. Kolb, has to be situated in the context of this rich tradition of remembering the saints who have left behind models for imitation, inspiration and invigoration.

Psychologists tell us that the act of **remembering** can be powerful. If remembering can negatively influence us by bringing to life unhealed wounds, aching events and painful memories of the past still lurking in the hidden caves of our hearts, thus sapping our energies, it can also positively influence us by enkindling the fire within to 'go forth and set the world on fire'. The effort made in this prayer book is to **remember** the events and experiences in the lives of Jesuit saints and martyrs that will inspire enthusiasm, ignite fire, trigger action and deepen our commitment to the Lord and His people. Anamnesis is a wholesome liturgical act to re-enact and re-live what we remember.

The prayer sessions proposed in this book include words of the Saints and words about the Saints. Some prayer sessions contain brief bio sketches of the Saints and others call to mind their heroic actions. The excerpts from the homilies of popes during the beatification and canonization provide stimulus for deep thinking and profound reflection. It is hoped that the act of remembering and re-living the memories of our forebears will help us strengthen our Jesuit identity and invite us to deepen our commitment to the mission of the Society and inspires us to be frontier men.

This book is published during the Golden Jubilee year of the Kohima Jesuit Region. The author, Fr Michael R. Kolb, is a member of the United Midwest Jesuit Province in the United States. He has been a good friend of the Kohima Jesuits for almost two decades. He has visited Northeast India at least half a dozen times and, more importantly, lived in the Northeast for almost four years while pursuing his doctoral studies in Don Bosco University, Guwahati, Assam. This book is his gift to the Kohima Jesuits in appreciation of their missionary life and works in Northeast India. On behalf of the Kohima Jesuits, I place on record our gratitude to Fr Kolb.

May this prayer book help us feel the pull of the Divine. May our praying together awaken the divine spark within us and connect us to Him and His people. May the examples of our elder brothers help us remain alert to the challenges of our mission and respond to them courageously and generously, with the audacity of the improbable.

**Fr Melvil Pereira SJ**  
Regional Superior  
Kohima Region of the Jesuits

## Introduction

This book is a collection of prayers for Jesuit feasts and memorials. Too often in our houses, amidst the pressing demands of our work, celebrating our heritage by marking the heroes of the Society is reduced to a mention at morning mass, if they are remembered at all. By assembling this community prayer book we hope to provide another possibility. Most communities spend fifteen minutes or so before supper in community prayers. This book provides a resource to use at times like those.

This is a very bare bones approach. It is patterned on the community prayer resources of the Taizé communities, specifically their inspiring *Prayer for Each Day*. The form for the prayer on each feast parallels their formula. The printed material serves as a skeleton, eager to be enlivened with songs, periods of silence, and additional readings as each community or community prayer leader thinks helpful.

Each day has six parts. A brief word on each.

**Opening Prayer:** This is a short prayer to give people gathered for the service a moment to recollect and draw their focus to the celebration.

**Psalm:** Usually following an opening song and an opening prayer, the psalm is intended to enter into the mood of the memorial, and serves as the theme of the prayer. How communities engage in the psalm might differ from place to place. Some houses will begin with the 'Oh Lord, come to our assistance...' from the Office and end with the traditional 'Glory be...' Some might use the offered response in reply to an individual reading the psalm; others can ignore the response and simply read together the verses together or alternately.

**Reading:** The readings remind us of at least one aspect of the saint's or blessed's holiness and service. They are deliberately short. They are also taken from works whose copyrights have expired or are

from the Holy See. Alternately a passage from scripture could be employed, and one is suggested for each day. A reading from the day's Proper is possible as well. Variety is good, lest the community trudge through the same thing year after year. Two other resources that can be used here: excerpts from Tylenda's *Jesuit Saints and Martyrs* (Loyola University Press) which also includes Venerables and Servants of God of the Society; Lewis's *Profiles in Holiness* (Gujarat Sahitya Prakash) that includes brief accounts for each saint. A brief period of silence for reflection is possible after.

**Petitions:** There are four or five petitions to start this part of the service. They come from two sources. First, some come from things related to the saint of the day: what people he served, what his main work was, or what he might be patron of. The second comes from the 2001 edition of *Sacramentary for Jesuit Feasts* that, in addition to texts for masses, includes a list of topics 'Suitable for Prayers of the Faithful' in liturgies. These are helpful in remembering things we should pray for, but often forget. The list is offered here as an appendix as well. 'Individual petitions' are not an afterthought. It offers one way for community members to share their lives, work, and concerns with their brothers, and so should absolutely be included.

### **The Lord's Prayer.**

**Concluding Prayer.** This is usually taken from the Mass of the day. It can be said by the prayer leader or together. Following this prayer, musically inclined communities might enjoy another song to finish. If the prayer precedes the community meal, grace can be added as well.

After the six-part community prayers provided here, we have included, where possible, supplemental material: novena prayers, appropriate litanies, even a prayer of the saint or to the saint that is part of the Church's treasury, or related matter that might inspire some reflections. Even short prayers, for example, can be used as the basis for a *Lectio Divina* if that seems best.

As mentioned above, the text is a guide, not a girdle. We hope it is a convenient resource. The prayer leader can add, create, and adapt as seems appropriate to the situation and possibilities of the community. As a convenience, busy Jesuits can at least gather for a few minutes, remember as a community the saint or blessed the Society commends us to remember, and pray for the Society and for one another.

**Fr Michael R. Kolb SJ**

## **Prayer of St Peter Canisius for the Society of Jesus**

I commend to you, Lord Jesus, the whole Society of Jesus: our superiors and our subjects, our old and our young, our sound and our sick, our ministries of body and soul. May we be rightly governed to the glory of your name and to the upbuilding of your Church.

Through you may we grow in our numbers and in our service. May we know our vocation thoroughly, and, knowing it, love it; and thus may all in the Society serve your majesty worthily and faithfully cling to the commands and the counsels of the Gospel, and, united in the love of brothers, feel your blessings on our provinces, our schools, our missions, and all our ministries.

May we be sober, simple, prudent, peaceable, and studious of solid virtue: may our lives conform to the Name we bear and our deeds reflect to the vows we profess.

We commend to you all the brothers who share our life in the Society and all our companions and partners who share our heritage and our vision. With the Father and the Holy Spirit, we praise you forever. *Amen.*

## January 3

### Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus Titular Feast of the Society of Jesus

#### Opening Prayer

Gracious Lord, you have called us to the Society that bears the name of Jesus, your Son. As you placed our Father Ignatius with your Son, place us also beside Jesus. Help us to follow Him in his service of others, his unswerving devotion to Your will, and his life of simplicity and his freedom from attachments, to better serve You and those to whom you send us. We ask this in his name, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

#### Psalm 8: 1-9

(Optional response: *How great your name, O Lord, in all the earth.*)

O Lord, our Sovereign,  
    how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory above the heavens.  
    Out of the mouths of babes and infants  
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,  
    to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
    the moon and the stars that you have established;  
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
    mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God,  
    and crowned them with glory and honour.  
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;  
    you have put all things under their feet,

all sheep and oxen,  
and also, the beasts of the field,  
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.  
O Lord, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**Reading: Ignatius at La Storta**

The Blessed Father took his way towards Rome, on foot, with Father Faber and Father Laínez in his company [ . . . ] one day drawing nigh to the city of Rome, leaving the two Fathers in the field, he went into a deserted and solitary church some miles from the city to pray. There amidst the greatest fervour of his prayers, he felt his heart changed, and God the Father appeared to him, together with his most Blessed Son, who carried the Cross upon his shoulders and with the eyes of his soul, illustrated with that resplendent light, he saw that the Eternal Father, turning to his only begotten Son, commended to him Ignatius, and those in his company, with exceeding great love, putting them into his hands. And our most benign Jesus having received them under his patronage and protection, as he stood in that manner, with his Cross, turned to Ignatius and with a loving and mild countenance said unto him: *'Ego vobis Romae propitius ero'* ('I will be favourable to you in Rome'). With this divine revelation, our Father remained very much comforted, and strengthened, and he related it afterwards to those in his company, to animate them the more, and to prepare them for the troubles which they were to endure. And, with this vision, together with many other excellent illustrations which he had, the most sacred name of JESUS, was so imprinted in his soul, with an earnest desire to take our Saviour for his Captain, carrying his Cross after him, that was the cause, that at his, and the other first Fathers humble request, the Apostolic See, at the Confirmation of our religion, called it and named it the Society of Jesus.

—Pedro Ribadeneira: *Vita Ignatii Loyolae*

**Scripture:** Philippians 2:5-11

## **Petitions**

We pray for our Society which bears the name of Jesus that in its works and interventions it remains faithful to the teachings of Jesus, We pray in the name of Jesus. **Response:** *Jesus, hear us, we pray.*

We pray that the identity that our Society receives from the name of Jesus will always remind us of our commitment to the poor, the destitute and those at the margins. We pray in the name of Jesus. **Response:** *Jesus, hear us, we pray.*

We pray for Fr General and his Counsellors as we reflect on the identity of our Society, that they constantly remind their brothers of the ministry of saving the souls. Let us pray in the name of Jesus. **Response:** *Jesus, hear us, we pray.*

We pray for the members of our own province/region/mission. As we seek to follow the Lamb of God, we too, might generously spend our lives in the service of the Church and all people. Let us pray in the name of Jesus. **Response:** *Jesus, hear us, we pray.*

We pray for this community. Your very name, Yeshua, reminds us that 'Yahweh is salvation'. Keep each and all of us turned to the Father and obedient to his will. Let us pray in the name of Jesus. **Response:** *Jesus, hear us, we pray.*

*Individual intentions...*

## **Litany of Praise**

**(Response: We praise your holy name)**

Jesus, son of God and son of Mary.

Jesus, splendour of the Father and son of justice.

Jesus, meek and humble of heart.

Jesus, companion of the poor and outcast.

Jesus, battered and broken for all people.

Jesus, our way, our truth, and our life.

Jesus, teaching, enkindling, consoling.

Jesus, dear companion of our father Ignatius.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Lord God, you gave the name of Jesus to your Eternal Word, born of your handmaid, the Virgin Mary. Open our minds and hearts to receive in our own day the word you speak to us in your son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen*

\* \* \*

### **Litany of the Name of Jesus**

Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy	Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
God our Father in heaven	have mercy on us
God the Son,	have mercy on us
Redeemer of the world	have mercy on us
God the Holy Spirit	have mercy on us
Holy Trinity, one God	have mercy on us
Jesus, Son of the living God	have mercy on us
Jesus, splendour of the Father	have mercy on us
Jesus, brightness of everlasting light	have mercy on us
Jesus, king of glory	have mercy on us
Jesus, dawn of justice	have mercy on us
Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary	have mercy on us
Jesus, worthy of our love	have mercy on us
Jesus, worthy of our wonder	have mercy on us
Jesus, mighty God	have mercy on us
Jesus, father of the world to come	have mercy on us
Jesus, prince of peace	have mercy on us
Jesus, all-powerful	have mercy on us
Jesus, pattern of patience	have mercy on us
Jesus, model of obedience	have mercy on us
Jesus, gentle and humble of heart	have mercy on us
Jesus, lover of chastity	have mercy on us



By your abandonment  
By your grief and sorrow  
By your death and burial  
By your rising to new life  
By your return in glory to the Father  
By your gift of the holy Eucharist  
By your joy and glory

Jesus, save your people  
Jesus, save your-people

Christ, hear us  
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer  
Lamb of God, you take away  
    the sins of the world  
Lamb of God, you take away  
    the sins of the world  
Lamb of God, you take away  
    the sins of the world

Christ, hear us  
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer  
  
have mercy on us  
  
have mercy on us  
  
have mercy on us

**Let us pray**

Lord, may we who honour the holy name of Jesus enjoy his friendship in this life and be filled with eternal joy in the kingdom where he lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

—U. S. Catholic Bishops

## January 19

### European Martyrs of the Society of Jesus

#### St John Ogilvie

Stephen Pongracz, Melchior Groziewski & Mark of Krizevci

Ignatius de Azevedo & 39 Companions

James Salés & William Saultemouche

#### Opening Prayer

Loving God, St John Ogilvie and many of our brothers gave their lives in the service of defending the truth of the Church. As we remember the martyrs who died in Europe, give us some small portion of their integrity, fidelity and courage. We ask this through Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

#### Psalm 31: 1-5, 14

(Optional Response: *You are my refuge, O Lord.*)

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;  
do not let me ever be put to shame;  
in your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me;  
rescue me speedily.  
Be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;  
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,  
take me out of the net that is hidden for me,  
for you are my refuge.

Into your hand I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.  
But I trust in you, O Lord;  
I say, "You are my God."

**Reading: The death of Ignatius de Azevedo and his Companions**

The defenders of the San lago could not long maintain the unequal contest and when the captain was struck down, the few still able to bear arms surrendered at discretion. The Calvinists immediately took possession of the ship and their first impulse was to put the Jesuits to death.... Fr. Azevedo and his nine friends still remained above on deck, ministering calmly to the dying. The captain expired in the good father's arms. To the other soldiers, sailors and passengers, Sourie [the Calvinist captain] granted their lives; and then raising his voice, he cried 'As for the Jesuits, kill them without mercy. Murder those rascally papists, who are only going to Brazil to disseminate false doctrine'. The buccaneers, like wolves ravening for their prey, rushed on Father Azevedo and his companions. Raising his eyes at the sound of their approach, the father calmly said 'Courage, brethren, let us yield up our lives for Jesus Christ, who shed his blood for us!' One of the soldiers with a sword struck him on the head, and he fell with his skull fractured. Four others then surrounded him and stabbed him with their cutlasses, but in spite of these mortal blows, the undaunted soldier of Christ rallied, and with a dying effort exclaimed, 'I call angels and men to witness that I die in the Holy Roman Catholic Church, and that I die with all my heart in defence of her dogmas and her practices'. Then, turning his dying eyes to his companions, he added in a faint voice, 'My dear children, rejoice with me at my happy fate; hope for the same yourselves. This day, if it pleases God, we shall all meet again in heaven'.

– S. *Baring-Gould*: The Lives of the Saints, Vol. VII.

**Scripture:** I Peter 4: 12-16

**Petitions**

We pray for the Church, particularly in Europe; help it again provide a voice in the hopes and work of people of good will. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray for those nations still divided by religious differences; help all people to join in a common project of respect for the

dignity of all and greater justice for those excluded. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray for our Superior General, and for provincials and superiors; help them so that their leadership reveals more clearly the glory of God in our ministries and life. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray for Jesuit communities throughout the world; help them to adapt to the changing demands of community life today. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray for the work of theologians, pastors and catechists; help them in their work of making the message of Christ come alive in their unique cultures. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Individual intentions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Lord God, you honoured these brothers of ours, the Jesuit martyrs of Europe, by making them one with your Son, Jesus, in the shedding of their blood. Hear their prayers, and gather into perfect unity all who believe in him. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

**February 4**  
**St John de Brito**  
**Bl. Rudolph Acquaviva and Companions in Goa**

**Opening Prayer**

Ever-gracious God, we gather today to praise our brothers who gave their lives for the service of your Church in India. John de Brito serves as a model of adapting his life and message to the unique cultures that he addressed with your word. As we seek to imitate his passion for inculturation, help us to bring a deep reverence and respect as we address the cultures of those people we serve. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Psalm 39: 3-4, 5, 7-8, 12**

(Optional Response: *My hope, O Lord, is in you.*)

While I mused, the fire burned;  
then I spoke with my tongue:  
“Lord, let me know my end,  
and what is the measure of my days;  
let me know how fleeting my life is.”

You have made my days a few handbreadths,  
and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight.  
Surely everyone stands as a mere breath.

Surely everyone goes about like a shadow.  
Surely for nothing they are in turmoil;  
they heap up, and do not know who will gather.  
“And now, O Lord, what do I wait for?”

My hope is in you.  
Deliver me from all my transgressions.  
Do not make me the scorn of the fool.  
“Hear my prayer, O Lord,  
and give ear to my cry;  
do not hold your peace at my tears.

**Reading: The Virtue of John de Brito**

Saint John de Brito's life faithfully reflected the life of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, for it was a life of service unto death. Today it challenges all of us to continue with fresh vigour the Church's role of loving service to humanity. The immense and tender love of Jesus Christ for the poor and the downtrodden, for sinners and the suffering, remains a challenge for every Christian. Christ's unrelenting stand for truth is a compelling example. Above all, the generosity shown in his suffering and death, as the culmination of his service to humanity and the supreme act of Redemption, is the example for us. We are called to serve.

There can be no authentic Christian life without an effective love of our fellow human beings. At the closing of the Vatican Council Pope Paul VI affirmed that " if... in the face of every man, especially when this face is made transparent by his tears and suffering, we can and must recognize the face of Christ, ... and in the face of Christ we can and must recognize the face of our heavenly Father, ... then our humanism becomes a Christianity and our Christianity becomes theocentric. And thus we can also say: to know God it is necessary to know man."

Today we live at a time of history when peace and harmony between nations and races is constantly threatened. Division and hatred, fear and frustration – these are among the counter-values of our day. The message of love in Christ Jesus is urgently needed. Hence, the Church's task of proclaiming the Gospel and of being at the service of society is supremely relevant in India today. This task requires the active collaboration of all sectors of the ecclesial community, especially the laity.

*–John Paul II, Mass at Madras.*

**Scripture:**Romans 5:1-5

**Petitions**

You have created us, Lord, to know, love, and serve you; help us to live and work for your greater glory. **Response:** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

You have allowed us to hear your call and given us a passion for your service; help us to live and work for your greater glory.

**Response:** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Grant us courage like that of John de Brito to overcome our fears and doubts; help us to live and work for your greater glory.

**Response:** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Give us the freedom to go wherever we might give greater service and do greater good; help us to live and work for your greater glory. **Response:** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Inspire us to proclaim the faith of the Church and the justice of your kingdom; help us to live and work for your greater glory.

**Response:** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

*Individual Intentions....*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Lord, as we ponder the struggle of your martyrs, we beg your grace in abundance, that we who believe in Christ may give him glory, whether by our life or by our death. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**February 6**  
**Sts Paul Miki, John Soan, James Kisai &**  
**Companions**  
**Bl. Charles Spinola, Sebastian Kimura &**  
**Companions**  
**Martyrs of Japan**

**Opening Prayer**

Faithful God, we gather to celebrate the lives of our brothers Paul Miki and his companions. The blood of their martyrdom fell on the people of Japan as a fruitful rain. As we reflect upon their lives, help us to also find the courage to serve you without reservations, to give our lives in spreading the Good News to the people of our time. We ask this through Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

**Psalm 91: 1-6; 14-15**

(Optional Response: *Lord, our life is in your hands.*)

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
    who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;  
    my God, in whom I trust."

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
    and from the deadly pestilence;  
he will cover you with his pinions,  
    and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

You will not fear the terror of the night,  
    or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
    or the destruction that wastes at noonday.  
Those who love me, I will deliver;  
    I will protect those who know my name.

When they call to me, I will answer them;  
    I will be with them in trouble,  
    I will rescue them and honour them.

### **Reading: The Martyrdom of Paul Miki**

The Japanese mode of crucifixion is not that which was suffered by our Lord, and which we naturally associate with the name. The victim is merely fastened to the cross by his hands and arms, and by an iron ring passing around his neck so as to keep the head in an erect position; and a sharp lance driven into the heart extinguishes life in a moment. Such was the death which the martyrs were now to endure; and lying each upon his own cross, they waited for the moment when they were to be lifted up on high. The vast plains extending from the place to the city were thronged by a dense mass of people, come to witness the execution. When, at a given signal the crosses were raised, and the martyrs were seen hanging each from his own cross, with an executioner at his side, ready to strike the fatal blow, the feelings of nature could no longer be repressed, and from the plains below there rose a mournful cry that reached even to the ears of the dying saints. They responded not to the lamentation; on the contrary, Father Peter Baptist began the *Benedictus*, and at the sound of his voice the others took up the strain, and continued it to the end with a devotion that quite electrified the spectators. They were all struck at nearly the same time, and all met their fate with the same courage and constancy as they had shown from the beginning; but Paul Miki seems more especially to have died in a spirit of devotion to the Passion of our Saviour. He it was who had petitioned for this reason that they might be executed on a Friday; and having obtained his request, he also had the consolation of dying with the very words of Jesus on his lips, exclaiming 'Into thy hands I commend my spirit' almost simultaneously with the blow that sent him to God.

—*Celia Mary Caddell: A History of the missions in Japan and Paraguay*

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 15: 15-16, 20

### **Petitions**

That even with our many differences in cultures and context, we can appreciate our privilege of knowing ourselves to be one in the Lord. **Response:** *In your mercy, hear us, O Lord.*

That despite acknowledging ourselves as weak, fragile, and of many different origins, we can together find the will of God for our lives. **Response:** *In your mercy, hear us, O Lord.*

For the Church in Japan, in thanksgiving for their witness of faithful endurance through the centuries. **Response:** *In your mercy, hear us, O Lord.*

That like Ignatius, Paul Miki, and so many other Jesuits, we can see ourselves as placed at Christ's side by the Father. **Response:** *In your mercy, hear us, O Lord.*

That the Lord will bless all of those who support our lives and mission with their prayers and generosity. **Response:** *In your mercy, hear us, O Lord.*

*Individual intentions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, on the day before you suffered, you sat at table with your disciples. Grant that all who bring the Gospel to the nations of the world may eat and drink with you in your kingdom, where you live and reign forever and ever. *Amen.*

\* \* \*

### **Novena to Paul Miki and Companions**

Oh holy St. Paul Miki, your final message before your death was to "Ask Christ to help you become happy." By your encouragement, I ask God for a spirit of happiness and joy.

