



FACING COVID-19 WITH ST. IGNATIUS

Day 1

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Have you ever encountered people, who carry fire in their hearts; who are so full of passionate love for God that in such restlessness they 'lived with one foot raised from the ground'? St. Ignatius of Loyola, the great visionary, passionate mystic, and founder of the Society of Jesus is often depicted with one foot raised from the ground. To him every instance in human history was an occasion to spread the love of God with the greatest possible creativity and magnanimity. As the world grapples with the Covid pandemic, closely journeying with Ignatius in prayer could offer us ways to see how he could have taken all these as opportunities.

As a preparation to celebrate his feast on 31st July we, the Kerala Jesuits, will be sharing nine days of novena to St. Ignatius. Come; let's journey with Ignatius for nine days. May this novena help us reorder our lives during this pandemic.

Theme: With the World to With the Lord

Grace

Lord, we pray for the grace to see You at the depth of all our searches and as the ultimate fulfilment of all our hungers

Opening Prayer

Dearest Lord, our world was shattered by the arrival of the pandemic. Like the Samaritan woman at the well, when all the apparent order we had in place has gone awry, help us to pause for leisure, take time, get into our own inner selves, and seek for our depths. May we encounter you there as the source and end of all our seeking. Amen

An Appropriate Hymn Could be Sung.

Scripture Reading

Jn 4: 17-30



Through the life of Ignatius

How big has been the size of your dreams? Does it include the whole world? Inigo of Loyola initially had dreams of the size of a small palace. Fascinated by their promises, he fashioned his life with colours of royalty in his attire, lifestyle and fervently loved a charming princess. His world was the joys and pleasures he hungered after in the palace. The grandeur of power and promise of love lured him even to the battlefield of Pamplona. There even as he stared at sure defeat and disheartened compatriots, he remained courageous and fought until he was struck by a cannon ball. Lying helpless through the boredom of convalescence he hesitantly read through the books on the life of Christ and saints. Through them and watching his own inner movements and thoughts, he discovered his inner world that he was hitherto oblivious of. God became real and the ultimate King for him.

Reflection

We, as humanity were running after our plans and dreams of exorbitant progress. We had it all charted out for the past few months. But the months came and went and is going on, while we languish in sullen expectations. Covid-19 became the cannon ball that shattered our lives. However, in the boredom of lockdown and in the silence of curbed activities we could discover like Ignatius, the art of finding God at the depth of our beings. Calm down and we will realise that we have a depth and interiority to ourselves, that we have our God wholly present to us at the core of our hearts as our loved one. Only in silence can we discover that dearly beloved One as pure joy, light, and love. Let's venture 'in' with St. Ignatius to our interior hidden worlds today, seek his intercession to learn to feel with our Lord within us.

Prayerful Silence: Let God Move your Hearts...

Intercessory Prayers could be offered.

Let's remember those affected by Corona virus... St. Ignatius, pray for us.

Concluding Prayer

Lord, may we discover you within us to our great joy and wonderment like Mary our mother, like the disciples at Emmaus, like Mary Magdalene at your tomb, like Thomas when he touched your wounds, like St. Paul on the road to Damascus and many others. Thus, may we see others and ourselves as your sanctuaries making us all one with you. Amen