



## FACING COVID-19 WITH ST. IGNATIUS

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### Day 2

#### **Theme: From the Loneliness of Dark Nights to the Solitude of Enlightenment**

**Grace:** Lord, grant us the disposition and openness to be led by You in times of crisis and uncertainty.

#### **Opening prayer**

Dearest Lord, we had many plans for the past few months, but you chose to take us on a different road. As your disciples remained inside locked doors out of fear after your death, so are we now. Come to our midst, surprise us with the joy of your company and fill us with the assurances of inner transformation and enlightenment. Amen

***An Appropriate Hymn Could be Sung.***

#### **Scripture Reading**

Jn 20: 19 - 24

#### **Through the life of Ignatius**

The brave knight finds his true master and sets out with the lofty dream of serving His Divine Majesty. He is no more a knight, but a pilgrim in search of the source of the true living water.

Ignatius' sojourn at Manresa was not a pre-planned venture. Incidentally, one of the reasons for retreating to this little town was a plague that was ravaging the city of Barcelona. (No wonder, if we find some resonance with our world today.) Thus, his 'brief sojourn' lasted some eleven months and this stay at Manresa proved to be the turning point in the life of St. Ignatius as well as in the history of the Society of Jesus, which was yet to be born. Ignatius firmly asserts that God dealt with him as a schoolmaster deals with a child. Those were the days of great equanimity, fierce interior battle, profound spiritual consolations and divine illuminations. The pilgrim went through varying stages of intimacy with the Divine Majesty.



The crowning of this inner pilgrimage was the Cardoner experience. The pilgrim gazed at the flowing waters of the river and his inner eyes were opened as never before. The dark cave of Manresa brought to light the mission and vision of the pilgrim: the service of God is his ideal, Jesus Christ is his model and the world is his field of action.

## **Reflection**

We often say ‘God’s ways are not our ways’ and it is rightly so. Ignatius never intended to stay at Manresa for not more than a few days. However, what happened in due course at Manresa was not of his making. Where are we today? The pandemic has brought our normal activities to a grinding halt. Uncertainty and fear surround us. We are literally brought to the end of our wits. Even the most powerful nations in the world were brought to their knees.

Can we perceive God’s guiding hands amid this predicament? Ignatius remained steadfast to his hours of prayer, trusting in the Divine Providence, even as the intense inner battles led him to the brink of suicide. The struggles that we endure today will make us wiser, humbler and stronger tomorrow, taking us closer to God.

This trial that we go through could be a time for us to take stock of the life we have lived so far; to accept the failures and to thank God for our accomplishments. This is a launching pad for our future course of action, if only we could feel God’s guiding spirit in our lives.

**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, the lockdown and the inconveniences they have caused are numerous. When we often tend to despair, help us see your transforming hands behind them all. As how Ignatius was guided, may we be guided and invigorated. May we be born anew. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

AMDG