Most precious Lord, help me to know your peace in moments of anxiety. Most glorious Saviour, help me to know your mercy when I experience fatigue. Heavenly Father, help me to know your love when I am lonely. Oh God, by knowing of your peace, mercy and love, I will know joy.

Through this intercession of St. Paul Miki and his companions...  
(ask your petition here.)

St. Paul Miki, you and your companions had a love for Christ that endured persecution and condemnation. Guide my heart with courage and strength to share my faith with those in my family, my neighbourhood and in Japan. I pray that I may reflect the light of Christ throughout the world today.

St. Paul Miki, as you hung on the cross in preparation to die, you proclaimed your gratitude to God. Help me to be grateful in the circumstances I do not understand. Teach me to be grateful in the moments that feel like death. You are an example of holiness that I will try to follow.

St. Paul Miki, before your death you proclaimed forgiveness to your persecutors. I pray that I may offer complete forgiveness to others and submit my heart to love more fully.

By your joy and rest in heaven above, please beg God to grant my request and bring me to eternal rest and infinite happiness with you.

Glory Be... *Amen.*

## February 15

### St Claude La Columbière

#### Opening Prayer

Jesus, our affectionate friend and Lord, our brother Clause La Columbière announced the mystery of Your Sacred Heart, and lived out the deep affection of your love in a life of suffering service. In our Spiritual Exercises we come to know you intimately and speak with you heart to heart. Preserve our rich intimacy with you and move from that to the service of all those you love. We ask this in your holy name. *Amen.*

#### Psalm 27: 1, 4, 9. 13-14

Optional Response: *(The Lord is my light and my salvation.)*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I asked of the Lord,  
that will I seek after:  
to live in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the Lord,  
and to inquire in his temple.

Do not hide your face from me.  
Do not turn your servant away in anger,  
you who have been my help.  
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,  
O God of my salvation!

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the Lord!

The Lord is my light and my salvation—  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life—  
of whom shall I be afraid?

**Reading: The Virtue of Claude La Columbière**

A true companion of St. Ignatius, Claude learned to master his strong sensitivity. He humbly maintained a sense of 'his wretchedness' so as to rely only on his hope in God and his trust in grace. He resolutely took the way of holiness. He adhered with all his being to the Constitutions and Rules of the Society, rejecting all tepidness. Fidelity and obedience were expressed, before God, by, in Claude's words, the 'desire for trust, love, resignation, and perfect sacrifice'. Fr. Claude forged his spirituality in the school of the Exercises. We still have his impressive journal. He dedicated himself first of all to 'meditating a great deal on the life of Jesus'. Contemplating Christ allowed him to live in familiarity with him so as to belong to him totally, and wrote 'I see that I absolutely must belong to him'. And if Claude dared to aim for this total fidelity, it was in virtue of his acute awareness of the power of grace which transformed him. He attained the perfect freedom of one who gives himself unreservedly to the will of God. 'I have a free heart', he said: trials and sacrifices he accepted 'thinking that God only expects these things of us out of true friendship'. Fr. La Columbière was active in the apostolate with the conviction that he was an instrument of God's work: 'To do much for God, one must belong entirely to him'. Prayer, he also said, is 'the only way...to have God united to us so that we may do something for his glory'. In the apostolate, fruits and success come less from personal abilities than from fidelity to the divine will and openness to God's action.

*—Pope John Paul II: Homily at the Mass of Canonization*

**Scripture:** John 14: 23-31

### **Petitions**

That all of the Church can grow in confidence and assurance of the unconditional love of God, shown in the Heart of Jesus. **Response:** *Generous God, pour out your love.*

That the spirit of faith and prayerfulness, seen so plainly in the life of St. Claude, will mark our lives and our dealings with others. **Response:** *Generous God, pour out your love.*

That our life as brothers together in the Society may reflect, embody, and shine forth the love of God that we have received. **Response:** *Generous God, pour out your love.*

That fidelity to the spirit of the Spiritual Exercises and the practice of spiritual discernment will give new vigour to our lives and our work. **Response:** *Generous God, pour out your love.*

That the old and sick of the Society will have patience in their sufferings and the consolation of God's love growing to perfection within them. **Response:** *Generous God, pour out your love.*

*Individual petitions...*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Concluding Prayer**

Lord and Father of us all, You spoke to St. Claude, your faithful servant, in the silence of his heart, so that he might bear witness to the riches of your love. May your gifts of grace continue to enlighten us and console your Church. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. *Amen.*

### **Prayers of St Claude La Columbière**

Lord, I am in this world to show Your mercy to others. Other people will glorify You by making visible the power of Your grace by their fidelity and constancy to You. For my part I will glorify You by making known how good You are to sinners, that your mercy is boundless, and that no sinner no matter how great his offenses should have reason to despair of Your pardon. If I have grievously offended You, my Redeemer, let me not offend even more by thinking that You are not kind enough to pardon me.

\* \* \*

My God, I believe most firmly that You watch over all who hope in You, and that we can want for nothing when we rely upon You in all things; therefore I am resolved for the future to have no anxieties, and to cast all my cares upon Thee.

People may deprive me of worldly goods and of honours; sickness may take from me my strength and the means of serving You; I may even lose Your grace by sin; but my trust shall never leave me. I will preserve it to the last moment of my life, and the powers of hell shall seek in vain to wrestle it from me.

Let others seek happiness in their wealth, in their talents; let them trust to the purity of their lives, the severity of their mortifications, to the number of their good works, the fervour of their prayers; as for me, O my God, in my very confidence lies all my hope. "For You, O Lord, singularly has settled me in hope." This confidence can never be in vain. "No one has hoped in the Lord and has been confounded."

I am assured, therefore, of my eternal happiness, for I firmly hope for it, and all my hope is in You. "In You, O Lord, I have hoped; let me never be confounded."

\* \* \*

O, God, what will you do to conquer the fearful hardness of our hearts? Lord, you must give us new hearts, tender hearts, sensitive

hearts, to replace hearts that are made of marble and of bronze. You must give us your own heart, Jesus.

Come, lovable heart of Jesus. Place your heart deep in the centre of our hearts and enkindle in each heart a flame of love as strong, as great, as the sum of all the reasons that I have for loving you, my God.

O holy heart of Jesus, dwell hidden in my heart, so that I may live only in you and only for you, so that, in the end, I may live with you eternally in heaven. Amen.

**March 12**  
**Rutilio Grande and Companions**  
**Martyrs of El Salvador**

**Opening Prayer**

Ever faithful God, you showed your deep and steadfast love for the poor and marginalized through the ministry of our brother Rutilio Grande and his companions. As we celebrate his life and work, help us to be courageous in our service of the disadvantaged, and to not count the cost of that service to your greater glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. *Amen.*

**Psalm 72: 1-4, 12-13, 14, 18**

(Optional Response: *Lord, deliver the poor who have no helper.*)

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king's son.  
May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice.

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

For he delivers the needy when they call,  
the poor and those who have no helper.  
He has pity on the weak and the needy,  
and saves the lives of the needy.  
From oppression and violence, he redeems their life;  
and precious is their blood in his sight.  
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.

**Reading:** Pope Francis on Martyrs

From the beginning of the life of the Church, we Christians, persuaded by the words of Christ, who reminds us that “unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone,” have always maintained the conviction that the blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians, as Tertullian said. The blood of a great number of Christians that still today continues to be shed dramatically in the battlefield of the world, with the certain hope that it will bear fruit in an abundant harvest of holiness, of justice, of reconciliation and love of God. But let us remember that one is not born a martyr. It is a grace that the Lord grants, and which concerns in a certain way all baptized people. Archbishop Romero recalled: “We must be ready to die for our faith, even if the Lord does not grant us this honour.... Giving one’s life does not only mean being killed; giving one’s life, having the spirit of a martyr, it is in giving in duty, in silence, in prayer, in honest fulfilment of his duty; in that silence of daily life; giving one’s life little by little”.

A martyr, in fact, is not one who remains relegated to the past, a lovely image that adorns our churches and that we remember with a certain nostalgia. No, a martyr is a brother, a sister, who continues to accompany us in the mystery of the communion of saints and who, united to Christ, is not indifferent to our earthly pilgrimage, to our suffering, to our pain. In the recent history of this beloved country, Archbishop Romero’s witness has been added to that of other brothers and sisters, such as Fr Rutilio Grande, who, not fearing to lose their life, have won it and have been constituted intercessors of their people before the Living God, who lives forever and ever, and who has in his hands the keys of death and Hades. All these brothers and sisters are a treasure and a founded hope for the Church and for Salvadoran society. The impact of their gift of self is still perceived in our day. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, they were configured with Christ, like so many witnesses of the faith of all times.

*-Pope Francis: Address to the Pilgrimage from El Salvador*

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 22: 2-3, 13-17.

### **Petitions**

Look with pity, Lord, upon the people of our world who live with injustice, terror disease, and death as their constant companions.

**Response:***Help us to work for a world that is just.*

Help us to eliminate our cruelty and disregard to our fellow citizens and neighbours. **Response:** *Help us to work for a world that is just.*

Guide our leaders in government and society to look first to the welfare of all people. **Response:** Help us to work for a world that is just.

Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection and equal opportunities for all. **Response:** *Help us to work for a world that is just.*

Help each of us to work, as did Rutilio Grande, that all can enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land. **Response:** *Help us to work for a world that is just.*

*Individual Intentions...*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Concluding Prayer**

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you, all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who became poor for our sake. *Amen.*

**March 19**  
**St Joseph**  
**Patron Saint of the Society of Jesus**

**Opening Prayer**

Ever-caring God, you made Saint Joseph the home and shelter for our mother Mary and your infant Son, Jesus. As we celebrate him as our patron, we ask for his gifts of strength, patience, and openness to your Word. We also beg his protection and care as foster-father of our Society. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Psalm 89: 1-4, 6, 8, 14-16**

(Optional Response: *I will sing of your love forever, Lord.*)

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;  
    with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.  
I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;  
    your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
    I have sworn to my servant David:  
'I will establish your descendants forever,  
    and build your throne for all generations.'"

For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord?  
    Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord,  
O Lord God of hosts,  
    who is as mighty as you, O Lord?  
    Your faithfulness surrounds you.  
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;  
    steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.  
Happy are the people who know the festal shout,  
    who walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance;  
they exult in your name all day long,  
    and extol your righteousness.

**Reading: Homily in Honour of St Joseph**

In regard to the calling of St. Joseph, it was most high and holy, and should be appreciated by all the faithful; for he fostered and protected the Lord and Creator of the world, to whom nothing is impossible.

Very justly, therefore, the holy fathers behold, in the person of the Egyptian Joseph, a figure of St. Joseph. The former was called, by the king, saviour, helper. He watched over the granaries and storehouses in which the grain was preserved for the daily bread; but St. Joseph of the New Law cared for the bread which was one day to serve as a nourishment for the nations of the whole universe.

Are you in good dispositions, but weak and tepid? Look up to Joseph, think of the glorious example of his sanctity, and he will obtain for you the grace of zeal. Are you afflicted with sickness? Go to Joseph, for he, too, is the health of the sick. If St. Francis Xavier appeared to the suffering Marcellus, during his sickness, and said, "Invoke me, for you must know that I have influence in heaven," still more forcibly can the great saint, whom we devoutly honour today, declare the same.

And, more than all, since the Head of the Church Himself has most solemnly dedicated St. Joseph as the patron of the "universal Church," we should, with the utmost faith, seek his gracious assistance. If we have done so during life, then he will surely assist us at the hour of death. Then let us pray daily for this grace, that we, like St. Joseph, may yield up our spirits in the arms of Jesus and Mary; and that, beholding him in heaven, we may eternally thank him for the graces which, through his intercession, we obtained on earth.

— *Fr Francis Xavier Weninger: Original,  
Short and Practical Sermons...*

**Scripture:** Colossians 3: 14-17, 23-24

## **Petitions**

For our Holy Father, ....., our Bishop, ....., and all our bishops, that they follow the example of St. Joseph and guide us with a responsible and dedicated leadership, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:***In your love, Lord, answer us.*

For our Jesuit community, that we may respect and love each other, and be dedicated to our families by following the example of our patron Saint Joseph, let us pray to the Lord. **Response:***In your love, Lord, answer us.*

For those entrusted with responsibility in various ministries of the church, that they may be a model of Christian example for the people they lead, let us pray to the Lord. **Response:***In your love, Lord, answer us.*

For refugees and displaced people, particularly in our country and region, that we can welcome them as friends and better meet their needs, we pray to the Lord. **Response:***In your love, Lord, answer us.*

For young people who are victims of exploitation, trafficking and abuse, that St. Joseph will take them into his special care, and that we, too, might be tireless in our care for them, we pray to the Lord. **Response:***In your love, Lord, answer us.*

*Individual petitions....*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

God our Father, you entrusted our Saviour to the care of Saint Joseph. By the help of his prayers may your Church continue to serve its Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



Lamb of God, who takes away the  
sins of the world,

Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the  
sins of the world,

Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the  
sins of the world,

Have mercy on us.

**V.** He made him the Lord of His household,

**R.** And prince over all His possessions.

### **Let Us Pray**

O God, Who in Your indescribable providence chose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Your most Holy Mother, grant that as we venerate him as our protector on earth, we may deserve to have him as our intercessor in Heaven. You who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

## **April 22**

### **The Blessed Virgin Mary**

### **Mother of the Society of Jesus**

#### **Opening Prayer**

Father, our beginning and ending, today we celebrate Mary, blessed among women, whom you made the mother of all believers as your Son entrusted her to the beloved disciple at the foot of his most holy cross. We, brothers in the Society bearing the holy name of your Son, ask that she be our mother as well. Let us turn to her to comfort and console us in our sorrows and be our unfailing help and support in all that we do. We ask this through Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

#### **Psalm 113: 1-8**

(Optional Response: *The Lord lifts up the lowly.*)

Praise the Lord!

Praise, O servants of the Lord;  
praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
from this time on and forevermore.

From the rising of the sun to its setting  
the name of the Lord is to be praised.

The Lord is high above all nations,  
and his glory above the heavens.

Who is like the Lord our God,  
who is seated on high,  
who looks far down  
on the heavens and the earth?

He raises the poor from the dust,  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,  
to make them sit with princes,  
with the princes of his people.

Praise the Lord!

### **Reading: Ignatius's Vigil**

Arriving at a large village situated a short distance from Montserrat, he determined to procure a garment to wear on his journey to Jerusalem. He therefore bought a piece of sackcloth, poorly woven, and filled with prickly wooden fibres. Of this he made a garment that reached to his feet. He bought, also, a pair of shoes of coarse stuff that is often used in making brooms. He provided himself also with a pilgrim's staff and a gourd to drink from. All these he tied to his saddle.

Thus equipped, he continued on his way to Montserrat, pondering in his mind, as was his wont, on the great things he would do for the love of God. And as he had formerly read the stories of Amadeus of Gaul and other such writers, who told how the Christian knights of the past were accustomed to spend the entire night, preceding the day on which they were to receive knighthood, on guard before an altar of the Blessed Virgin, he was filled with these chivalric fancies, and resolved to prepare himself for a noble knighthood by passing a night in vigil before an altar of Our Lady at Montserrat. He would observe all the formalities of this ceremony, neither sitting nor lying down, but alternately standing and kneeling, and there he would lay aside his worldly dignities to assume the arms of Christ.

*--The Autobiography of St. Ignatius*

**Scripture:** John 19: 25-30

### **Petitions**

We pray for the Society of Jesus; as Jesus has placed all people under Mary's care, may she help the Society grow and thrive.

**Response:** *Mary, Mother of the Society of Jesus, intercede for us.*

We pray for the works of this province/region and the whole Society; with Mary's help, let us guide many people to her Son.

**Response:** *Mary, Mother of the Society of Jesus, intercede for us.*

We pray for greater fidelity to our vows; may the life of Mary help us to understand chastity, poverty, and obedience to the will of God.

**Response:** *Mary, Mother of the Society of Jesus, intercede for us.*

We pray for women who serve the Church; help us to collaborate with them fully and recognize their unique gifts. **Response:** *Mary, Mother of the Society of Jesus, intercede for us.*

We pray for those who are excluded, neglected, and abandoned; may the mother of Jesus inspire us to care for them and seek to raise up the lowly. **Response:** *Mary, Mother of the Society of Jesus, intercede for us.*

*Individual intentions....*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, you chose the Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Eternal Word. Make us strong and faithful servants of that Word in the Society of Jesus, which has consecrated itself to You in the presence of Mary, our mother. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. *Amen.*

\* \* \*

### **Litany of Mary of Nazareth**

L: Glory to you, God, our Creator. R: Breathe into us new life,  
new meaning.  
L: Glory to you, God, our Saviour. R: Lead us in the way of  
apostleship.  
L: Glory to you, healing Spirit. R: Transform us to empower  
others.

Mary, wellspring of peace	Be our guide.
Model of strength and gentleness	Be our guide.
Model of trust and courage	Be our guide.
Model of patience and perseverance	Be our guide.
Model of openness and risk	Be our guide.

Mother of the Saviour and Liberator	Pray for us.
Mother of the homeless and the dying	Pray for us.
Mother of the nonviolent	Pray for us.
Mother of unwed mothers	Pray for us.
Mother of widowed mothers	Pray for us.
Mother of political prisoners	Pray for us.
Mother of the condemned	Pray for us.
Mother of the executed criminal	Pray for us.

Woman oppressed	Lead us to life.
Liberator of the oppressed	Lead us to life.
Marginalized woman	Lead us to life.
Comforter of the afflicted	Lead us to life.
Cause of our joy	Lead us to life.
Sign of contradiction	Lead us to life.
Breaker of bondage	Lead us to life.
Political refugee	Lead us to life.
Seeker of sanctuary	Lead us to life.
First disciple	Lead us to life.
Seeker of God's will	Lead us to life.
Sharer in Christ's ministry	Lead us to life.
Participant in Christ's passion	Lead us to life.
Witness of Christ's resurrection	Lead us to life.

Woman of mercy	Empower us.
Woman of contemplation and vision	Empower us.
Woman of wisdom and understanding	Empower us.
Woman of grace and truth	Empower us.
Woman, pregnant with hope	Empower us.
Woman, centred on God	Empower us.

L: May God the source of hope, fill us with joy and peace in faith. *Amen.*

L: Through the power of the Holy Spirit, may we have hope in abundance. *Amen.*

L: May almighty God bless us, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *Amen*

—*From Miryam of Nazareth: Woman of Strength and Wisdom by Ann Johnson*

**April 27**  
**St Peter Canisius**  
**Doctor of the Church**

**Opening Prayer**

God, our strong hold, today we celebrate the memory of our brother St. Peter Canisius, and ambassador to the German people when the voice of the faith was all but silenced. As we reflect on his virtues and service, grant us the gift of courage, tenacity, and gentleness as we seek to imitate his fervour and fortitude. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. *Amen.*

**Psalm 25: 1-9**

(Optional Response: *In you, O my God, is my trust.*)

O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.  
Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.  
He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.

### **Reading: Virtue of Peter Canisius**

This was a characteristic of St Peter Canisius: his ability to combine harmoniously fidelity to dogmatic principles with the respect that is due to every person. St. Canisius distinguished between a conscious, blameworthy apostasy from faith and a blameless loss of faith through circumstances.

Moreover, he declared to Rome that the majority of Germans who switched to Protestantism were blameless. In a historical period of strong confessional differences, Canisius avoided — and this is something quite extraordinary — the harshness and rhetoric of anger — something rare, as I said, in the discussions between Christians in those times — and aimed only at presenting the spiritual roots and at reviving the faith in the Church. His vast and penetrating knowledge of the Sacred Scripture and of the Fathers of the Church served this cause....

Characteristic of St Canisius' spirituality was his profound personal friendship with Jesus. For example, on 4 September 1549 he wrote in his journal, speaking with the Lord: "In the end, as if you were opening to me the heart of the Most Sacred Body, which it seemed to me I saw before me, you commanded me to drink from that source, inviting me, as it were, to draw the waters of my salvation from your founts, O my Saviour".

Then he saw that the Saviour was giving him a garment with three pieces that were called peace, love and perseverance. And with this garment, made up of peace, love and perseverance, Canisius carried out his work of renewing Catholicism. His friendship with Jesus — which was the core of his personality — nourished by love of the Bible, by love of the Blessed Sacrament and by love of the Fathers, this friendship was clearly united with the awareness of being a perpetuator of the Apostles' mission in the Church. And this reminds us that every genuine evangelizer is always an instrument united with Jesus and with his Church and is fruitful for this very reason.

*—Benedict XVI, General Audience*

**Scripture:** 2 Timothy 2: 1-9

### **Petitions**

We pray for theologians, pastors, catechists and teachers: help them, Lord, to communicate the truth and the life of the Gospel.

**Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray for greater skill in our spreading the faith: help us to reflect and act more effectively, particularly in our mission to unbelievers. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray for the Christian Churches of Europe and the entire world: help us to find the strength of unity as we seek your will together.

**Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray for readiness to serve you in new ways as directed by our superiors: give us freedom of heart and mind to respond to the way you call us. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray for unity amid our diversity: let our different gifts and outlooks be a source of strength in your service. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Individual intentions...*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Concluding Prayer**

Lord, you gave St. Peter Canisius wisdom and strength to defend the Catholic faith. By the help of his prayers may all who seek the truth rejoice in finding You, and may all who believe in You be loyal in professing their faith. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

### **Prayer of Peter Canisius**

See, O merciful God, what return I, your thankless servant, have made for the innumerable favours and the wonderful love you have shown me! What wrongs I have done, what good left undone! Wash away, I beg you, these faults and stains with your precious blood, most kind Redeemer, and make up for my poverty by applying your merits. Give me the protection I need to amend my life.

