



FACING COVID-19 WITH ST. IGNATIUS

Day 4

Theme: Information Seeker to becoming Learned and Holy

Grace: Lord, may we give glory to You by living a life of wisdom and holiness

Opening Prayer

Dearest Lord, You were grateful about the little ones not because of their ignorance but due to their openness towards Your wisdom. May we not waste away our time during this lockdown in bitterness and boredom but engage in creative ventures by seeking betterment of ourselves and the world around us. May we seek You in all that we do. Amen

An Appropriate Hymn Could be Sung

Scripture Reading

Mt 11: 25 - 30

Through the Life of St. Ignatius

At the moment of his conversion, St. Ignatius asserted that "God treated him just as a schoolmaster treats a child whom he is teaching" (Autobiography 27). