



FACING COVID-19 WITH ST. IGNATIUS

Day 3

Theme: External journey to internal pilgrimage

Grace: Lord, we pray that we may trust you deeply in our inner pilgrimage.

Opening Prayer

Dearest Lord, when struck by thoughts of impossibility of a better tomorrow, we tend to despair. But like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, help us to journey from our brokenness to inner healing and transformation. May we not quit because our external worlds have been shattered but seek to travel with you on an inner pilgrimage. Amen

An Appropriate Hymn Could be Sung.

Scripture Reading

Lk 24: 15 - 32

Through the life of Ignatius

After the spiritually transforming experiences at Manresa, Ignatius was deeply moved to take up a pilgrimage to holy land. During his pilgrimage he experienced God externally as well as internally even in the most difficult situations. Throughout his journey all that he had with him was patience and a deep faith in God. In other words, he had no money to pay for his travel; and for his maintenance, he had nothing more than the trust he had placed in God. He received these two weapons to escape from the harassment from Turks and Bedouins. Besides, by God's grace he was given a free passage on board the ship. However, during the journey, a grave illness with fever afflicted him for some days. Finally, after an arduous trip he reached Holy land. Through all these hardships, our Lord did not abandon him. The Lord appeared to him often and gave him great consolation and strength during those intolerable conditions.



Reflection

We at times take up journeys that end halfway through. They end because we give up half way through. In the same way, the inner journeys we take up are fraught with pain and hardships. We face dark times often. Quitting the path is just running away from facing the challenges. Faith and trust play a great role here as they give us hope. When faith sprouts in your journey, you are no longer a coward. And as you proceed the Lord awaits on the way with surprises that you've never imagined. Jesus instructed us to “-pray to the Father who is in secret; and your Father who is in secret will reward you.” (Mt6: 6) Continue the path with the same trust and see how you are led. You are no longer alone in your inner pilgrimage.

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

O God, you blessed St Ignatius with the gifts of immense faith and patience. During all the joys and perils, he went through, he never lost the trust in your providence. This faith made him hopeful and thus persevere in the path you deemed best for him. Loving Father, as we go through the disturbing times of pandemic, we see people encountering questions on the joy and meaning of life. Many, including us, are thrown into despair. Lord, grant us this virtue that Ignatius had, the grace of unconditional trust in you, to endure our 'desperate' present with hope and meaning. Amen

AMDG