I give and surrender myself wholly to you, and offer you all I possess, with the prayer that you bestow your grace on me, so that I may be able to devote and employ all the thinking power of my mind and the strength of my body in your holy service, who are God blessed forever and ever. *Amen.*

## May 4

### St José María Rubio y Peralta

#### Opening Prayer

God of our fathers and mothers, you inspired our brother José María Rubio to be an apostle to Madrid and a father to the poor. He worked with lay people in the service of those who were poor, sick, and in any difficulty. Help us to integrate, like him, the service of faith with the promotion of justice as one, inseparable mission with others in service of your people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

#### Psalm 37: 1-6; 23-24

(Optional antiphon: *Our steps are made firm by the Lord.*)

Do not fret because of the wicked;  
do not be envious of wrongdoers,  
for they will soon fade like the grass,  
and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the Lord, and do good;  
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.  
Take delight in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him, and he will act.  
He will make your vindication shine like the light,  
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

Our steps are made firm by the Lord,  
when he delights in our way;  
though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong,  
for the Lord holds us by the hand.

### **Reading : The Virtue of José María Rubio**

Fr Rubio was exemplary in his pastoral ministry, sustained and nurtured by his profound spiritual life. The Bishop of Madrid called him “The Apostle of Madrid”, and the faithful sought him out from the early morning hours for confession and to receive spiritual direction.

He was known for his incisive, simple preaching that moved many to conversion. He also had particular devotion to the poor, always providing them with the material and spiritual assistance they needed.

Through his preaching and spiritual direction, Fr Rubio was also able to attract and guide many lay people who wanted to live their Christian faith authentically and assist him in the mission of helping the poor. Under his guidance, they opened tuition-free schools which offered academic formation as well as instruction in various trades. They also assisted the sick and disabled and tried to find work for the unemployed.

Fr Rubio was always the heart and soul of all of these works, but he remained in the background, preferring to let his collaborators take centre stage. For this reason, and to help them develop well the gifts that God had given them, he gave the laity the main responsibility and taught them to live and act like the Apostles of the Lord Jesus.

The most important aspect of the apostolate for Fr Rubio was prayer; adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament was the centre of his entire life. The love of Christ was what Fr Rubio wanted to give to the poor. For him and his collaborators, prayer came first, and it was through this intense prayer life that they received the strength to minister in the poorest and most abandoned areas of Madrid and to assist the people spiritually.

—Pope John Paul II, *Mass of Canonization*

**Scripture:** 1 Cor 1:20-24

### **Petitions**

As we celebrate the life of José María Rubio, let us pray for the Church in Spain, that it can grow strong and address the many challenges that it faces. **Response:** *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

Let us pray for vocations, and particularly those who are considering the Society at this time, that the Lord will give them courage and peace. **Response:** *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

Let us pray for Jesuits and others in the Church who work with the poor, that their labours will bring the love of God into people's lives and that their witness will lead to greater justice. **Response:** *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

Let us pray for cooperation with diocesan clergy and other religious, that our work together can lead to better understanding and bear greater fruit. **Response:** *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

Let us pray for the old and the sick, particularly of the Society that we know and remember now, that God will give them comfort and serenity. **Response:** *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

*Individual Intentions...*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Concluding Prayer**

Father of mercies, you made your priest, José María Rubio, a minister of reconciliation and a father of the poor. Grant that, filled with the same spirit, we may show your love to all and care for those whom the world has abandoned. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

## May 16

### St Andrew Bobola

#### Opening Prayer

Father, source of our life and love, today we gather to honour the life of our brother, Andrew Bobola, who suffered a martyr's death serving the people of Poland and Lithuania. We pray that, like him, we can defend the faith with lives of good example, respect for our adversaries, and courage in the face of threats and uncertainties. Like St. Andrew, may we do and suffer much, confident that our reward awaits with you. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord. *Amen.*

#### Psalm 23: 1-6

(Optional Antiphon: *The Lord makes safe our path.*)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;

For you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.

**Reading: The Virtue of Andrew Bobola**

Since he spurned the pomps and vanities of the world, and earnestly strove after 'the greater gifts', with the object of progressing more rapidly along the road to perfection, he gladly offered himself, when a youth of nineteen years, to the Society of Jesus, and was received into the noviceship, then at Vilna. He remembered that solemn warning of Jesus Christ, 'If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me', and so daily strove more eagerly to acquire the virtue of Christian humility by contempt of self.

But since he was temperamentally proud, impatient, and sometimes obstinate, Bobola had to wage a very sharp contest against himself, and ascend his Calvary, as it were, laden with the cross, in order to reach this height of virtue. There, at length, impelled and assisted by the grace he had obtained by constant and fervent prayers, he might be able to reach Christian perfection. For as St. Bernard wisely said, 'the spiritual edifice cannot stand except on the firm foundation of humility.'

Above all, Bobola was on fire with a great love of God and of his neighbours. As a result, he found nothing sweeter than to spend long hours, whenever possible, before the sacred tabernacle, and to assist the unfortunate in every way according to his means. He loved God above all and far more than himself. He sought exclusively God's glory, according to the rule of his Father, St. Ignatius. To this saint, then, the words of the same holy doctor St. Bernard can be applied, 'He alone should be desired, who alone fulfils desire.'

This tireless apostle of Jesus Christ had lived by faith, and had defended the faith; so too, he did not hesitate to die for the faith of his fathers.

—Pope Pius XII, *Invictiathletae*

**Scripture:** 1 Cor 4: 9-13

### **Petitions**

For the inspiration of the work and life of St. Andrew Bobola in his heartfelt pastoral care, openness to mission, and courage.

**Response:** *We praise and thank you, Lord.*

For your constant invitation to grow in holiness and devotion to you and your Church. **Response:** *We praise and thank you, Lord.*

For the progress made in the understanding between Christian churches, and the hope that this might lead to true unity.

**Response:** *We praise and thank you, Lord.*

For the gift of the Spiritual Exercises, and the power they show to lead people closer to Christ, our Lord. **Response:** *We praise and thank you, Lord.*

For those who work in Biblical, Liturgical, and Ascetical studies, which show forth new ways that you are present to our culture and our world. **Response:** *We praise and thank you, Lord.*

*Individual Intentions...*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Concluding Prayer**

O God, you willed to unite your scattered children through the death of your Son. Enable us to work faithfully in the work of reconciliation for which your martyr, Saint Andrew, gave his life. Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. *Amen.*

## May 24

### Our Lady of the Way

#### Opening Prayer

Loving God, we gather today to honour the Virgin Mother of your Son. She was the patroness of our first church in the city of Rome, so dear to our fathers that her image was moved to our mother church, the Church of the Gesù. Help us to be confident of her protection as we embrace our journey through life and the mission we are given. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

#### Psalm 16: 5-11

(Optional Response: *Lord, you are my portion and cup.*)

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;  
you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
surely, I have a delightful heritage.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the Lord always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore, my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;  
my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol,  
or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

#### Reading: Holy Father on Jesuit Mobility

To walk together — free and obedient — moving toward the margins of society where no one else reaches, ‘under the gaze of Jesus and

looking to the horizon which is the ever greater glory of God, who ceaselessly surprises us'. As Saint Ignatius reminds us, a Jesuit is called 'to think and to live in any part of the world where there is a greater need of service to God and assistance for souls'. The fact is that 'for the Society, the world must be our house', as Nadal used to say.

Saint Ignatius wrote to Francis Borgia about the criticism against the Jesuits that they were too 'angelic', for some people were saying that the Society was insufficiently trained and needed more instruction in the spirit that guides them, Ignatius wrote, 'ignores the state of things in the Society because these things are always developing and incomplete, except for what is absolutely necessary'. I rather like Ignatius' way of seeing everything — except for what is absolutely essential — as constantly developing, because it frees the Society from all kinds of paralysis and vain ambition.

What is necessary and essential is the Formula of the Institute, which we should keep constantly before our eyes after gazing at the Lord: 'the nature of this Institute which is his pathway to God'. This is the way it was for the first members of the Society, just as they foresaw it would be 'for those who will follow us along the path'. In this way, whether it be poverty or obedience or the dispensation from certain obligations such as praying in choir: all these things are neither needs nor privileges, but rather aids given to the Society so that its members may be available 'to travel along the way of Christ Our Lord'.

—Pope Francis, "Address to the 36<sup>th</sup> General Congregation"

**Scripture:** Mark 6: 6-13

### **Petitions**

Mary, mother of our Saviour, help us to also bring Jesus into our world. **Response:***Our Lady of the Way, intercede for us.*

Mary, who travelled to Egypt to save your Son's life, help us to care especially for displaced people and immigrants. **Response:***Our Lady of the Way, intercede for us.*

Mary, mother of God, help all mothers to welcome new life despite fear, doubt, and uncertainty. **Response:***Our Lady of the Way, intercede for us.*

Mary, first and best disciple of Jesus, help us to follow him faithfully all of our lives. **Response:***Our Lady of the Way, intercede for us.*

Mary, given to the Beloved Disciple at the foot of the cross, care for us as a loving mother throughout our lives. **Response:***Our Lady of the Way, intercede for us.*

*Individual intentions...*

## **Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Lord, we rejoice in your sacraments and ask your mercy as we honour the memory of the Virgin Mary. May her faith and love inspire us to serve you more faithfully in the work of salvation. Grant this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

**June 8**  
**St Jacques Berthieu**  
**Martyr of Madagascar**

**Opening Prayer**

Father in Heaven, our brother Jacques Berthieu was the good shepherd, who did not abandon his flock, but sought to lead them to safety. Help us also in our day to be faithful and loyal shepherds of those to whom we are sent, assuring them of your presence and care as we continue to see that in our lives. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

**Psalm 34: 1-10**

(Optional Response: *The Lord freed me from all of my fears.*)

I will bless the Lord at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;  
let the humble hear and be glad.

O magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us exalt his name together.  
I sought the Lord, and he answered me,  
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant;  
so your faces shall never be ashamed.  
This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,  
and was saved from every trouble.

The angel of the Lord encamps  
around those who fear him, and delivers them.  
O taste and see that the Lord is good;  
happy are those who take refuge in him.

O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,  
for those who fear him have no want.  
The young lions suffer want and hunger,  
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

**Reading: The Virtue of Jacques Berthieu**

Here is also a new son of Saint Ignatius, among the glorious cohort of the blessed. So many heroes, so many missionaries, so many martyrs have been given since its foundation by the valiant Company of Jesus! And, today as yesterday, the Jesuits continue to be missionaries of the wide world, to bring in poverty, chastity, and obedience, the heroic witness of the friends of Jesus. May the Lord bless their labours, fertilize their labours, and inspire new Christianity on their steps!

And here is especially the first blessed of Madagascar, the big island so dear to the heart of our father and pastor. How can we not rejoice with you, dear Malagasy sons, in the beautiful development given by God to the mission of Father Jacques Berthieu. "In short, the mission is progressing," he wrote to his brother on April 7, 1882, "although the fruits are still only in hope in many places and not very visible in others. But what does it matter to us, provided we are good sowers: God will grow in his time "(Bernard Biot, Father Jacques Berthieu, Madagascar 1965, 22).

Father Berthieu and his confreres were good sowers, and God made the harvest ripen. Once again in the Church the blood of the martyrs was a seed of Christians, beginning with some of those who had killed the valiant priest, and who later asked to be baptized.

Venerable brothers and dear sons, we venerate together a heroic witness of missionary charity pushed to the point of martyrdom, and we give thanks to God who, by his admirable designs and often hidden from the eyes of the world, always gives to his Church, pastors and missionaries to bear its testimony, and the martyrs who seal it with their blood. Let us thank the Lord for

these gifts that he gives so generously to his Church, and let us know how to show them worthy.

—*Pope Paul VI, Mass of Beatification*

**Scripture:** Rev 12: 10-12

### **Petitions**

For the people of Madagascar, that they will hold strongly to the faith preached by Jacques Berthieu and enliven its expression in their celebrations. **Response:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear us.*

For Jesuits who work in mission areas, and especially those who work where the Church is persecuted and in danger. **Response:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear us.*

For freedom and creativity in our preaching of the Good News, that we have the courage to indigenize and acculturate the message of Jesus. **Response:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear us.*

For each of us, that we can recognize the diversity of our gifts and richness of our varied experiences. **Response:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear us.*

For benefactors of the Society, whose generosity and prayers enable us to carry the Word of God to people everywhere. **Response:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear us.*

*Individual Intentions...*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Concluding Prayer**

Almighty ever-living God, by Your gift blessed Jacques Berthieu fought for righteousness' sake even until death. Grant, we pray, through his intercession, that we may bear every adversity for the sake of your love and hasten with all our strength towards you who alone are life. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

## June 9

### St José de Anchieta

#### Opening Prayer

Ever-present Father, we gather to celebrate the life and mission of our brother José de Anchieta, the Apostle of Brazil and father of Brazilian literature. As we celebrate his life and mission, we ask that we, too, will energetically use all the resources of our minds and hearts to speak your word and form the lives of those to whom you send us. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord. *Amen.*

#### Psalm 57: 1-4, 5, 7

*Optional Response: I will take refuge in you, O Lord.*

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,  
for in you my soul takes refuge;  
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,  
until the destroying storms pass by.

I cry to God Most High,  
to God who fulfils his purpose for me.  
He will send from heaven and save me,  
he will put to shame those who trample on me.  
God will send forth his steadfast love and his faithfulness.

I lie down among lions  
that greedily devour human prey;  
their teeth are spears and arrows,  
their tongues sharp swords.  
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.  
Let your glory be over all the earth.  
My heart is steadfast, O God,  
my heart is steadfast.

#### Reading: Reflections on José de Anchieta

Anchieta volunteered and in 1553 embarked for Brazil... astonished by his own happiness in being chosen by God to undertake the

difficult and dangerous enterprise. At midnight the sailors saw him follow his enthusiasm by gazing on the shore and on the ocean, and they heard his frequent exclamation, 'Who am I that the Creator of these should have selected me to serve him?'

After perils by sea and land, and a few trifling miracles, he was settled at Piratininga. Here he learnt the useful trades of barber-surgeon to supply for the needs of the few neighbours, and he taught Latin. Joseph wrote out the necessary books for the pupils, for copies were scarce, and at the same time learnt the language of the native people so well as to make a grammar and vocabulary that has been the foundation of those who came after, and a catechism for the use of the natives.

Joseph poetized in four languages: the cousin dialects Spanish and Portuguese, his Priest Latin, and his missionary [indigenous] Brazil. Of all these languages he [translated] into holy hymns the profane songs in use, so successfully that along the roads the sweet songs of Joseph were sung by the travellers.

In one of his letters to Portugal he speaks of his own health and manner of living: 'As we have no laxatives here, says he 'it has often been necessary to eat boiled mustard leaves, and the beans of the country, and such food as you may conceive. I instruct three different classes, and frequently when I am sleeping they disturb my sleep with their questions. By acting thus, as though I were not an invalid, I have begun to recover. As a proof, you know I used to eat meat during Lent—and now I fast the whole forty days. At Piratininga I served as physician and barber to the Indians, bleeding them, and curing them; I had no hope of their recovery. Here at St. Vicenti, I have learnt another trade, which necessity taught me, to make *alpergatas*—(a sort of shoe made of packthread or rushes used by the Moors and formerly the mountain people of Spain.) I am a good workman, and have made many for the brethren, for it is impossible to travel over these mountains in leather shoes.'

—Robert Southey: Southey's Commonplace Book, 1849

**Scripture:** Colossians 3: 12-17

### **Petitions**

For the Church in South America that it will continue to be witness to faith in Christ and to the justice of the Kingdom of God, we pray to the Lord. **Response:***Lord, hear our prayer.*

For missionaries of the Society of Jesus, that they will witness to Christ and to the Gospel with zeal and creativity, we pray to the Lord. **Response:***Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the renewal of spirit and witness in the Society, that it will inspire others to join our service as members and collaborators, we pray to the Lord. **Response:***Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the work of Jesuit artists, particularly writers, playwrights, and poets like José de Anchieta, that they continue our tradition of creativity and so witness to the richness of human life and the wonder of God, we pray to the Lord. **Response:***Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who are most in need of the love of God—the poor and excluded, prisoners of crime and of conscience, the displaced and powerless, we pray to the Lord. **Response:***Lord, hear our prayer.*

For deepening in us St Anchieta's conviction that 'nothing is too arduous that has for its purpose the honour of God and the salvation of souls', we pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

*Individual intentions....*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Concluding Prayer**

Pour out your grace upon us, Lord, that we may follow the example of Saint José your priest. As faithful servants of the Gospel, may we become all things to all and strive to gain for you brothers and sisters in the love of Christ. Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. *Amen.*

## June 21

### St Aloysius Gonzaga Patron of All Students

#### Opening Prayer

God our Father, source of our hope, our brother Aloysius relinquished a life of riches, honour and glory to follow his vision and embrace a life of service to his fellow humans. Help us, too, to be steady and constant in our devotion to the Society in simplicity and humility. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord.  
*Amen.*

#### **Psalm 119: 1-3, 9-11, 17-18, 30, 32**

(Optional response: *Blessed are they whose ways are blameless.*)

Happy are those whose way is blameless,  
    who walk in the law of the Lord.  
Happy are those who keep his decrees,  
    who seek him with their whole heart,  
who also do no wrong,  
    but walk in his ways.

How can young people keep their way pure?  
    By guarding it according to your word.  
With my whole heart I seek you;  
    do not let me stray from your commandments.

I treasure your word in my heart,  
    so that I may not sin against you.  
Open my eyes, so that I may behold  
    wondrous things out of your law.

I have chosen the way of faithfulness;  
    I set your ordinances before me.  
I run the way of your commandments,  
    for you enlarge my understanding.

## **Reading: Our Daily Bread**

Jesus tells us to ask our Father for bread each day. Nothing else: just bread, in other words, what is essential for life. Before all else, bread is what we need this day to be healthy and to do our work; tragically, so many of our brothers and sisters do not have it. Here I would say: Woe to those who speculate on bread! The basic food that people need for their daily lives must be accessible to everyone.

To ask for our daily bread is also to say: “Father, help me lead a simpler life.” Life has become so complicated. Nowadays many people seem “pumped up”, rushing from dawn to dusk, between countless phone calls and texts, with no time to see other people’s faces, full of stress from complicated and constantly changing problems. We need to choose a sober lifestyle, free of unnecessary hassles; one that goes against the tide, like that of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, whose feast we celebrate today. It would involve giving up all those things that fill our lives but empty our hearts. Brothers and sisters, let us choose simplicity, the simplicity of bread and so rediscover the courage of silence and of prayer, the leaven of a truly human life. Let us choose people over things so that personal, not virtual, relationships may flourish. Let us learn once more to love the familiar smell of life all around us. When I was a child at home, if a piece of bread fell from the table, we were taught to pick it up and kiss it. Let us value the simple things of everyday life: not using them and throwing them away, but appreciating them and caring for them.

*Pope Francis I, Homily, 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
World Council of Churches*

**Scripture:** I Timothy 4: 11-16

## **Petitions**

We pray, Lord, for our scholastics; may they set their hearts on serving God in all things and remain loyal to their vocation.

**Response:** *Hear us, loving Lord.*

We pray, Lord, for students all over the world; bless them with a mind that is eager to learn and grow, and equip them with the ability to work hard and persevere. **Response:** *Hear us, loving Lord.*

We pray, Lord, for young people throughout the world; let them be pure in mind and in body to clearly hear the Lord's call.

**Response:** *Hear us, loving Lord.*

We pray, Lord, for our superiors; help us to accept their guidance prayerfully, as if the words were Yours. **Response:** *Hear us, loving Lord.*

We pray, Lord, for AIDS patients and their care-givers; give them your comfort and your strength in facing their challenges in life.

**Response:** *Hear us, loving Lord.*

We pray, Lord, for singleness of heart; may we discipline ourselves and, like St. Aloysius follow you with all our hearts. **Response:** *Hear us, loving Lord.*

*Individual intentions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### Concluding Prayer

O God, bestower of heavenly gifts, in the angelic youth Aloysius you joined wondrous innocence of life to an equally wondrous love of penance. Grant, by his merits and prayers, that we who have not followed him in his innocence may imitate him in his penance. Through our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. *Amen.*

\* \* \*

### **Prayer of St Aloysius to Mary**

O holy Mary my Mother, into your blessed trust and special keeping, into the heart of your tender mercy-this day, every day of my life and at the hour of my death-I commend my soul and body. I entrust to you all of my hopes and consolations, all of my trials and miseries, my life and the end of my life, that through your most holy intercession and your merits, all my actions may be ordered and disposed according to your will and that of your divine Son. *Amen.*

## July 2

**St John Francis Regis, St Bernardine Realino  
St Francis Jerome  
Bl. Julian Maunoir, Bl. Anthony Balducci  
Missionaries of Europe**

### **Opening Prayer**

Living, most high God, so many of our brothers distinguished themselves in the work of serving both cities and countryside, by means of missions to the poor and humble people of Europe, keeping alive and active in them the gift of the faith. Help us to imitate their generous service through practice of the works of mercy, particularly with those most in need of your love. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord. *Amen.*

### **Psalm 98: 1-5, 7-8**

*(Optional Response: I will praise you Lord, forever.)*

O sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have gotten him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.  
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.  
Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy

**Reading: Regis, cares for the dying.**

St. John Francis Regis was an angel of consolation to the sick and the dying. We read this in his Life: visiting the sick and assisting the dying were among the occupations he loved best. He used to say that the good we do to sinners during their life is always in danger; we may sow the good seed, but the Enemy may sow weeds and choke it. But the good done to the dying is not exposed to human inconsistency or to the wiles of the Evil One; it decides their eternal state. So that he could be ready at a moment's notice, he never took off his clothes at night.

Nothing short of heroic courage could have enabled him to devote himself without reserve to occupations so contrary to nature. Those whose maladies were the most repulsive, had a special claim on the affection of the servant of God. We give an example: At the end of the village there was a poor man, all covered with ulcers and vermin... His state was such that no one could come near him, and accordingly he had to suffer all of his miseries without any alleviation. Regis heard of it, went to see him, and wept with compassion at the sight. It would be impossible to imagine all that his charity led him to do for this poor creature; he washed his wounds, got him bed and linen, and brought him food every day. One day, the poor man, wishing to express his gratitude, called Regis his father and deliverer. The saint was touched, embraced him, and exclaimed, 'Oh dear brother, it is I who have to thank you. I gain more than you do by my little services to you. I do nothing compared with what I ought to do and wish to do. I only beg as a favour that you will forgive me for having begun so late'.

—*François René Blot*: The Agonizing Heart

**Scripture:** Romans 12: 3-10

## **Petitions**

Strengthen, O Lord, the Catholic Church in Europe; make it a witness of your truth and love and an instrument of peace for all the world.

**Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Strengthen, O Lord, our brothers who guide the Spiritual Exercises; help them as they seek to guide others to deeper and more productive faith in You. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Strengthen, O Lord, our brothers who work in parishes and parish missions; let their work reflect the dynamism and loving care of the saints we remember today. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Strengthen O Lord, our cooperation with other priests and religious; may our mutual support help in building up the kingdom of God. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Strengthen, O Lord, our creativity in mission; help us to be eager to find new ways to evangelize so that all might come to You. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Strengthen, O Lord, our novices and scholastics; bring them to ever greater generosity and help them in their studies and work. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Individual intentions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

O God, you sent your holy priests to proclaim to villages and towns the Gospel of Peace. In our own day, call other workers to labour in the harvest with your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

## July 9

### St Léon-Ignace Mangin and Mary Zhu Wu and Companions Martyrs of the Chinese Boxer Rebellion

#### Opening Prayer

Faithful God, you inspired our brothers Leo Mangin and his companions with heroic courage in defending the lives of those Chinese Christians who had come to believe in the way of Christ, and dying with them as a final offering. Grant that we may be inspired by their example, and also be faithful and brave in our lives and missions. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord. *Amen.*

#### Psalm 126: 1-6

(Optional Response: *The Lord has done great things for us.*)

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;

then it was said among the nations,

“The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.

### **Reading: The Martyrdom of Léon-Ignace Mangin**

The Boxers first attacked Zhujiage on July 15, 1900 but they were quickly repulsed by the villagers who were well prepared. They were also able to bravely defend their citadel the following day when the Boxers attacked them again. However, on the 17th, when 2000 of the imperial army who were on its way to Peking (now Beijing), joined the Boxers, Fr Mangin saw that his people were badly outnumbered and knew that their defence would not hold for long. Although some people secretly left that evening, the remaining continued to defend themselves as best as they could. Although the priests were encouraged to depart so that they could continue their work elsewhere they chose to remain with their flock.

By the 20<sup>th</sup> the Boxers managed to construct towers that enabled them to scale the barricade and enter the village. With hope waning, Fr Mangin gathered the women and children into the chapel and there he and Fr Denn sat, facing the congregation, and led them in prayer. As the shouts and the sounds of gunfire grew louder and closer, some of the women began to panic, but Fr Mangin calmed them down saying: "Just a few minutes more and we will all be in heaven." The few remaining men, unable to withstand the onslaught of the final attack, staggered into the chapel and everyone waited for the end to come.

The Boxers broke down the church doors at around 9.00 am and saw a congregation on its knees in prayers and two bearded Jesuits at the altar. Meeting no resistance, the Boxers initially offered to spare all those who would renounce the faith but only a frightened few did. Then the massacre began. With the first round of gunfire, Fr Denn intoned the Confiteor and Fr Mangin pronounced the words of absolution. The two priests were the first to fall to the chapel floor.

*—Society of Jesus, Chinese Province: "Feast of Courage,  
Feast of St. Leo Mangin, SJ"*

**Scripture:** Sirach 51: 1-8

### **Petitions**

For the people and Church of China, that they can come to a full realization of their unity with the entire Catholic Church, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, graciously answer us.*

For the Society of Jesus, that we can boldly preach the Gospel in ways that are compatible with the unique cultures that we address, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, graciously answer us.*

For missionaries everywhere, and in a special way for those who are threatened by civil authorities and social impediments, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, graciously answer us.*

For our work with the poor, that the destitute, the handicapped, exiles and outcasts can be our special concern, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, graciously answer us.*

For the gift of courage and hope demonstrated by Leo Mangin and his companions for those who speak truth to power, we pray the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, graciously answer us.*

*Individual Intentions...*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

O God, you appointed blessed Leo Mangin to preach and bear witness to the Gospel. Pour out the rewards of the just on those who proclaim without fear the word of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. *Amen.*

## July 18

### **Bl. Tiburcio Arnaiz Muñoz** **Servant of Rural Parishes**

#### **Opening Prayer**

God, you extend your loving care to all of your people. Today we celebrate the life of our brother Tiburcio Arnaiz Muñoz, who dedicated his life to service of your children at the margin of society, whom he tenderly cared for and worked to inspire others to serve them. Help us also to go beyond where we are comfortable to serve those most in need. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord. *Amen.*

#### **Psalm 33: 1-9**

(Optional Response: *The Lord is faithful in all he does.*)

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.

Praise befits the upright.

Praise the Lord with the lyre;

make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.

Sing to him a new song;

play skilfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

For the word of the Lord is upright,

and all his work is done in faithfulness.

He loves righteousness and justice;

the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,

and all their host by the breath of his mouth.

He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;

he put the deeps in storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the Lord;

let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

For he spoke, and it came to be;

he commanded, and it stood firm.

## **Reading:**

Working from the Jesuit residence in Málaga, Fr. Arnaiz constantly gave the Exercises, offered spiritual direction, assisted in the diocesan seminary and promoted the Marian Congregations, the Apostleship of Prayer, the Adoración Nocturna and the Conferences of Saint Vincent de Paul. Following the impulses of his heart, he frequently visited the incarcerated in prison and the sick in their homes and in the hospitals. The people of Málaga frequently saw him helping the street children, hearing confessions in the Jesuit church, or setting out to give popular missions.

Completely forgetting himself, he sought only the interests of Jesus Christ — as the motto of his beatification attests — and tirelessly looked after the needs of the poor. The Virgin Mary was for him an abiding source of companionship and consolation.

In our own time, we can learn much from what Fr. Arnaiz did in his day ... In ways adapted to our present contexts, many of the rich qualities of Fr. Arnaiz can be put into practice: his promptness to detect and respond to structural problems; his energetic determination to undertake new works and persevere in them; his ability to attract and bring together people of diverse social origins for the sake of helping the poor; his admirable strength in confronting setbacks; his courageous evangelizing efforts even in difficult times and circumstances; his utter confidence in Providence; his firm personal love for Jesus Christ; and his generous and affable friendship with all types of people.

*—Father General Arturo Sosa, Letter of 11 October 2018*

**Scripture:** 1 John 3:11-17

## **Petitions**

Help us, Lord, to follow the example and imitate the zeal of Tiburcio Arnaiz; lead us to serve the most neglected and always witness to the Gospel. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Help us, Lord, to grow in our personal love of Jesus Christ; may we share both our joys and our sufferings as part of his body. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Help us, Lord, to be open to the challenges of our time and be ready to meet them; instil in us desire to renew ourselves both spiritually and intellectually. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Help us, Lord, to live full and generous lives in our community here; make us open to our brothers and more generous in helping them. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Help us, Lord, to cooperate with other religious orders and with diocesan missions; broaden our horizons to see the value of all and to work together. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Individual Intentions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Lord, you teach us that the commandments of heaven are summarized by love of you and love of our neighbour. By following the example of Tiburcio Arnaiz, may we walk with them and so both learn from them and be a source for their consolation and promotion of their rights. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. *Amen.*

**July 31**  
**St Ignatius of Loyola**  
**Founder of the Society of Jesus**

**Opening Prayer**

Lord God, you called us to be sons and brothers of St. Ignatius. As we celebrate his life and vision this day, help all of us, his sons, to become intimate friends of your Son, Jesus, and not count the cost of joyfully serving him in the Society of Jesus. We ask this in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

**Psalm 65: 1-8**

*(Optional Response: Where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.)*

Praise is due to you,  
    O God, in Zion;  
and to you shall vows be performed,  
    O you who answer prayer!  
To you all flesh shall come.

When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,  
    you forgive our transgressions.  
Happy are those whom you choose and bring near  
    to live in your courts.  
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,  
    your holy temple.

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,  
    O God of our salvation;  
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth  
    and of the farthest seas.  
By your strength you established the mountains;  
    you are girded with might.

You silence the roaring of the seas,  
    the roaring of their waves,  
    the tumult of the peoples.

Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;  
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening  
shout for joy.

**Reading: Letter to Inés Pascual, December 6, 1524**

For the love of God our Lord, endeavour always to carry out your desires, making nothing of the obstacles; for if you heed them not, temptation will have no strength whatever against you. That is what you must do, ever preferring the praise of the Lord to all things. And this the more, as the Lord does not command you to do things that may be injurious to your person, but on the contrary desires that you should live joyfully in Him, giving to the body that which it may need. And let speech, thoughts, and conversation be in Him, keeping the commandments of the Lord before our eyes; for this He desires and ordains...

For the love of our Lord, let us make efforts for Him, seeing that we owe Him so much; for we tire sooner of receiving his gifts than He of bestowing them upon us. Pray Our Lady to intercede for us sinners to her Son and Lord, that she may obtain for us grace in our labours and trials, and may convert our weak and bad natures into strong and joyful ones to her praise.

—*St. Ignatius of Loyola*

**Scripture:** Romans 12:1-5

**Petitions:**

For our General, \_\_\_\_\_, our Provincial/Regional Superior, \_\_\_\_\_, and our superior here, that God will bless their service to the Society and to us and give them wisdom and strength. **Response:** *St Ignatius, intercede for us.*

For the entire Society of Jesus, that we can serve the Church loyally and creatively, with special care for the missions of the Holy Father. **Response:** *St Ignatius, intercede for us.*

For those who give the *Spiritual Exercises*, and any work based on the spirit of the *Exercises*. **Response:** *St Ignatius, intercede for us.*

For each of us, that we will have the interior freedom to embrace new tasks and works, adapting the Society to meet new needs. **Response:** *St Ignatius, intercede for us.*

For the Society in our own country, that it can work with our political leaders to bring about the peace and justice that God desires for all. **Response:** *St Ignatius, intercede for us.*

For our fidelity to the Exercises and the *Constitutions of the Society*, that we can deepen our knowledge, devotion and love for our way to holiness. **Response:** *St Ignatius, intercede for us.*

*Individual Intentions....*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Father, you gave St. Ignatius of Loyola to your church to bring greater glory to your name. May we follow his example here on earth and share the crown of life in heaven. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. *Amen.*

\* \* \*

### **A Litany in Honour of St Ignatius**

Lord, have mercy on us  
Christ, have mercy on us  
Lord, have mercy on us  
Christ, hear us

Lord, have mercy on us  
Christ, have mercy on us  
Lord, have mercy on us  
Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of heaven,	have mercy on us.
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,	have mercy on us.
God, the Holy Ghost,	have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, one God,	have mercy on us.

St. Ignatius, founder of the Society  
of Jesus, Inflamed with divine love, pray for us.  
Promoter of the conversion of the world, pray for us.  
Zealous for the greater glory of God, pray for us.  
Dead to the world through the spirit of mortification,  
Conqueror of all perverse inclinations,  
Despiser of the world,  
Zealous instructor of youth,  
Support of Christ's Church against her enemies,  
Antagonist of heretical errors,  
Father of converted sinners,  
Perfect follower of Jesus Christ,  
Lover of voluntary poverty,  
Lover of angelical purity,  
Master of perfect obedience,  
Born again to divine love,  
Rapt in contemplation,  
Mirror of humility,  
Lover of fraternal charity,  
Promoter of peace among men,  
Singular for peace of mind,  
Enemy of sin,  
Perfect model of a religious life,  
Little before men, and great before God,  
Lover of heavenly glory,

Be merciful unto us, Spare us, O Lord  
Be merciful unto us, Graciously hear us, O Lord.

We sinners beseech You to hear us, hear us, O Lord.  
That we may do all to Your honour and glory,  
That we may be re-born to a better life,  
That we may die to the flesh and the world,  
That we may subdue our passions and vicious inclinations,  
That we shun sin as a plague,  
That we may detest all pride,  
That we may love purity,

That we may promote the instructions of youth,  
That we may learn to despise earthly goods,  
That we may be true followers of Christ,  
That we may bear patiently the loss of all temporal goods,  
That we may exercise purity and modesty on all occasions,  
That we may esteem the commandments of God and our  
superiors,  
That we may ever cultivate brotherly love,  
That we be little in this world, and great in heaven,  
That we may ever seek after eternal goods,  
Son of God,

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
–Spare us, O Lord  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
–Graciously hear us, O Lord  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
–Have mercy on us

Christ hear us!	– Christ graciously hear us!
Lord, have mercy on us.	– Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.	– Lord, have mercy on us.

Our Father, etc.

**V.** Pray for us, St. Ignatius.

**R.** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

**August 2**  
**St Pierre Favre**  
**Co-Founder of the Society of Jesus**

**Opening Prayer**

God our Father, we gather today to remember our brother Peter Favre, one of the first companions of our Father Ignatius, who served you in scholarship, preaching, and guiding others in the Spiritual Exercises. Help us so that we, too, can be grounded in knowledge, refined in judgment, and sensitive to the movements of your Spirit. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. *Amen.*

**Psalm 1: 1-6**

(Optional Response: *Our delight is in the law of the Lord.*)

Happy are those  
    who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,  
    or sit in the seat of scoffers;  
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
    and on his law, they meditate day and night.

They are like trees  
    planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
    and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so,  
    but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
    nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
    but the way of the wicked will perish.

**Reading: Favre and Ignatius**

Ignatius had arrived from Salamanca the previous year, and was preparing to recommence his philosophy from the very beginning, having studied it very superficially in Spain. He explained how matters stood to [John]Pegna, [the head of the college], who very willingly received him and, the better to assist him in his studies, introduced him to Peter Favre, that he might go over privately with him the lessons given in the schools. These two understood and appreciated each other from the time of their first conversations. Ignatius, discerning Favre's excellent disposition, ability, and learning, formed the idea of getting him to join in the great work which he was meditating on; and Favre, full of admiration for the prudence and sanctity of Ignatius, attached himself greatly to him, determining to take the opportunity of availing himself of him to the benefit of his own soul.

After Ignatius helped him with his scruples, Favre speedily regained complete peace and tranquillity of soul. From that time onward, instead of being the master, he became the student of Ignatius in spiritual matters, holding frequent and delightful conversations with him concerning God and heavenly things. So great, indeed, the pleasure he took in them, that it was necessary to put some check upon it. For when they met in the evenings to go over their lessons of philosophy, it would happen that one of them starting, even accidentally perhaps, some pious subject, they would unconsciously prolong the conversation on the same topic late into the night. This was a serious hurt to the studies of Ignatius, and they agreed not to make these digressions, nor to let themselves be diverted from the matter in hand during the hours appointed for their scholastic conferences.

—*Giuseppe Boero*

**Scripture:** Titus 3: 1-7

**Petitions**

Lord, we pray for hearts that are fervent in our love for you and gentle in dealing with those we serve. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Lord, help us to make the *Exercises* of St. Ignatius central in our lives, inspiring us to give all in response to your love. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Lord, through our understanding of the Exercises, help us to grow in interior freedom and practice spiritual discernment in our ministries. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Lord, we ask for a personal love for Christ poor and humble and zeal for the spread of the kingdom, and bravery in undertaking labours for your glory. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Lord, through our study of theology give us the knowledge and wisdom to speak to our contemporaries in ways that are effective and compassionate. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Individual intentions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Lord, Father of heaven and earth, you showed yourself to St. Peter Favre, your humble servant, in prayer and in service of his neighbour. Grant that, like him, we may find you and love you in all things. Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. *Amen.*

\* \* \*

### **Prayer of Pierre Favre**

I beg you, my Lord, to remove anything that separates me from you, or you from me. Remove anything that makes me unworthy of your sight, your control, your corrections; of your speech and conversation, of your benevolence and love. Cast from us every evil that stands in the way of my seeing you, hearing, tasting, savouring and touching you, fearing and being mindful of you;

knowing, trusting, loving and possessing you; being conscious of your presence and, as far as may be, enjoying you. This is what I ask for myself and earnestly desire from you. Amen  
-Jesuit Sacramentary, 2001.

### **Quotes from Pierre Favre**

“Take care, take care, never to close your heart to anyone!”

“Seek grace for the smallest things, and you will find grace to accomplish, to believe in, and to hope for, the greatest things. Attend to the smallest things, examine them, think about putting them into effect, and the Lord will grant you greater.”

“To find God in the works, compared to finding Him in prayer, is often like the actual execution, compared to the mere desire.”

“Having arisen in the quiet of the night to pray, I felt strongly inspired to do my very utmost to provide for the needy and homeless sick wandering about the city of Mainz.... Perhaps if we had a flair for business, we could concern ourselves more with this problem.”

“With the peculiar longing for a special insight into the ‘crawling gear’ and my depressed spirit I begged for the grace of spiritual uplifting: that my soul would no longer remain in the depth of ‘spiritual infirmity’ and ‘be bent down’ by the lowest of things, but be freed by the grace of Jesus Christ and be able to look for ever heavenward.”

## August 18

### St Alberto Hurtado-Cruchaga

#### Opening Prayer

Ever-faithful God and Father, today we remember the life and work of our brother, Alberto Hurtado, who dedicated his life to securing justice for workers and protection for the young. Help each of us also to see the urgent demands of justice in the oppression and abuses of our society, and strive to bring integrity and concern for the weakest among us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. *Amen.*

#### Psalm 95: 1-7

(Optional Response: *O come, let us worship the Lord.*)

O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
    let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
    let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God,  
    and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
    the heights of the mountains are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it,  
    and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down,  
    let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!  
For he is our God,  
    and we are the people of his pasture,  
    and the sheep of his hand.

#### Reading: The Dangers of Worldliness

The alarm about worldliness was aroused in me by the last chapter of the *Meditations on the Church*, by Henri de Lubac. He quotes a

Benedictine priest, Anscar Vonier, who speaks of worldliness as the worst evil that can happen to the Church. This stimulated in me the desire to understand what worldliness consists of. No doubt Saint Ignatius talks about this in the Exercises, in the third exercise of the first week, where he asks to discover the mistakes of the world. The theme of worldliness is in our Jesuit spirituality. The three graces we ask in that meditation are the repentance of sins, that is, the pain for sins, the shame, and the knowledge of the world, the devil, and his actions.

Therefore, in our spirituality we should be aware of worldliness and regard it as a temptation. It would be superficial to say that worldliness means leading a life that is too relaxed and frivolous. These are just consequences. Worldliness is using the criteria of the world, following the criteria of the world and choosing according to your criteria. It means discerning and preferring the criteria of the world. So, what we must ask ourselves is, what are the criteria of the world. And this is exactly what St. Ignatius asks for in that third exercise. And he advises that three requests be made: to the Father, the Lord, and the Virgin, to help us discover these criteria. Therefore, each one must seek what is mundane in his own life. A simple and general answer is not enough. What am I mundane? This is the real question. It is not enough to say what worldliness generally consists of. For example, a theology teacher can become mundane if he is looking for the latest idea to always be fashionable: this is mundane. But the examples can be numerous. And it is necessary to ask the Lord not to be deceived, seeking to discern what is the worldliness itself.

*—Pope Francis "Private meeting with Jesuit Priests"*

**Scripture:** James 1: 22-27

### **Petitions**

Let us pray for Jesuits and our collaborators who work to educate the poor and forgotten. **Response:** *Lord, give them the graces of enthusiasm and strength in their service.*

Let us pray for street children and other abandoned young people.

**Response:** *Lord, give them your protection and a chance to live positive and full lives.*

Let us pray that we will undertake new forms of evangelization.

**Response:** *Lord, inspire us to inspire others to greater knowledge of Christ and fidelity to his way.*

Let us pray for our brothers who are sick, especially those with chronic illnesses.

**Response:** *Lord, give them courage to bear their burdens with peace and confidence of your love.*

*Individual Intentions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

God our Father, in St. Alberto Hurtado you have given us a clear sign of your love. Through his prayers, grant that, faithful to your will, we may love our brothers and sisters with the love of Christ, and so advance your kingdom of justice, love, and peace. Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. *Amen.*

\* \* \*

### **Prayers of St. Alberto Hurtado**

Lord, there are so many who suffer in today's world and so few who know to forget their sorrow. I want to be Light, reflecting your Lamp and good leaven to raise up souls.

I thank you Lord because you have risen from the dead. And you put to death in my soul the anguish of sin.

If you ask my life, I want to give it to you content. If you don't want me to die, I want to live smiling. I want to laugh, I want to dream, I want to give to everyone the joy of loving.

\* \* \*

Lord, help me to speak the truth in front of the strong and not say lies to gain the applause of the weak. If you give me fortune, don't take happiness away from me. If you give me strength, don't take reason away from me. If you give me success, don't take humility away from me. If you give me humility, don't take dignity away from me.

Help us to always see the other side of the coin. Do not let me blame others of treason for not thinking like me. Teach me to love people as myself and to judge myself as others. Do not let me fall into pride if I triumph nor in despair if I fail. Rather, remind me that failure is the experience which precedes triumph.

Teach me that forgiving is the grandest for the strong and that revenge is the primitive sign of the weak. If you take away my fortune, leave me with hope. If you take away success, leave me with the strength to triumph from the defeat. If I fail people, give me the courage to ask pardon. If the people fail me, give me the courage to forgive.

Lord, if I forget You, don't forget me.

## September 2

**Bl. James Bonnaud and Companions  
Joseph Imbert and John Nicholas Cordier  
Thomas Sitjar and Companions  
Martyrs of Europe**

### **Opening Prayer**

Gracious Lord, you always provide the strength we need in the challenges and hardships of our lives. As we recall the patience and courage of our brothers killed in the French Revolution and Spanish Civil War, help us to also live our vocation and dedication to you even in the face of persecution and death. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. *Amen.*

### **Psalm 96: 1-8**

(Optional Response: *Give praise to the Lord, you family of nations!*)

O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvellous works among all the peoples.  
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the Lord made the heavens.  
Honour and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts.

### **Reading: The French Revolution and James Bonnaud**

Prior to the revolution in 1762, the French liberals had succeeded in suppressing the Jesuits in France with the closure of their schools and forcing them into exile. Hence the 23 blessed commemorated on September 2 and 3 are sometimes called ex-Jesuits because their martyrdom took place in the years of the Society's suppression. However, Pope Pius honoured them as Jesuits because they remained as Jesuits in desire and intention.

James Bonnaud was born in the West Indies, in today's Haiti. He was taken to France as a child and was educated at the Jesuit school in La Fleche. He entered the Society on Dec 20, 1758 and taught for two years at Quimper, Brittany. He entered the seminary of Saint-Firmin and then went to Flanders for his theology when the Jesuits were expelled from France where he had earned degrees in theology and canon law. He returned to France and served in the diocese of Paris where he wrote several scholarly works before his transfer to Lyons in 1788 to take up his appointment as the archbishop's vicar general. During his tenure, Fr Bonnaud, in the archbishop's Lenten pastoral letter, warned the faithful of an imminent persecution against all institutions, political, civil and religious. He continued to write against the revolutionaries and their anti-papal Civil Constitution and staunchly defended the rights of the Church. This made him a prime target for the revolutionaries to silence him. He was arrested sometime after August 10, 1792 and was among those imprisoned at the Carmelite monastery where he received his martyrdom for Christ on Sep 2, 1792.

—*Singapore Jesuits: "September 2nd: Blessed James Bonnaud, William Defraud & 12 Companions, SJ."*

**Scripture:** Romans 8: 31-36

### **Petitions**

For those who are persecuted by their government because of their faith, that God will give them courage and comfort, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, hear your people and answer our prayers.*

For nations throughout the world, that they will secure the human rights of those who live within their boundaries and act peaceably towards other nations, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, hear your people and answer our prayers.*

For the Church in Europe, that its evangelization will provide a message of hope and healing for those countries, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, hear your people and answer our prayers.*

For our lay brothers, in thanksgiving for their example of devotion to the Lord and service within the Society of Jesus, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, hear your people and answer our prayers.*

For vocations to the Society, that the example of our holy forebears in the Society will inspire young men to join us in our mission, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, hear your people and answer our prayers.*

*Individual Intentions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Father, you patterned the death of our brothers after the death of Christ, your Son. Through their intercession, give those who are persecuted for their faith, courage, peace, and even joy to stand strong amidst suffering. Break our hearts for those in oppression. Help us discover ways to empower and support the weak. We ask this through Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

## September 9

### St Peter Claver

### Patron of Slaves

#### Opening Prayer

Look kindly upon us, Lord God, as we gather to celebrate the life of our brother, Peter Claver. He spent his life ministering to those whose humanity had been stolen to enrich the strong and powerful. We ask that you will increase our compassion for all those whom the world counts as nothing, seeing them as our brothers and sisters. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

#### Psalm 86: 1-9

(Optional Response: *All nations shall come to you, O Lord.*)

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,  
for I am poor and needy.

Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;  
save your servant who trusts in you.

You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord,  
for to you do I cry all day long.

Gladden the soul of your servant,  
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.  
For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;  
listen to my cry of supplication.

In the day of my trouble I call on you,  
for you will answer me.

There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,  
nor are there any works like yours.  
All the nations you have made shall come  
and bow down before you, O Lord,  
and shall glorify your name.

### **Reading: Virtues of Peter Claver**

St. Peter's call was to these slaves; surely a unique vocation. No sympathy was his, no encouragement, nothing but open hostility, ill-concealed contempt, or at best irritating apathy. For forty years he met the incoming slave ship, to repeat day by day the same round of work.

In his life there are no startling or diversified events, no frequent voyages. St. Peter Claver crossed the seas but once, and never quit for the rest of his life, the country to which obedience restricted him. He performed no important negotiations, established or reformed no religious order, made no brilliant changes of places or circumstances. His actions are heroic, his miracles stupendous; but they are always the same, ever in the same place and for sane despised slaves. What was done yesterday by Peter Claver repeats tomorrow. So, his forty years of labour roll on in a crucified sameness. Variety in suffering, as in pleasure, change of place as of work renders them more relishing, now every and any alternative was denied to Peter Claver.... Nature had nothing to cling to in those forty years of Christ-like sacrifice among the slaves of Cartagena.

—Anonymous: The Life of St. Peter Claver, S.J

**Scripture:** Isaiah 1: 12-17

### **Petitions:**

For those who are today victims of slavery, bonded labour, forced migration, human trafficking and other kinds of exploitation.

**Response:** *Graciously hear us, O Lord.*

For the people of Colombia, for African Americans, and for African missionaries, whose patron is Peter Claver, we pray... **Response:** *Graciously hear us, O Lord.*

For those, like Peter Claver who spend their lives working for the freedom and the dignity of others. **Response:** *Graciously hear us, O Lord.*

For the Church and the Society, that they continue their mission to the most despised and the most powerless, and provide a voice for the voiceless. **Response:** *Graciously hear us, O Lord.*

That we will always be attentive to the needs of sick and elderly Jesuits. **Response:***Graciously hear us, O Lord.*

*Individual Intentions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

O God, you made St. Peter Claver a slave of the slaves and strengthened him with marvellous and patient love in their service. Grant that through his intercession we may seek the things that are of Christ, and love our neighbour in both deed and truth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

\* \* \*

### **Quotes of St. Peter Claver**

To love God as He ought to be loved, we must be detached from all temporal love. We must love nothing but Him, or if we love anything else, we must love it only for His sake.

We must speak to them with our hands by giving, before we try to speak to them with our lips.

Our salvation and perfection consist of doing the will of God which we must have in view in all things, and at every moment of our life.

To do the will of God, man must despise his own; the more he dies to himself, the more he will live to God.

### **Litany to St. Peter Claver**

Lord, have mercy on us!	Lord, have mercy on us!
Christ, have mercy on us!	Christ, have mercy on us!
Christ hear us!	Christ graciously hear us!
God, the Father of heaven,	Have mercy on us!
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,	Have mercy on us!

God, the Holy Spirit,  
Holy Trinity, One God,

Have mercy on us!  
Have mercy on us!

Holy Mary,	pray for us.
St. Joseph,	pray for us.
St. John the Baptist,	pray for us.
St. Peter and St. Paul,	pray for us.
St. Peter Claver,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, worthy son of St. Ignatius,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, priest of God and servant to the Church,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, generous imitator of St. Francis Xavier,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, brilliant light of the New World,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, who exchanged the riches of this world for evangelical poverty,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, apostle to blacks brought to the New World,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, who by vow made yourself slave of the slaves,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, refuge of the miserable,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, great wonder worker,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, who cured the sick and consoled the afflicted,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, Liberator of slaves unto the freedom of the children of God,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, model of evangelical industry,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, tender father of the poor and orphans,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, who made thyself all things to all in order to gain them for Christ,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, who in all trials of this life didst put thy trust in God,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, who wished to be counted as nothing and forgotten by men,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, who sought no other wisdom but the folly of the Cross,	pray for us.

Peter Claver, shining example of humility and self-renunciation,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, perfect example of obedience and subjection,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, intrepid apostle, powerful in word and deed,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, martyr for Christ for the salvation of souls,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, zealous lover of the most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, imitator of the suffering Saviour,	pray for us.
Peter Claver, powerful protector of all who invoke thee,	pray for us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,	Spare us O Lord!
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,	Hear us O Lord!
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,	Have mercy on us!

Christ, hear us, Lord, have mercy on us.	Christ, graciously hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.
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**Leader:** O God, who, in order to bring the poor to the knowledge of your most Holy Name, you gave your priest, St. Peter Claver, an admirable spirit of abnegation and heroic charity. Grant us through his intercession, not to seek our own satisfaction but the glory of your Divine son, that we may be able to love our neighbour in sincerity and truth, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

## September 10

### Bl. Francis Garate

#### Opening Prayer

May your grace enliven our hearts, sustaining God, as we remember the life and virtue of our brother Francisco Gárate, whose humility and dedication to service made him a model of courtesy and generosity. May we also grow in the gifts of respect for all you send into our lives and humility as we try to meet their needs. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

#### Psalm 67: 1-7

(Optional Response: *Be gracious to us, O Lord, and bless us.*)

May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,  
that your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our Lord, has blessed us.  
May God continue to bless us;  
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

#### Reading: Humility, Love and Service

Looking at Jesus we see he chose the path of humility and service. Rather, he himself is this path. Jesus was not indecisive; he was

not indifferent. He made a decision and followed it through until the end. He decided to become man and as a man to become a servant until his death on the Cross. This is the way of love, there is no other. Therefore, we see that love is not simply social assistance and not in the least social assistance to reassure consciences. No, that is not love, that is business, those are transactions. Love is free. Charity, love is life choice, it is a way of being, a way of life, it is a path of humility and of solidarity. There is no other way for this love: to be humble and in solidarity with others. This word solidarity in this culture of waste — what is not used is discarded — allows only those to remain who feel just, who feel pure and who feel clean. Poor things!

This word solidarity runs the risk of being deleted from the dictionary because it is a word that bothers us, it bothers us. Why? Because it requires you to look at another and give yourself to another with love. It is better to delete it from the dictionary because it bothers us. And as for us no, let us say: this is the way, humility and solidarity. Why? Because we priests invented it? No! It was Jesus; he said it! And we want to take this path. Christ's humility is not moralism or a feeling. Christ's humility is real; it is the choice of being small, of staying with the lowliest and with the marginalized, staying among all of us sinners. Be careful, this is not an ideology! It is a way of being and a way of life that comes from love and from God's heart.

This is the first point and I am very pleased to speak to all of you. Let's look at Jesus: he is our joy but also our strength, our certainty because he is the sure path: humility, solidarity, service. There is no other way.

*—Pope Francis: "Meeting with the Poor and Prison Inmates"*

**Scripture:** Ephesians 4:1-6

### **Petitions**

For our brothers, in thanksgiving for their generous service to the Society, and that young men will continue to be called to this unique way of service with us. **Response:** *Graciously hear us, O Lord.*

For theologians, philosophers and other Jesuits engaged in the intellectual apostolate, that they can effectively address the challenges and needs of different cultures. **Response:** *Graciously hear us, O Lord.*

That our universities can be welcoming to all the young people that they serve, and that the Society can continue to take special care in forming young people. **Response:** *Graciously hear us, O Lord.*

For Jesuits who work with enthusiasm and dedication in jobs where there is little notice and small rewards. **Response:** *Graciously hear us, O Lord.*

For the spirit of solidarity and making it as our sure and certain path in all our works and endeavours. **Response:** *Graciously hear us, O Lord.*

*Individual Intentions....*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

O God, who rewards the souls of the faithful, in Blessed Francis Gárate you have given us a shining example of unflinching faithfulness in rendering you service. Grant that, following in his footsteps, we may open our hearts to Christ and serve him in the poor. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

**September 17**  
**St Robert Bellarmine**  
**Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

**Opening Prayer**

O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts as you did into the life of our brother Robert Bellarmine, whom we remember as we gather today. As we seek to serve you in all ways, help us remember that ours is a learned ministry, always reflecting on your truth in the real situations in which we encounter your challenges and grace. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

**Psalm 19: 8-10, 15**

(Optional Response: *Lord, you have the message of eternal life.*)

The precepts of the Lord are right,  
    rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear,  
    enlightening the eyes;

the fear of the Lord is pure,  
    enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the Lord are true  
    and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold,  
    even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey,  
    and drippings of the honeycomb.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
    be acceptable to you,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

**Reading**

Robert, setting his young foot in scorn upon wealth, rank, kindred, honour and love, too, stepped coolly over the parental threshold,

and leaped upon his horse. As his father saw him ride away, he cried, "There goes the hope of our family! That is the one who might have raised us up again, he might have renewed the memory of his uncle." His uncle was a pope; and as the Jesuits professed to be shut out from all ecclesiastical preferences and civic dignities, the good man could have no idea that this boy would rise to be a cardinal, but thought he was thenceforth buried in sworn poverty.

Going directly to the house of the Gesu, Robert found a cordial welcome, such as well might be given to the representative of a Papal family. Enraptured with the attainment of the object so long coveted, he almost fancied himself numbered among the inhabitants of heaven. To his mind, Ignacio, the founder, was perfect above all that had ever been mortal; and his ambition, while treading the same ground, and living within the walls that had resounded with his voice, was to be more like Ignacio than like himself. On the very day of his entrance, he implored permission to take the vows of obedience, chastity and poverty, "A threefold cord, not easily to be broken whereby he might bind himself most closely to Christ and to his cross." After ten days of retreat he took the habit of the order, and entered on the duties of the house... and accordingly, the scion of the Ballarmini and Cervini went into the kitchen, washed the dishes, cleansed the tables, and chopped wood.

—*William Rule: Celebrated Jesuits, Vol. II.*

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31

### **Petitions**

We pray for the Society's theologians and philosophers, in thanksgiving for their efforts to cultivate and stimulate reflection on the truths of Christian faith. **Response:** *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

We remember the mission of the Society at the Roman schools, and pray for the men and women who have generously served in them. **Response:***Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

Let us pray for Catholic teachers who spread the faith, that they may inspire young Christian and new Christians by their goodness, devotion, and generosity. **Response:***Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

We remember catechists, whose patron is Robert Bellarmine, that they may continue to help the Church grow in knowledge and holiness. **Response:***Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

For refugees, displaced people, and immigrants seeking better lives and for the Church's efforts to provide protection and dignity for their lives. **Response:***Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

*Individual Intentions...*

## **Our Father**

### **Concluding Prayer**

O God, you provided the Bishop Saint Robert Bellarmine with wonderful learning and virtue to support the faith of your Church. Grant that through his intercession, your people may always find joy in their sincerity in that same faith. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

\* \* \*

### **Quotes from Robert Bellarmine**

Charity is that with which no man is lost, and without which no man is saved.

On the last day, when the general examination takes place, there will be no question at all on the text of Aristotle, the aphorisms of Hippocrates, or the paragraphs of Justinian. Charity will be the whole syllabus.

There is no one who is without faults, and who is not in some way a burden to others, whether he is a superior or a subject, an old man or a young one, a scholar or a dunce.

Peace and union are the most necessary of all things for men who live in common, and nothing serves so well to establish and maintain these as the forbearing charity whereby we put up with one another's defects.

It seems unbelievable that a man should perish in whose favour Christ said to His Mother: 'Behold thy son', provided that he has not turned a deaf ear to the words, which Christ addressed to him: 'Behold thy Mother.'

## September 27

### Anniversary of the Confirmation of the Society

#### Opening Prayer

Loving God, you inspired your Church to recognize the talents and zeal of our first companions, and to include them fully in the service of your people. Help us, who share their inspiration and passion for serving with Jesus your Son, continue to be ready to go anywhere and do anything for your greater glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

#### Psalm 103: 1-5, 11-12, 21-22

(Optional Response: *Bless the holy name of the Lord.*)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits—

who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as long as you live,  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

Bless the Lord, all his hosts,  
his ministers that do his will.  
Bless the Lord, all his works,  
in all places of his dominion.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

**Reading: Approval of the Society of Jesus**

Gathering in this beautiful city and remaining within its confines in order to complete and preserve the union of their society in Christ, they have drawn up a rule of life in accordance with the principles which they have learned by experience will promote their desired ends, and in conformity with evangelical precepts and the canonical sanctions of the fathers. The tenor of the aforesaid rule is as follows: He who desires to fight for God under the banner of the cross in our society, - which we wish to distinguish by the name of Jesus, - and to serve God alone and the Roman pontiff, his vicar on earth, after a solemn vow of perpetual chastity, shall set this thought before his mind, that he is a part of a society founded for the especial purpose of providing for the advancement of souls in Christian life and doctrine and for the propagation of the faith through public preaching and the ministry of the word of God, spiritual exercises and deeds of charity, and in particular through the training of the young and ignorant in Christianity and through the spiritual consolation of the faithful of Christ in hearing confessions; and he shall take care to keep first God and next the purpose of this organization always before his eyes. . . .

—Pope Paul III: *Regimini militantis Ecclesiae*

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 9: 10-15

**Petitions:**

Let us pray that our General \_\_\_\_\_, our Provincial/Regional Superior \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, our superior here, will lead us with patience and enthusiasm. **Response:** *Hear and answer us, O Lord.*

Let us pray for our missions and works throughout the world, that they will help build up the people of God and all people. **Response:** *Hear and answer us, O Lord.*

For our brother Jesuits, here and abroad, those moving ahead and those falling behind, that they will be blessed and they will be eager to find and follow God's will. **Response:** *Hear and answer us, O Lord.*

For vocations to the Society, that young men will be drawn to our way of life together in service of the Church. **Response:** *Hear and answer us, O Lord.*

For elderly Jesuits, in thanksgiving for the witness of fidelity and for their ongoing prayers for us and our missions. **Response:** *Hear and answer us, O Lord.*

*Individual intentions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we praise you and give you glory: we bless you for calling us to be your holy people. Remain in our hearts, and guide us in our love and service. Help us on this day of thanksgiving to let our light shine before others. Holy Trinity of love, we praise you now and forever. Amen!

## October 3

### St Francis Borgia

#### Opening Prayer

Merciful God, you continue to live in hearts that are true and just. Our brother Francis Borgia was eager to open all the world to the ministry of the Society, sending its members across the globe in service of your Church and your people. Help us also to have so great a vision and the courage to follow that vision in confidence and great undertakings. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

#### Psalm 121: 1-8

(Optional Response: *I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.*)

I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.  
He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.  
The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.  
The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.

### **Reading: Spiritual Advice from Francis Borgia**

Since the Holy Scriptures teach us that God will reward us according to our works, we ought to follow the advice of the Apostles, who exhort us to do good while there is yet time, because the night cometh, during which no one can work. Thus, when the thought of doing a good action presents itself to our mind, if reason approves and the will agrees — because this action is conformable to the rules of Holy Scripture, and may contribute to the glory of God and the salvation of our neighbour— we should be extremely diligent in executing it, because it is certain that a man loses much when he neglects to perform the good which he can do, and that it would have been incomparably better not to have had the thought than to have failed in accomplishing it, after having had it. It is for this reason that hell is said to be full of good intentions; for though it is true that good intentions are useless without good works, it is also true that no more efficacious means exists of obtaining eternal salvation, than the performance of good works, in whatever state a man may be. If he is in sin, these aid him to repent; and if he is in grace, they help him to obtain from God the gift of perseverance, according to the words of Scripture: “ He that hearkens to Me, shall not be confounded: and they that work by Me, shall not sin.” (Eccles. xxiv. 80.)

—*Francis Borgia, Letter to his Aunt*

**Scripture:** Hebrews 13: 1-3, 5-6, 14-16

### **Petitions**

May Saint Francis Borgia, who reigns in your kingdom, intercede for us; through his prayers grant us great enthusiasm and holiness of life. For this we pray. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We ask the Lord’s blessing in a particular way on our General, Fr. \_\_\_\_\_, his assistants and consultors. May they continue to lead the Society to greater devotion and greater service. For this we pray. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray for our schools, first opened to lay students by Francis Borgia, that they may continue to form young people dedicated to justice and to Christian service. For this we pray. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Borgia is the patron against earthquakes. Let us ask our Lord to keep safe all of those who suffer from natural disasters, (particularly \_\_\_\_\_), and those disasters caused by human failures. For this we pray. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray in a special way for Jesuits who work in mission countries, particularly lands where their lives might be in danger, that God will keep them safe and help their missions flourish, we pray. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Individual Petitions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

O Lord Jesus Christ, you called St. Francis Borgia from a royal court to your humble service. Grant through his intercession that those who, dead to sin, have renounced the world, may live for you alone. As you made Saint Francis glorious by following you in despising earthly honours, we pray that you would allow us also to become his companions in following Thee and in his glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**October 12**  
**Bl. Jan Beyzym**  
**Servant of Madagascar Lepers**

**Opening Prayer**

Lord, you have accomplished the work of human redemption, and never abandon those who are most in need. Our brother Jan Beyzym brought your presence to those most alone and despised, the lepers of Madagascar. Help us to give ourselves without fear to the people that are most dear to your heart. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

**Psalm88:** 1-4, 8-9, 13-14

(Optional Response: *Let my prayer come before you, O Lord*.)]

O Lord, God of my salvation,  
when, at night, I cry out in your presence,  
let my prayer come before you;  
incline your ear to my cry.

For my soul is full of troubles,  
and my life draws near to Sheol.  
I am counted among those who go down to the Pit;  
I am like those who have no help,

You have caused my companions to shun me;  
you have made me a thing of horror to them.  
I am shut in so that I cannot escape;  
my eye grows dim through sorrow.

Every day I call on you, O Lord;  
I spread out my hands to you.  
But I, O Lord, cry out to you;  
in the morning my prayer comes before you.  
O Lord, why do you cast me off?  
Why do you hide your face from me?

## Reading

There is no one at the lepers' side, no doctor, no priest, no nurse, absolutely no one. I am filling all the roles here: chaplain, mailman, sacristan, gardener, doctor. As for clothing, everyone covers himself as best he can, putting on an old sack found in a corner, or something similar. The food is primarily rice, rationed out at one kilo a week, which is just enough not to die of starvation. This is everything they have, no remedy, no bandages to dress the wounds and sores. Nothing... It is difficult to care for the sick here, because in addition to leprosy, they also have syphilis and scabies, and they are full of lice. However, this doesn't surprise me. How can these poor wretches bathe and groom their hair if they don't have fingers anymore, which have fallen off because of their leprosy?... If someone complains of a stomach-ache, you don't ask: "What did you eat?" but rather "Did you eat? And when?" I feel sick when I think of the great number of people who spend so much money on their whims and for incomprehensible pleasures, while we have nothing here....

I must remain constantly united to God and be capable of praying always... I have to get used to the bad odour a little, because here you don't smell the fragrance of flowers, but the stench of leprosy... At first, I couldn't look at the wounds, and, after having seen a particularly disgusting sore, I sometimes fainted. Now, I look at my poor patients' sores, I touch them while treating them or giving them Extreme Unction with holy oil, without being upset. To tell you the truth, I feel something in my heart when I tend to the sores, but only because I would prefer to have them all on me, rather than to see them on these poor and helpless people.

*—Letters of Father Beyzym. "A Fragment of the Third Letter."*

**Scripture:** Isaiah 56: 1-8

## Petitions

May Blessed Jan Beyzym, who reigns in your kingdom, intercede for us; through his prayers grant us great enthusiasm and holiness of life. **Response:** *Receive our prayer, O Lord.*

Help all who work with the sick and the abandoned; may their care show the face of Christ to those to whom they minister.

**Response:** *Receive our prayer, O Lord.*

Inspire us to have true indifference and freedom in our ministry; help us to look beyond our present service to the greatest needs.

**Response:** *Receive our prayer, O Lord.*

Show your loving mercy to the Church in Africa, particularly in Madagascar; lead it to greater inculturation and greater service.

**Response:** *Receive our prayer, O Lord.*

Free us from attachments to comfort and refined gentility; increase our commitment to follow Christ poor and humiliated. **Response:**

*Receive our prayer, O Lord.*

*Individual Petitions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

God, for the salvation of the leper sufferers in Madagascar you have bestowed upon Blessed Jan Beyzym, a priest of the Society of Jesus, the apostolic power and the heroic virtue of the merciful love. Give us the grace, excited by his example, to grow in love for the brothers and sisters who are in need and that we rush to their aid. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**October 19**  
**Sts Isaac Jogues, John de Brebeuf**  
**and Companions**  
**North American Martyrs**

**Opening Prayer**

God, in your wonderful providence you have strengthened the Society through the example of our brothers Isaac Jogues, John de Brebeuf, and their companions. Their service of the native peoples of the new world inspires us to move out with eagerness, zeal, and courage as we seek to serve those of our time who are most in need. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

**Psalm124: 1-8**

(Optional Response: *O Lord, hear our prayer.*)

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side  
—let Israel now say—

if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,  
when our enemies attacked us,  
then they would have swallowed us up alive,  
when their anger was kindled against us;

then the flood would have swept us away,  
the torrent would have gone over us;

then over us would have gone  
the raging waters.

Blessed be the Lord,  
who has not given us  
as prey to their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird  
from the snare of the fowlers;

the snare is broken,  
and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

**Reading: Life in the Mission to the First Nations**

We are, perhaps on the point of shedding our blood and sacrificing our lives in the service of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It seems that in his goodness He wishes to accept the sacrifice from me in expiation of my great and innumerable sins, and to crown from this hour my past services and the great and glorious deeds of all our Fathers who are here. What makes me think this will not take place is on account of my innumerable sins, which render me altogether unworthy of so wonderful a favour, and, moreover, I do not believe that God will permit His labourers to be killed, since, by His grace, there are here some good souls who ardently accept the gospel, notwithstanding the slanders and persecutions of those around us.

No matter how the First Nation people respond, we will try, with God's grace, to accept our sufferings patiently for His sake. It is indeed a singular favour to be permitted to suffer anything or endure any pain for love of Him. We now, indeed appreciate the great honour He has conferred upon us, in choosing us for His disciples. When, from among hundreds of others, He selected us to come to this country and bear with Him His cross, he conferred a great blessing upon us.

—*Letter of St. John de Brébeuf to his Superior at Quebec.*  
*In History of the Early Missions in Western Canada*

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 11: 21-29

**Petitions:**

For our brother Jesuits who work with Native Americans, Canada's First Nations, and with indigenous people everywhere, that their work can help indigenous people grow in dignity and self-determination. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For indigenous people throughout the world, that they can maintain a vital traditional culture while moving towards political, social, and economic equality. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

That we can work for sustainable development goals, including an end to hunger, poverty, reduction of pollution, and decent work and economic growth for all people. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

We remember particularly the Jesuits of Canada, that inspired by the North American martyrs, they can continue to serve with courage and dedication. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For each of us, that we can have the interior freedom to accept challenging work. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Individual petitions....*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Oh, God, you chose to embody the blessed hoe of your eternal kingdom by the toil of Saints John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues, and their companions and by the shedding of their blood. Graciously grant us that through their intercession the faith of Christians may be strengthened every day. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

\* \* \*

### **Novena of the North American Martyrs**

Holy Martyrs and patrons, protect this land which you have blessed by the shedding of your blood. Renew in these days our Catholic faith which you helped to establish in this new land.

Bring all our fellow citizens to a knowledge and love of the truth. Make us zealous in the profession of our faith so that we may continue and perfect the work which you have begun with so much labour and suffering.

Pray for our homes, our schools, our missions, for vocations, for the conversion of sinners, the return of those who have wandered

from the fold, and the perseverance of all the faithful. And foster a deeper and increasing unity among all Christians. Amen.

### **NOVENA PRAYER**

O God, who by the preaching and the blood of your blessed Martyrs, John and Isaac and their companions, consecrated the first fruits of the faith in the vast regions of North America, graciously grant that by their intercession, the flourishing harvest of Christians may be everywhere and always increased. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **PRAYER OF PETITION**

O God, who inflamed the hearts of your blessed Martyrs with an admirable zeal for the salvation of souls, grant me, I beseech you, my petitions and all the requests recommended here today, so that the favours obtained through their intercession may make manifest before men the power and the glory of your name. Amen.

St. John de Brébeuf, pray for us.

St. Isaac Jogues, pray for us.

St. Gabriel Lalemant, pray for us.

St. Anthony Daniel, pray for us.

St. Charles Garnier, pray for us.

St. Noël Chabanel, pray for us.

St. René Goupil, pray for us.

St. John de la Lande, pray for us.

Holy Mary, Queen of Martyrs, pray for us.

**October 21**  
**Bl. Diego Luis de San Vitores**  
**St Pedro Calungsod**  
**Martyrs of Guam**

**Opening Prayer**

Ever-present God, you want all people to walk in the light of your truth. Our brother Diego Luis de San Vitores led and supported Jesuits in the Pacific Islands in the face of loneliness, opposition and even death. Give us also the grace to be signs of hope and encouragement to one another as companions who seek to do your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

**Psalm:** 69: 1-3, 16-17, 30, 33

(Optional Response: *O Lord, in your abundant mercy, turn to me.*)

Save me, O God,  
    for the waters have come up to my neck.  
I sink in deep mire,  
    where there is no foothold;

I have come into deep waters,  
    and the flood sweeps over me.

I am weary with my crying;  
    my throat is parched.

My eyes grow dim  
    with waiting for my God.

Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good;  
    according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.  
Do not hide your face from your servant,  
    for I am in distress—make haste to answer me.

I will praise the name of God with a song;  
    I will magnify him with thanksgiving.  
For the Lord hears the needy,  
    and does not despise his own that are in bonds.

### **Reading:**

Diego Luis de San Vitores Alonso, still very young, hears a voice inside that attracts him and at the same time pushes him. He is attracted to Christ, the eternal envoy of the Father to save men, who impels him to march to distant lands as an instrument of his saving mission. After a long and exhausting journey to the East, by way of Mexico, he reached the Philippines, where he remained for five years before being sent to the Mariana Islands. In June 1668, Father San Vitores and his Jesuit companions reached the archipelago and established on the island of Guam the centre of their missionary activity. His apostolic zeal and complete dedication to those people in need of spiritual and human advancement characterized the years of this exemplary missionary, who, in imitation of the words of the Master “greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends”, shed his blood in sacrifice, while asking God to forgive those responsible for his death. The life of this new Blessed was characterized by a total availability to go wherever God called him. He speaks in urgent tones to the missionaries of today on the open and ready attitude to respond to the demands of the mandate: “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.”

—Pope John Paul II, “Beatification of three Servants of God”

**Scripture:** Zechariah 13: 7-9

### **Petitions**

We pray for Christians throughout the world who suffer from persecution and whose lives are in danger because of their faith.

**Response:** *Graciously answer us.*

For the people of the Pacific, that they can manifest faith in Christ through the unique expressions of their thought and culture.

**Response:** *Graciously answer us.*

For Jesuits who work in biblical, liturgical and ascetical theology, that their study and knowledge can enliven the faith of the Church.

**Response:** *Graciously answer us.*

For vocations to the Society, that our enthusiasm and witness to others will inspire young men to join us. **Response:** *Graciously answer us.*

For this community, that our life together can nurture each member in virtue, honesty, and joy. **Response:** *Graciously answer us.*

*Individual Intentions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

O God, through the ministry of Diego Luis, your priest, you revealed to unbelievers the light of the Gospel and the love of Christ. Grant that by his prayers, we too, may witness to the truth of the Gospel and its message of love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. *Amen.*

**October 30**  
**Bl. Dominic Collins**  
**Religious and Martyr**

**Opening Prayer**

Lord God, you always surround us with your protection and inspire us to be confident in your care. Our brother Dominic Collins so loved the Society that he demanded to wear his cassock while being executed, and so loved your Son's truth that he said he would be happy to die a thousand times for it. Give us, too, joy, relish and hearts on fire as we seek to live our devotion to your Son. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

**Psalm 97: 1-2, 5-6, 9-12**

(Optional Response: *The Lord guards the lives of his faithful ones.*)

The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice;  
let the many coastlands be glad!  
Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;  
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,  
before the Lord of all the earth.  
The heavens proclaim his righteousness;  
and all the peoples behold his glory.

For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth;  
you are exalted far above all gods.  
The Lord loves those who hate evil;  
he guards the lives of his faithful;  
he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

Light dawns for the righteous,  
and joy for the upright in heart.  
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,  
and give thanks to his holy name!

**Reading: Dominic (O’Cullen) Collins enters the Society**

Considering the splendour of O’Cullen’s birth, the symmetry and size of his powerful frame, which for beauty and stature was unsurpassed at that time; considering his taste in dress and his daily society with illustrious persons, Thomas White [to whom he applied to the Society] fancied that his countryman would not be fit for the hard every-day work of a lay brother. O’Cullen assured him that he had long and duly considered all these things; that he had learned to dislike the light and blaze of the world; that he had resolved to serve God in the shade and obscurity of a hard working life; and that the very difficulties and hardships put before him only intensified his desire to embrace the religious life of a coadjutor. He bid adieu to his fellow officers, and attended by some friends and servants went to St. James of Compestella, where he was received into the house of the Society there. At that time a highly contagious or infectious disease suddenly broke out in the College of Compestella, and he attended the sick most diligently, and sought out the lowest and meanest duties with as much eagerness as he had formerly coveted rank and dignities.

- *Rev. Edmund Hogan, S.J.:* Distinguished Irishmen of  
the Sixteenth Century.

**Scripture:** Ephesians 6: 10-18

**Petitions**

We pray that we may remain faithful to the spirit of the Spiritual Exercises. **Response:** *Help us, Lord, to be eager to follow Christ and to serve under the banner of the cross.*

We pray in a special way for the brothers of the Society. **Response:** *Increase their numbers, Lord, and bless their unique and vital ministries in the Society.*

We pray for the church in Ireland. **Response:** *Help it, Lord, to grow in strength, devotion, and service.*

We pray for the members of this community. **Response:** *Bless us, Lord, for the work that you have given us with the union of hearts and minds that nourished our first companions.*

We pray for all of those in military services. **Response:** *Keep them humane in their mission and comfort their fear and loneliness.*

We pray for the destitute, for the exiles, for the outcast of society. **Response:** *Increase our ability and eagerness to bring the gospel to them.*

*Individual petitions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

All-powerful and ever-living God, you gave us an example of marvellous humility and courage in our brother Dominic. For the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross despising its shame. Grant by his prayers that, faithful to your commandments, we may bring forth the fruits of unity and peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. *Amen!*

**October 31**  
**St Alphonsus Rodriguez**  
**Patron Saint of Jesuit Brothers**

**Opening Prayer**

O God, you bestow the glory of holiness in every time and place. As we recall the humble service of our brother Alphonsus Rodriguez, his continuous union with You and his ability to see your Son in everyone who crossed his path, give us a greater openness to your directions in our hearts and help us to make that real in our dealings with all your people. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

**Psalm 100: 1-5**

(Optional Response: *The Lord is compassion and love.*)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness;  
    come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.  
    It is he that made us, and we are his;  
    we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
    and his courts with praise.  
    Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good;  
    his steadfast love endures forever,  
    and his faithfulness to all generations.

**Reading: Virtues of Alphonsus Rodriguez**

Pope Leo XII, in his Brief for the Beatification of St Alphonsus Rodriguez, proposes him to the veneration of the Faithful especially as an example of humility and obedience, for which

virtues he was remarkably distinguished, and he is a remarkable instance of the fulfilment of that divine decree, “He that humbleth himself shall be exalted.” Alphonsus had all the qualifications which might have prompted him to aspire to the priesthood, yet his humility led him to offer himself to God in the grade of a Lay Brother, and God, in return, opened to him His mystical wine cellars, not only raising him to the most sublime degree of contemplation, but gave him the power of communicating the divine secrets to others, of guiding souls to salvation and sanctification, and forming them in heroic virtue.....

The charity of Alphonsus was so heroic, his love of God so pure and disinterested, that, as is usually the case with virtue which, in a notable degree, transcends the ordinary standard of human excellence, it was the object of suspicion and obloquy during his life. He was ordered by his Religious Superiors to commit to writing an account of that charity which he practised and recommended to others. In the first he expressed the gladness and joy of a soul imbued with this charity by reason of which it seeks to please God, and devotes itself perpetually, – “night and day” – to the investigation of the means of pleasing God. In the second he describes himself as so affected by this charity as to lose all recollection, both of his eternal happiness and the pains of hell. In the third he professes his soul, imbued with the aforesaid charity, to have excluded all considerations of his own interest, that is to say, of the reward of eternal glory.

–Henry Foley

**Scripture:** Isaiah 57: 14-19

### **Petitions**

That the Society of Jesus can be a living witness to the worth and dignity of all people by both what it says and how it lives, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

That those involved in spiritual direction, in retreat ministry and in all of our ministries, can help others find the will of God for

their lives and the courage to carry that out, we pray to the Lord.

**Response:** *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

That we can greet as we would greet Christ all those who come to our door, who visit our house, and who join us in prayer, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

That our brothers, through their lives of love and service, can witness to the love of Christ, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

That we all take time and effort to encourage and support younger Jesuits in their vocations, and work and live in such a way to inspire them, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

*Individual petitions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Oh God, in the faithful service of our brother Alphonsus you have shown us the way to joy and peace. Make us ready and watchful companions of Jesus, who became the servant of all, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

\* \* \*

### **Prayer of Alphonsus Rodriguez**

Jesus, love of my soul, centre of my heart! Why am I not more eager to endure pains and tribulations for love of you, when you, my God, have suffered so many for me? Come, then, every sort of trouble in the world. For this is my delight, to suffer for Jesus. This is my joy, to follow my Saviour, and to find my consolation with my consoler on the cross. This is my happiness, this is my pleasure: to live with Jesus, to walk with Jesus, to converse with Jesus, to suffer with and for him. This is my treasure.

## November 3

### Bl. Rupert Mayer

#### Opening Prayer

Father of mercy, you gave us in the life of our brother Rupert Mayer an example of courage in speaking your words of faith and justice even in the face of persecution and imprisonment. Help us to also remember that we are always in your loving hands, and always secure through your protection. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

#### Psalm 63: 1-8

(Optional Response: *The Lord is a refuge for us.*)

O God, you are my God, I seek you,  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.  
Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live;  
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.  
My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

I think of you on my bed,  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;  
for you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.  
My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.

### **Reading: Virtue of Rupert Mayer**

Father Rupert Mayer is rightly called “Apostle of Munich”. But the light of his life and work shines far beyond this city into the wide world. When Rupert Mayer, as a young priest, decided to join the Society of Jesus in 1900, the Jesuits were still officially considered “enemies of the empire”, who were expelled and prohibited by the country’s law. He himself describes them as “outlaws, exiles and homeless”, because they were not allowed to establish and maintain their own branches in the former Reich. The powerfully fuelled anti-Catholic agitation and activity against the Order - rather than deterring it - further strengthened his will to join this so vilified Society of Jesus. ... The more evident and brutal the struggle against religion and the church became in those years, the more determined and fearless a fighter for the truth of the faith and for the rights of the Church became our new blessed.

In the reading from the letter to the Ephesians, we heard the apostle’s words: “Put on the armour of God so that you can withstand the worst day, accomplish everything and stand the battle. . . Rupert Mayer did an excellent job of what the apostle recommends here. He put on God’s armour and never took it off until his death. Fearless and unyielding, he fought for the cause of God. As an incorruptible witness of the truth, he resisted the lying prophets of those years, always ready to fight for the gospel of peace, armed with the shield of a deep, unwavering faith, he wielded the sword of the spirit in his famous sermons, that is the word of God.

*—Pope John Paul II: Homily at the Beatification of Rupert Mayer*

**Scripture:** Isaiah 26: 7-9; 12-13

### **Petitions**

For the Church throughout the world, that it can continue to speak boldly for peace and justice, we pray. **Response:** *Lord, in your mercy answer us.*

For Christians who seek and hold public office, that they may never be ashamed of living their faith, we pray. **Response:** *Lord, in your mercy answer us.*

For those who work with sodalities and other pious organizations, that they may draw closer to God and be signs of his presence to others, we pray. **Response:** *Lord, in your mercy answer us.*

For all of us, that the service of faith and promotion of justice, substantially tied, may remain at the heart of our mission, we pray. **Response:** *Lord, in your mercy answer us.*

For vocations to the Society, that young men will be inspired to follow Christ with the heroic witness of Rupert Mayer, we pray. **Response:** *Lord, in your mercy answer us.*

*Individual Intentions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

O God, you made Rupert Mayer a steadfast confessor of the faith and a servant of the poor. Through his intercession, raise up in your Church fearless heralds of the Gospel, and give us all a heart open to the needs of others. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. *Amen.*

**Prayer of Blessed Rupert Mayer**

*Lord, let happen whatever you will;  
and as you will, so will I walk;  
help me only to know your will!  
Lord, whenever you will, then is the time;  
today and always  
Lord, whatever you will, I wish to accept,  
and whatever you will for me is gain;  
enough that I belong to you.  
Lord, because you will it, it is right;  
and because you will it, I have courage.  
My heart rests safely in your hands!*

## November 5

### All Saints and Blessed of the Society of Jesus

#### Opening Prayer

Almighty and loving God, you have blessed us with so many brothers outstanding in holiness and passionate in the ministries entrusted to us by your Church. As we recall their exemplary lives, help us to grow to be more like them and to remember all that we have received from your loving hands. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

#### Psalm: 145 (1-5, 8-9, 18-19)

(Optional Response: *Every day I will extol you, O Lord.*)

I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.  
Every day I will bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,  
and his greatness is unsearchable.  
One generation shall commend your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.

On the glorious splendour of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.  
The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The Lord is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

The Lord is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.  
He fulfils the desire of those who fear him;  
he also hears their cry and saves them.

**Reading: St Ignatius to the Fathers and Brothers at Coimbra**

In this matter I will not refrain from spurring on even those of you who run. For I can say without doubt that you will need to strive after great things in learning and virtue, if you are to satisfy the expectations of many, not only in your own native country but in other parts, who see the help and interior and exterior training given to you by God, and rightly look for an exceptional result. Hence it is that no mediocre result would meet the obligation you have of doing well. Consider what is your vocation, and recognise that what in others is not little would be so in you.

For not only has God called you “Out of darkness into his wonderful light, and has transferred you into the kingdom of the Son of his love”, as he called all the faithful, but in order that you might better be preserved in innocence of life, and be bound by a closer love to the spiritual things of His service, He has deigned to take you out of the perilous gulf of this world, so that your conscience might not be troubled amid the storms that are continually raised by the winds of desire, now of wealth, now of honours, now of sensible delights, or, if they are acquired, by the fear of losing them.

Besides what I have said, another reason why He has called you is that these abject things might not engross your understanding and your love, and distract and scatter them on every side, but that you might concentrate yourselves and be turned in one direction, being occupied in that alone for which God created you, which is his honour and glory, your own salvation and the succour of your neighbour.

—*St. Ignatius Loyola*

**Scripture:** Colossians 1: 9-14

**Petitions**

That we may serve faithfully beneath the banner of the cross as soldiers of the Lord in the Society which is designated by the name of Jesus, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, bless your least Society*

That the horizon of our vision may embrace the whole world, so that we may work to make all people one in the fullness of Christ, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, bless your least Society*

That we may truly be ‘the least Society’, serving rather than dominating, and collaborating with others even anonymously and with simplicity, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, bless your least Society*

That we may work at our tasks with untiring zeal and generous hearts, and so come to know how far Christ’s bounteousness exceeds our own, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, bless your least Society*

That those who support us and those who work with us will be blessed abundantly in all of their needs, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, bless your least Society*

*Individual Intentions...*

## **The Lord’s Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you know our weakness, yet you call us to your service. Bring to fulfilment in the Society the work you began in Ignatius and so many holy companions. Help us to fight the good fight under the banner of the cross. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

\* \* \*

### **Litany of all Saints and Blessed of the Society**

Lord, have mercy,

*Lord, have mercy.*

Christ, have mercy,

*Christ, have mercy.*

Lord, have mercy,

*Lord, have mercy.*

Christ, hear us,

*Christ, graciously hear us.*

God, our Father in heaven, *Have mercy on us.*  
God the Son, Redeemer of the World, *Have mercy on us.*  
God the Holy Spirit, *Have mercy on us.*  
Holy Trinity, one God, *Have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary, Mother of our Lord and  
Saviour Jesus Christ, *Pray for us.*

Holy Mary, Mother and Queen of  
our Society, *Pray for us.*

Holy Virgin of Montserrat, *Pray for us.*

Our Lady of the Way, *Pray for us.*

Holy Father Ignatius, *Pray for us.*

St. Francis Xavier, first companion and  
missionary,

St. Peter Faber, first companion and apostle of  
the Spiritual Exercises,

St. Francis Borgia, model of renunciation,

St. Stanislaus Kostka, model and patron of  
novices,

Sts. Edmund Campion, Robert Southwell and  
companions, martyrs of Christ in England,

St. Aloysius Gonzaga and St. John Berchmans,  
models and patrons of our scholastics,

Sts. Paul Miki, James Kisai and John Soan de  
Goto, martyrs of Christ in Japan,

St. Peter Canisius and St. Robert Bellarmine,  
doctors of the church,

St. John Ogilvie, martyr of Christ in Scotland,

Sts. Bernardine Realino, John Francis Regis and  
Francis Jerome, missionaries to people  
in town and country,

St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, model and patron of  
our brothers,

Sts. Melchior Grodziecki and Stephen Pongrác,  
martyrs of Christ in Košice,

Sts. Roch Gonzalez, Alphonsus Rodriguez and  
John del Castillo, martyrs of Christ in  
Paraguay,

Sts. John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues and  
companions, martyrs of Christ in North  
America,

St. Peter Claver, defender of the slaves in South  
America,

St. Andrew Bobola, martyr of Christ in Poland,

St. John de Brito, martyr of Christ in India,

St. Claude La Columbière, faithful friend and  
apostle of the Sacred Heart,

St. Joseph Pignatelli, hallowed link of the old  
and the restored Society,

Sts. Leo Mangin and companions, martyrs of  
Christ in China,

St. Joseph Rubio, apostle of Madrid,

St. Joseph de Anchieta, apostle of Brazil,

St. James Berthieu, martyr of Christ in  
Madagascar,

St. Alberto Hurtado, agent of social change in  
Chile,

All you Saints of the Society of Jesus,

*Blessed Ignatius de Azevedo and companions,  
martyred while sailing for Brazil,*

*Pray for us.*

*Bl. Thomas Woodhouse, Ralph Ashley and  
companions, martyrs of Christ in England,*

*Pray for us.*

*Bl. Rudolph Acquaviva, Francis Aranha and  
companions, martyrs of Christ in India,*

*Bl. James Salès and William Saultemouche,  
martyrs of the Eucharist in France,*

*Bl. Charles Spinola, Sebastian Kimura and  
companions, martyrs of Christ in Japan,*

*Bl. Dominic Collins, martyr of Christ in Ireland,*

*Bl. Diego Luis de San Vitores, martyr of Christ in  
Micronesia,*

*Bl. Julian Maunoir and Anthony Balducci,  
zealous preachers of God's Word,  
Bl. James Bonnaud and companions, martyrs  
of Christ in France,  
Bl. John Beyzym, servant of lepers in  
Madagascar,  
Bl. Miguel Pro, martyr of Christ in Mexico,  
Bl. Francis Garate, humble doorkeeper who  
found God in all things,  
Bl. Rupert Mayer, apostle of Munich and fearless  
witness of truth,  
Bl. Tomás SitjarFortiá and companions, martyrs  
of Christ in Valencia,  
All you Blessed of the Society of Jesus,*

*Fathers and Brothers, Scholastics and Novices  
of the Society who have preceded us in the  
service of the Lord,*

*Pray for us.*

### **Let us pray**

Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, though we are sinners, you have called us to be his companions and to engage in the crucial struggle of our time, the struggle for faith, justice and love. Bring to completion in us the work you began in Ignatius and so many of his followers. Place us with your Son, as you placed them, and take us under the banner of the Cross to serve him alone and his Church. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## 6 November

### The Commemoration of all the Departed of the Society of Jesus

#### Opening Prayer

Loving God, you have gifted our Company with so many servants dear to your heart and dear to ours. As we recall their lives and holiness, and their profound hope in the Resurrection of Jesus, your Son, may our fidelity also be strengthened as we seek to do your will in all things. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Bn f o/*

#### Psalm 63: 1-5, 7-8

(Optional Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord our God.)

O God, you are my God, I seek you,  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary  
beholding your power and glory.  
Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live;  
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.  
My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.

For you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.  
My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.

#### Reading: St Ignatius on Attaining Peace and Holiness

From your letters and also from those of others, but mostly from your own, we understand what your condition is, and we are all the

sorrier about it since we so desire your spiritual good and eternal salvation. You are much mistaken in thinking that the cause of your unrest, or lack of progress in the Lord, is the place where you are or your superiors or your brethren. It comes from inside, not from without: from your lack of humility, lack of obedience, lack of prayer—in a word, from your lack of mortification and fervour in advancing along the way of perfection. You can change residence, superiors, and brethren; but unless you change your interior person, you will never do well; you will be the same wherever you are until you become humble, obedient, devout, and mortified in your self-love. And so this is the change you should seek, not the other; I mean, you should try to change the interior man and recall him to God's service. Give up the thought of any external change: you will either be good there in Ferrara or in none of the colleges. We are all the more certain of this because we know you will be able to be helped better in Ferrara than any place else. I give you one piece of advice: go to your superior in heartfelt humility, ask his help, open your heart to him in confession or however you like, and accept with devotion whatever remedies he may give you; busy yourself with examining and bemoaning your own imperfections rather than with contemplating those of others. Try to give more edification in the future; do not try the patience of those who love you in Christ our Lord and would like to see you his good and perfect servant.

—Letter of St. Ignatius to Bartolomeo Romano,  
26 January, 1555.

## **Petitions**

In place of petitions, the leader can present names of members of the community or province who have recently passed away, giving time for brief reflection and prayer after each name.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Grant we pray, O Lord, that the souls of our brothers whom you honoured with a call to the Society of Jesus while they lived with us, may exult forever in their glorious home, again by your

side in the final days. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. *Amen.*

\* \* \*

### **Litany for the Faithful Departed**

Lord, have mercy of us,	Lord, have mercy of us.
Christ have mercy on us,	Christ have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us,	Christ, graciously hear us.
God, the Father of Heaven	Have mercy on the faithful departed.
God, the Son, redeemer of the world,	Have mercy on the faithful departed.
God, the Holy Spirit, Comforter,	Have mercy on the faithful departed.
Holy Trinity, one God,	Have mercy on the faithful departed.
Mary, Mother of God,	pray for the faithful departed.
St. Michael,	pray for the faithful departed.
All you angels and archangels,	pray for the faithful departed.
St. Joseph,	pray for the faithful departed.
All you holy patriarchs and prophets,	pray for the faithful departed.
All you apostles and evangelists,	pray for the faithful departed.
All you holy martyrs,	pray for the faithful departed.
All you holy bishops and confessors,	pray for the faithful departed.
All you holy monks and hermits,	pray for the faithful departed.
All you holy virgins and widows,	pray for the faithful departed.
All you saints and blessed of our Society,	pray for the faithful departed.
All you saints of God,	pray for the faithful departed.
Be merciful,	spare them, O Lord.
Be merciful,	graciously hear us, O Lord.
From all evil,	O Lord, deliver them.
From long-enduring sorrow,	O Lord, deliver them.
Through your holy nativity,	O Lord, deliver them.
Through your infinite love,	O Lord, deliver them.
Through your carrying of the cross,	O Lord, deliver them.

Through your most loving death,	O Lord, deliver them.
Through you five most holy wounds,	O Lord, deliver them.
In the day of judgement,	We beseech thee, hear us.
You who forgave Magdalene and the thief,	We beseech thee, hear us.
That you would deliver our friends and family from the pains of hell,	We beseech thee, hear us.
That you would have mercy on those forgotten on earth,	We beseech thee, hear us.
That you would have mercy on our dear brothers,	We beseech thee, hear us.
That you will receive them into the company of the blessed,	We beseech thee, hear us.
King of Majesty,	We beseech thee, hear us.
Son of God,	We beseech thee, hear us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,	Grant them eternal rest.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,	Grant them eternal rest.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,	Grant them rest eternal.
Christ, hear us.	Christ, graciously hear us.
Lord, have mercy,	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy,	Deliver their souls, O Lord.
O Lord, hear our prayer,	And let our cry cometo you.

**Let us pray.** O Eternal God, who has commanded particular love for our parents, family, benefactors, and our brothers in the Society, grant, we beseech you, that as they were instruments of your providence, providing us innumerable example and blessings, so may our prayers obtain for them admittance into your infinite peace and joy. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
—and let the perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

**November 13**  
**St Stanislaus Kostka**  
**Patron of Novices**

**Opening Prayer**

Lord God, you are always generous with your gifts to your sons and daughters. Today we recall and honour the memory of our dear brother, Stanislaus, who continued throughout his short life to eagerly and boldly pursue his burning desire of serving you in the Society. Help us to be meek, amiable and modest with others but passionate in fulfilling your holy will. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

**Psalm 71: 1-6; 16-17, 19**

(Optional Response: *You, O Lord, are my hope; my trust, O Lord, from my youth.*)

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.  
In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;  
incline your ear to me and save me.

Be to me a rock of refuge,  
a strong fortress, to save me,  
for you are my rock and my fortress.  
Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

For you, O Lord, are my hope,  
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.  
Upon you I have leaned from my birth;  
it was you who took me from my mother's womb.  
My praise is continually of you.

O God, from my youth you have taught me,  
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

Your power and your righteousness, O God,  
    reach the high heavens.  
For you, O Lord, are my hope.

**Reading: A letter by Father Wolfgang Perringer to St. Francis Borgia**

Very Reverend Father in Christ, a Polish youth of noble birth, but nobler still by virtue, has been for a full two years begging to be received, and yet his request could not be granted, not merely because he has been our table-companion, and was still a scholar at our college, but for certain other reasons. In despair of getting his parents' leave for this step, a few days back he left the city, with the fixed intention of trying if he could obtain what he desired in some other place. He was a great model of firmness and piety, dear to all, a trouble to none, a boy in age, a man in prudence, small in body, great and lofty in mind. Day and night his only thought was Jesus and the Society. Oftentimes with tears in his eyes he implored the superiors to accept him, and begged the Nuncio by letter to force them to do so, but when he saw that all was in vain, he determined, even against the will of his parents, brothers, and friends, to run away and by some other means get an entry into the Society. If he could not obtain that in the place to which he was directed, then he was resolved to go as a pilgrim for the rest of his life, in utter poverty and loneliness for the love of Christ. Those of ours to whom he disclosed his design, tried to dissuade him... assuring him that when his parents saw his constancy, they would without difficulty consent to his lawful request. But he maintained firmly that he knew his parents better than they, that it was vain to expect anything of the kind from them, and that he fully resolved to put into execution what he had promised to Christ Jesus.

—Henry Coleridge, S.J.: *St. Stanislaus Kostka. Burns & Oates, 1875*

**Scripture:** 1 Timothy 4: 8-12

**Petitions**

Bless, O Lord, all the leaders of the Church and of the Society of Jesus: give them gifts of faith, wisdom, courage, and love.

**Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Bless, O Lord, all of our novices on their patron's feast: give them great piety, zeal, and perseverance. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Bless, O Lord, the entire Society of Jesus: Give us greater dedication to fulfilling your mission of faith and justice. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Bless, O Lord, young people throughout the world: draw them closer to your son and help them find meaning in the service of others. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Bless, O Lord, those who are considering their vocations, particularly our candidates and pre-novices: lead them to follow your will and the life you offer them. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Bless, O Lord, the poor, the excluded and the abandoned: help them, to find a voice in a world and a place at your table. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Individual Petitions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Lord our God, you loved St. Stanislaus for devoting himself to you with the ardour of youth. Grant that we, too, may fill our days with eager service, and run the path of your commandments. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

\* \* \*

## **Novena to St. Stanislaus Kostka**

Saint Stanislaus, I rejoice with you in that singular gift of virginal purity which graced your spotless heart; and I humbly beseech you, obtain for me the strength to overcome temptations to

impurity, and inspire me to continual vigilance in keeping intact the virtue of holy purity.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.*

Saint Stanislaus, my patron most loving, angel of charity, I rejoice with you in the glowing flame of love that kept your pure and sinless heart always at peace and united to God: I humbly beseech you to obtain for me so strong a flame of divine love as shall consume every affection for things of earth, and set me on fire with heavenly love alone.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.*

Saint Stanislaus, my patron most tender and most powerful, angel of purity and seraph of love, I rejoice with you in your happy death, a death caused by your longing to see Mary who was taken up bodily into heaven, and consummated by a mighty impulse of love toward her. I give thanks to Mary who was pleased to hear and answer your prayers, and I implore you, by the glory of your happy death, to be the advocate and patron of my death. Intercede with Mary for me that my death, if not so happy as yours, may at least be peaceful under the protection of Mary, my Advocate, and of you my special patron.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.*

*L. Pray for us, O holy Stanislaus,*

*R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

### **Let us pray**

O God, who among the other wonderful works of your wisdom, bestowed the grace of ripe holiness on those of tender years: grant, we beseech you, that we, following in the footsteps of blessed Stanislaus and restoring our time and place by unremitting labour, may hasten to enter into our eternal rest. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## November 14

### St Joseph Pignatelli

#### Opening Prayer

O God, your goodness bestowed on our brother Joseph Pignatelli unfailing care for his brother Jesuits during the persecution and exiles of our suppression and the quiet progress of our restoration. Give us also the same unfailing love for our lives as Jesuits and the desire to generously encourage our brothers in the Society. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

#### Psalm 40: 1-5

(Optional Response: *The Lord has done great things for us!*)

I waited patiently for the Lord;  
    he inclined to me and heard my cry.  
He drew me up from the desolate pit,  
    out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock,  
    making my steps secure.

He put a new song in my mouth,  
    a song of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear,  
    and put their trust in the Lord.

Happy are those who make  
    the Lord their trust,  
who do not turn to the proud,  
    to those who go astray after false gods.

You have multiplied, O Lord my God,  
    your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;  
    none can compare with you.  
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,  
    they would be more than can be counted.

### **Reading: The Virtue of Pignatelli**

In 1767, when the Jesuits of Aragon were brutally thrown into transport vessels, the Spanish government tried to make an exception in favour of Father Idiaquez de Grenade and both Pignatellis, who were brothers of the Count de Fuentès. All three of these men rejected these offers with noble and heroic perseverance, wanting to share the fate of their unfortunate brothers. When strong appeals were made to Father Joseph Pignatelli, this holy man, even though he was seized with a violent vomiting of blood, replied: 'Stop tormenting me on this point; my decision is irrevocable. What do I care whether I die on land or sea, and whether my body is the food of worms or fish? All that matters to me is that I die in the company of my Jesuit brothers.'

Pignatelli was in Ferrara when the Writ of Suppression appeared; the pain it caused him was equal to the love which he carried for the Society. But, as was expected of him, he met this cruel event just as he would have received some delightful benefit of a kind Divine Providence. Yet he begged the Author of Life to preserve him in the spirit of the Society, and though he was now free of any obligation, he refused to accept exclusion from the goal of perfection in saintliness that was found in one so generously devoted to God.

—*Gustave François Xavier de Lacroix de Ravignon:*  
Clément XIII et Clément XIV

**Scripture:** Isaiah 40: 9-17

### **Petitions**

That we may realize a continuing, personal conversion and so find Christ in the brokenness of the world, and live in solidarity with the poor and outcast, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

That we may gain a deep respect for everything that has been brought about in human beings by the Spirit who blows where she wills, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

That we may collaborate more effectively with lay people and all of those who hunger and thirst for justice, to create a world fit for all people to live in, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

That through deeper and more profound spiritual experience of the *Exercises* we can continually renew our faith and apostolic hope, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

That we, too, may exercise courage and leadership in dark times and so lend strength to others, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Lord, graciously hear us.*

*Individual intentions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Lord, God, in times of trouble you gave Saint Joseph Pignatelli steadfast courage to reunite his scattered companions. May we always support one another and remain faithful to our calling in the midst of every change. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

\* \* \*

### **Prayer of St. Joseph Pignatelli**

My God, I do not know what must come to me today. But I am certain that nothing can happen to me that you have not foreseen, decreed, and ordained from all eternity. That is sufficient to me. I adore your impenetrable and eternal designs to which I submit with all my heart. I desire, I accept them all, and I unite my sacrifice to that of Jesus Christ, my divine Saviour. I ask through his name and through his infinite merits, patience in my trials, and perfect and entire submission to all that comes to me by your good pleasure. *Amen.*

## November 16

### **Sts. Roque Gonzalez, Alphonsus Rodriguez and John del Castillo, Martyrs of Paraguay**

#### **Opening Prayer**

Ever-gracious God, today we honour our brothers Roque Gonzalez, Alphonsus Rodriguez, and John del Castillo, who worked tirelessly to protect the indigenous people of the new world and provide them with the consoling message of your loving care. Help us to also be passionate for justice and creative in our approach to those people on the margins to whom you send us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

#### **Psalm 140: 1-2, 4, 6-7, 12-13**

(Optional response: *Lord, show us your love and your mercy!*)

Deliver me, O Lord, from evildoers;  
protect me from those who are violent,  
who plan evil things in their minds  
and stir up wars continually.

Guard me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked;  
protect me from the violent  
who have planned my downfall.

I say to the Lord, "You are my God;  
give ear, O Lord, to the voice of my supplications."  
O Lord, my Lord, my strong deliverer,  
you have covered my head in the day of battle.

I know that the Lord maintains the cause of the needy,  
and executes justice for the poor.  
Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name;  
the upright shall live in your presence.

**Reading: Life in the Paraguay Mission**

When they have hopes of gaining a barbarous nation over to Christ, a Missionary sets out directly with his Breviary under his arm, and a stick headed with a cross in his hand. He commonly takes some thirty Indians, who are his interpreters, and by that means join with him in the function of preachers and apostles. They are often obliged to travel above a hundred miles with a hatchet in hand, to cut a passage through the forests, before they can reach the habitation of the Savages. Sometimes they climb steep and craggy mountains, wade through bogs and fens, lakes, deep and rapid rivers. Commonly the bare ground, or a slender mat, is the only bed they have. Happy is the man who sets out with a hammock, wherein to rest at night, secure from the bites of venomous serpents and the attacks of wild beasts. They are frequently reduced to a few handfuls of *maize* for their food. Their provisions are often quite spent on long expeditions, and the travellers have no other relief but wild roots and fruits. At other times they are forced to suck the dews from the leaves, to allay the thirst that torments them under the excessive heats of a burning sun. When they meet a body of savage Indians, they find them always armed and ready to be on the defensive, from a fear the savages have of the Spaniards, who have sometimes surprised them disguised as Jesuits or Reduction-Indians. As often as they have room to suspect that a Missionary, who is in search of them, comes from any part of the Spanish dominions, his arrival immediately causes a public tumult, not easy to be pacified, and of which the Missionary is frequently the victim.

—L. A. Muratori: *A Relation of the Missions of Paraguay...*

**Scripture:** Isaiah 41: 14-20

**Petitions**

For the entire Church, that we will strive mightily in calling others to faith in the Gospel and to justice for all people, we pray.

**Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For indigenous people everywhere, especially those served in this nation, that the Lord will care for them and that their dignity and cultural heritage will be protected, we pray. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

That the Lord will guide the church in South America through the many challenges it faces in speaking for the poor and neglected, we pray. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

That those in the intellectual apostolate will find ways to speak authentically for the Church in our many cultures, we pray. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For our readiness to be assigned to new tasks, and be open and attentive to the call of Christ, we pray. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

That the sick and the old in the Society will live in health and peace, and that we can be more attentive to their special needs, we pray. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Individual Intentions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer** *(from the Book of Common Prayer)*

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and culture in the world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of understanding and fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**November 23**  
**Bl. Miguel Agustín Pro**  
**Bl. Emilio Moscoso**  
**Martyrs of Latin America**

**Opening Prayer**

Loving Father, each year we remember the fidelity of our brothers Miguel Pro and Emilio Moscoso even to their death at the hands of secular powers. Help us in our weakness to stand faithfully and with courage for your truth at the side of your dear people. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

**Psalm 82: 1-5, 8**

(Optional Response: *Give justice, Lord, to all the earth.*)

God has taken his place in the divine council;  
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:  
“How long will you judge unjustly  
and show partiality to the wicked?”

Give justice to the weak and the orphan;  
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.  
Rescue the weak and the needy;  
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

They have neither knowledge nor understanding,  
they walk around in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

Rise up, O God, judge the earth;  
for all the nations belong to you!

**Reading: Christ the King**

As Fr Pro was being taken out to be shot – his only crime being that he was a Catholic priest – in one last act of defiance he stretched out his arms in the shape of a cross and shouted “Viva Cristo Rey”. His cry rang out throughout the whole Church and the Pope

declared that a feast of Christ the King should be included in the general liturgical calendar. The institution of this feast was, therefore, almost an act of defiance from the Church against all those who at that time were seeking to absolutize their own political ideologies, insisting boldly that no earthly power, no particular political system or military dictatorship is ever absolute. Rather, only God is eternal and only the Kingdom of God is an absolute value, which never fails; and this, because all political or military kingdoms are ultimately based on and maintained by force or coercive power.

It is only the Kingdom of God which is not, and cannot be, imposed by force, for the Kingdom of God is an internal Kingdom, a Kingdom of the heart and the power of God is not coercive – rather it is the power of creative love which gives life. This is why throughout his life Jesus refused to be made into a king or a political leader. He did not want to rule a political kingdom by force. Rather, only at the very end of his life, stripped of all earthly influence and authority, standing in chains before a corrupt earthly judge, does Jesus declare his kingship. There in poverty and humility, devoid of all that human beings normally associate with regal power, Jesus admits himself to be a king.

–Gerhard Ludwig Müller: “Homily on the Feast of Christ the King.”

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 4:12-19

### **Petitions**

For people of faith across the world, that their rights and liberty, particularly their freedom of worship, can be ensured by their states and societies, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Generous Lord, pour out your love.*

That the Church and the Society of Jesus, wherever it suffers from persecution, can hold patiently and faithfully to the promise of the Kingdom of Christ, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Generous Lord, pour out your love.*

Let us pray for the Society here in our own country, that it may always act boldly to defend the rights of our people and the people of other nations, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Generous Lord, pour out your love.*

For our brother Jesuits who have left the Society, that their lives will be blessed and their love for Christ will remain strong, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Generous Lord, pour out your love.*

That all of us may foster our own deep attachment to the person of Christ, and seek only to find and follow his will, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Generous Lord, pour out your love.*

*Individual Intentions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

God our Father, you gave your servants Blessed Miguel Agustín Pro and Blessed Emilio Moscoso the grace to see ardently your greater glory and the salvation of your people. Grant that, through their intercession and following their example, we may serve you and glorify you by performing our daily duties with fidelity and joy, and to effectively help our neighbour. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

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### **Prayer of Miguel Agustín Pro**

Let me spend my life near thee, O Mother, to keep you company in your solitude and deepest grief. Let me feel in my soul the sadness of your eyes, and the abandonment of your heart. On life's highway I do not seek the gladness of Bethlehem; I do not wish to adore the infant God in your virginal hands, nor enjoy the winsome presence of Jesus in your humble home in Nazareth, nor to mingle with the angelic choirs in your glorious Assumption.

My wish is for the jeers and derision of Calvary, for the slow agony of your Son, for the contempt, the disgrace, and the infamy of the cross.

My wish, O most sorrowful Virgin, is to stand near you, to strengthen my soul through your tears, to complete my offering through your martyrdom, to temper my heart through your solitude and to love my God and your God through my self-sacrifice. *Amen.*

## November 26

### St John Berchmans

#### Opening Prayer

O God, you open the riches of your kingdom to the young and humble. Today we remember the goodness and gifts of our brother John Berchmans, who embraced the Society's way of life with great dedication and joy. Make us joyous and generous in serving your Society in whatever way you call us and lead us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

#### Psalm 36: 1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10

(Optional Response: *In your light, O Lord, we see light.*)

Transgression speaks to the wicked  
    deep in their hearts;  
there is no fear of God before their eyes.  
For they flatter themselves in their own eyes  
    that their iniquity cannot be found out and hated.

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,  
    your faithfulness to the clouds.  
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,  
    your judgments are like the great deep;  
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
    All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.  
They feast on the abundance of your house,  
    and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the fountain of life;  
    in your light we see light.  
O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,  
    and your salvation to the upright of heart!

**Reading: John Berchmans' Love for the Society**

But it was to his beloved Society, as to his mother, that he gave the largest share of his affection. His deep-seated love, so childlike, so tender, made his heart throb with joy at its successes, filled him with zeal for its good fame and name, and made him ardently desire its increase and preservation. 'Whenever', says Father Carminita, 'he spoke of the Society, he did so with such ardour, with such profound esteem, that to hear him talk seemed as if he were Father Jerome Nadal himself, who has been so justly styled the "Soul of Our Constitution"'. 'I will be as zealous for the honour of the Society as a really ambitious man would be of his own honour', is John's own expression in his notes. This love made him kiss reverently his habit before putting it on in the morning. The old Jesuit dress, the Spanish cassock of St. Ignatius' time, with the Spanish cloak and hat, worn till lately at Rome, had become the adopted costume of the order, though, as it is well known, no particular habit is enjoined by its rule. Its association with the sainted founder, with all his great followers, gives it even in our time a special interest. In his order of the day, which he wrote while at Rome, he notes down, 'When you take your cassock into your hands, before putting it on, kiss it, rejoicing in your mind that today you are still allowed to wear the livery of Christ'. It was the same feeling which prompted him at his death to ask to be allowed to die clothed in his habit. He considered his rule the way God had manifested to him by which to arrive at perfection. 'The more you love your rule', he wrote, 'the more you will make progress. Make yourself familiar with it, for the *Exercises* show us the mind of St. Ignatius, as do the *Constitutions* in writing—his life in action'. He had conceived a great love for it while still a secular, from seeing its results in his masters. The longer he remained in religion, the deeper grew that esteem, and so much more did he feel that he was unworthy to be a member of the Society.

—Francis Goldie, S.J.: The Life of St John Berchmans.

**Scripture:** Philippians 4:4-9

## **Petitions**

For the Church, that it can choose its leaders wisely and with a mind to becoming more and more the servant leaders of the People of God, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

In thanksgiving for our Institute and its *Constitutions*, and for great devotion and peace in our call as members of the Society, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

That our lives might reflect the simplicity, zeal, and dedication to the Society of Jesus found in the example of St John Berchmans, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

For our scholastics, particularly those engaged in studies, that they will find value and significance in their intellectual pursuits, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

For those who support our work and lives, particularly those who are generous with their time and treasure for the Society, we pray to the Lord. **Response:** *Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

*Individual petitions....*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Lord our God, you invite us to give you our love, and you are pleased with a cheerful giver. Give us a youthful spirit to be like St John Berchmans, always eager to seek you and do your will. We ask you this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

\* \* \*

### **Prayer of St John Berchmans**

Holy Mary, Virgin Mother of God, I choose you this day to be my queen, my patroness, and my advocate; and I firmly resolve never to leave you, and never say or do anything against you, nor ever permit others to do anything against your honour. Receive me,

then, I beg of you, as your servant forever. Help me in my every action, and abandon me not at the hour of my death. Amen.

### **Prayer to St John Berchmans**

Saint John, angelic youth, sweet-scented flower of innocence, stalwart soldier of the Company of Jesus, ardent defender of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, whom the all-wise Providence of God has set forth as a light and pattern, in order that He might reveal in you the treasures of that holiness which consists in the devoted and holy fulfilment of the common duties of life, I earnestly beseech you to make me ever constant and faithful in observing the duties of my state of life, pure in heart, fearless and strong against the enemies of my eternal salvation, and cheerfully obedient to the promptings of God's holy will. By your singular devotion to the loving Mother of Jesus Christ, who looked upon you also as her dear son, obtain for me the grace of a fervent love for Jesus and Mary, together with the power of drawing many others to love them in like manner. And so, dear Saint John, I choose you as my special patron, humbly beseeching you to make me zealous in the things that pertain to the praise of God, and to assist me by your mighty help, to lead a life filled with good works. Finally, when the hour of death comes, out of your loving kindness, cherish in me those motions of humble confidence, which at the moment of your departure from this world to your mansion in the skies, as you lovingly clasped to your breast the Image of Jesus Crucified, together with Mary's Rosary and your Book of Rules, impelled you to utter these sweet words: 'These three things are my dearest possessions; with these I am content to die'. Pray for us, Saint John, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Grant, we beseech Thee O Lord God, unto your faithful servants, to copy the pattern of innocence and faithfulness in your service, with which the angelic youth, John, consecrated to you the very flower of his years. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

—*Raccolata*

## 29 November

### Bl. Bernard Francis de Hoyos

#### Opening Prayer

Loving God, who provides each time and nation with unique insights into honouring and serving you. We celebrate today the life of our brother Bernard Francis de Hoyos. We ask for hearts like his, that desires only You, searches only for You, and longs only for You and so are filled with love for all of your people. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. *Amen.*

#### Psalm 42:1-2, 7-8, 11

(Optional Response: *My soul longs for your mercy, O Lord.*)

As a deer longs for flowing streams,  
so my soul longs for you, O God.  
My soul thirsts for God,  
for the living God.  
When shall I come and behold  
the face of God?

Deep calls to deep  
at the thunder of your cataracts;  
all your waves and your billows  
have gone over me.

By day the Lord commands his steadfast love,  
and at night his song is with me,  
a prayer to the God of my life.

Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my help and my God.

### **Reading: De Hoyos and Devotion to the Sacred Heart**

On May 3, 1733, when Bernardo was 22 years old, he experienced the Lord giving him a mission that would become the only objective of his life: to propagate devotion to the Sacred Heart as a means of personal sanctification and as an effective means for accomplishing the apostolate. In a letter of December 6, 1735 informing the communities of the Castile Province of Bernardo's death, Fr. Manuel de Prado (Bernardo's Rector who had also been his Novice Master) emphasized: "his perfection was more than ordinary, a very special gift of prayer through which during these last years God revealed to him the most hidden mysteries of the divinity and a tender and particular devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus."

Decree 15, no. 2, of General Congregation 32 reads: "Devotion to the Sacred Heart, as proposed by the Church, pays tribute to 'that love which God has shown us through Jesus, and is also the exercise of the love we have for God and for our fellow-men,' effecting that interpersonal exchange of love which is the essence of Christian and religious life."

The spiritual heritage proper to the devotion of the Sacred Heart, rooted in the faith of the Church, retains full validity today within the manifold images present in each culture and tradition. This devotion expresses the boundless richness of the love of God, manifested in Christ. It is in harmony with a theology based on the Scriptures, a theology that continually gives light to the message of the merciful and compassionate Father of the Gospels, richly expressed and made visible using the heart as a living symbol in which the mystery of humanity becomes the mystery of God.

- *Father General Adolfo Nicolas*, "Letter to the Whole Society,"  
12 April 2010.

### **Petitions**

We pray for all the Church, that we can be confident and secure in the boundless richness of the love of God, manifested in Christ.

**Response:** *Make our hearts like your Son's heart, O Lord.*

We pray for the Society of Jesus, that inspired by our brother Claude la Colombiere and Bernard de Hoyos, we can be sources of Christ's love for one another and so show to others the love of Jesus. **Response:** *Make our hearts like your Son's heart, O Lord.*

We pray that the spirit of faith and prayerfulness, seen so plainly in the life of St. Claude and Blessed Bernard, will mark our lives and our dealings with others. **Response:** *Make our hearts like your Son's heart, O Lord.*

We pray for the poor, helpless, voiceless and oppressed people of our country, that the love of Christ will inspire us to work for the inclusion of all and justice for all. **Response:** *Make our hearts like your Son's heart, O Lord.*

We pray that the old and sick of the Society will have patience in their sufferings and the consolation of God's love growing to perfection within them. **Response:** *Make our hearts like your Son's heart, O Lord.*

*Individual intentions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Loving God and Father, grant that we who honour the heavenly birthday of Bernard de Hoyos may through his example make our way to you. We ask this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

**December 1**  
**Sts Edmund Campion, Robert Southwell &**  
**Companions**  
**Jesuit Martyrs of England and Wales**

**Opening Prayer**

Our God and Father, you conferred upon our brothers Edmund Campion and his companions the grace of seeking your greater glory and the salvation of the people in Britain. As we remember and praise their perseverance and allegiance to the Catholic Church, help us to also show courage and determination in speaking your truth amidst the doubt and failings of our social and political leaders. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.  
*Amen.*

**Psalm 125: 1-5**

(Optional Response: *The Lord surrounds his people with love.*)

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,  
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so the Lord surrounds his people,  
from this time on and forevermore.

For the sceptre of wickedness shall not rest  
on the land allotted to the righteous,  
so that the righteous might not stretch out  
their hands to do wrong.

Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,  
and to those who are upright in their hearts.  
But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways  
the Lord will lead away with evildoers.  
Peace be upon Israel!

**Reading: From “Campion’s Brag”**

I confess that I am (albeit unworthy) a priest of the Catholic Church, and through the great mercy of God vowed now these eight years into the religion of the Society of Jesus. Hereby I have taken upon me a special kind of warfare under the banner of obedience, and also resigned all of my interest or possibility of wealth, honour, pleasure or other world felicity. My charge is, of free cost, to preach the Gospel, to minister the Sacraments, to instruct the simple, to reform sinners, to confute errors—in brief, to cry alarm spiritual against foul vice and proud ignorance, wherewith many of my dear countrymen are abused.

Moreover I doubt not but you, her Highness’ Council, being of such wisdom and discreet in cases most important, when you shall have heard these questions of religion opened faithfully, which many times by our adversaries are huddled up and confounded, will see upon what substantial grounds our Catholic faith is builded, how feeble that side is which by sway of the time prevaieth against us, and so at last for your own souls, and for many thousand souls that depend upon your government, will discountenance error when it is revealed, and hearken to those who would spend the best blood in their bodies for your salvation. Many innocent hands are lifted up to heaven for you, daily by these English students, whose posterity shall never die, which beyond seas, gathering virtue and sufficient knowledge for the purpose, are determined never to give you over, but either to win you heaven, or to die upon your pikes. And touching our Society, be it known to you that we have made a league—all the Jesuits in the world whose succession and multitude must overreach all of the practice of England—cheerfully to carry the cross you shall lay upon us, and never to despair your recovery, while we have a man left to enjoy your Tyburn, or to be racked with your torments, or consumed with your prisons, The expense is reckoned, the enterprise had begun; it is of God; it cannot be withstood, So the faith was planted; so it must be restored.

—*Edmund Campion,*  
*in Strype, John: Annals of the Reformation and*  
*Establishment of Religion...*

**Scripture:** Romans 8:12-18

### **Petitions**

Let us pray for the Church, that it will always stand with those whose liberties are threatened by political and economic expediency. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for our Jesuit brothers who must every day live in environments hostile to the proclamation of the Word and the struggle for justice. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray that our lives mirror that of Edmund Campion and his Companions, in preaching the Gospel, ministering the sacraments, instructing the simple, and reforming sinners. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for those whose chief service of the Gospel is study and reflection, and whose work addresses the many challenges of our culture. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for those who serve the refugees, the prisoners, the homeless and the voiceless, that God will bless their work and make us more sensitive to the needs of the poor. **Response:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Individual petitions...*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Concluding Prayer**

Almighty, eternal God, you chose from the people of England and Wales, Saint Edmund Campion and his companions to be made like Christ, who died to save the world. Listen to their prayers; strengthen your Church by the same faith and love that strengthened them, and bless us always with the gift of unity. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. *Amen.*

**A Poem of Robert Southwell**

Who lives in love, loves least to live, and long delays doth rue,  
If him he love by whom he lives, to whom all praise is due,  
Who for our love did choose to live, and was content to die,  
Who loved our love more than his life, and love with life did buy,

Let us in life, yea, with our life, requite his living love,  
For best we live when least we live if love our life remove.  
Mourn therefore no true lover's death, life only him annoys,  
and mourn when he taketh leave of life, then love begins his joys.

## December 3

### St Francis Xavier

#### Opening Prayer

Loving God, you won many people to yourself through the work and words of our brother Francis Xavier. As we reflect on his goodness and passion for souls, his joy and serenity in serving you in the Society, help us also to go beyond any border we set for ourselves to confidently fulfil your holy will. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. *Amen.*

#### **Psalm 46: 1-3, 6-9, 10-11)**

(Optional Response: *Let all the peoples praise you, Lord!*)

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the Lord;  
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.  
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth.”

The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**Reading: Letter to the Society at Goa, 1549**

We owe indeed a great debt to God for this, for bringing us into these heathen countries, where we may forget ourselves altogether. Everything here being in the hands of heathen and of enemies to the true religion, we have no one but God to hope in, no one but Him to have recourse to for protection. At home in Europe, where the religion of our Lord Christ flourishes, it somehow or other happens that the people we have to deal with, and created things, such as the love of our parents, our country, our relations, the intercourse we have with our friends, the conveniences of life, the remedies against disease, and the like, are so many hindrances to our fixing and placing our whole and entire hopes on God alone. But here, where we are so far from our home, among barbarians, utterly destitute of all human defence and resources, it is a matter of necessity for us to rely only on our confidence in God. And the thought of the very great benefits thus conferred on us by God is a source of no common shame and self reproach to us.

For we almost see with our bodily eyes the goodness of God towards us. So that whereas, having come to these parts out of a desire to extend our divine religion, we thought that we were doing something worthy of reward from God, we now clearly see that it was indeed a very special blessing which God conferred on us that we came. He, by bringing us to Japan, has set us altogether free from that love of human things, which was a snare and net to us, so that we had not had much hope in God. I beg you to help me to give thanks to our Divine Lord for such great favours, that I may not fall into the fault of ingratitude; a fault which turns aside the flowing source of God's bountiful goodness, and hinders him who has been ungrateful for lesser gifts from receiving others still greater.

—Francis Xavier

*Henry James Coleridge: The Life and Letters of St Francis Xavier,  
Volume 2.*

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 4: 6-11

## **Petitions**

For the Church, particularly in those lands touched by the work of Francis Xavier – India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Japan – that it grows in numbers and devotion, we pray. **Response:** *We pray to you our God.*

For those Jesuits who serve in Asia, that their work will help bring the light of Christ and the love of the Church to those people, we pray. **Response:** *We pray to you our God.*

For all those engaged in missionary activity, that they can continue to work for a Church that is both faithful and indigenised, we pray. **Response:** *We pray to you our God.*

For other religious orders who serve the Church in mission countries, that our relations with them can be fruitful and harmonious for the sake of those we serve, we pray. **Response:** *We pray to you our God.*

For those who develop new forms of evangelization, that our sensitivity to the gifts of all cultures can grow and give new life to the whole people of God, we pray. **Response:** *We pray to you our God.*

*Individual Intentions...*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer**

Lord God of compassion and mercy, you opened a door in the East for St. Francis Xavier when you sent him to preach your Gospel. Send us in our day over the face of the earth, so that the joy of our Mother, the Church, may be made perfect. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. *Amen.*

**Prayer of St. Francis Xavier**

(translated by Gerard Manley Hopkins)

O God, I love thee, I love thee—  
Not out of hope of heaven for me  
Nor fearing not to love and be  
In the everlasting burning.

Thou, thou, my Jesus, after me  
Didst reach thine arms out dying,  
For my sake suffered nails and lance,  
Mocked and marred countenance,  
Sorrows passing number,  
Sweat, and care and cumber,  
Yea, and death, and this for me.  
And thou could see me sinning:

Then I, why should I not love thee,  
Jesus, so much in love with me  
Not for heaven's sake; not to be  
Out of hell by loving thee;  
Not for any gains I see;  
But just the way that thou didst me  
I do love and will love thee:

What must I love thee, Lord, for then  
For being my King and God. Amen.

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## **THE ANGELUS**

**V:** The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

**R:** And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

**V:** Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

**R:** Be it done unto me according to your word.

Hail Mary...

**V:** And the Word was made flesh.

**R:** And dwelt amongst us.

Hail Mary...

**V:** Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

**R:** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

### **Let us pray**

Pour forth we beseech You, O Lord, Your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an angel, may, by his passion and cross, be brought to the glory of his resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

\* \* \*

## **THE REGINA CAELI (During Easter time)**

**V:** Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

**R:** For he, whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

**V:** Has risen as he said, alleluia.

**R:** Pray for us to God, alleluia.

**V:** Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

**R:** For the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

### **Let us pray**

O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant that we may obtain through His Virgin Mother, Mary, the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

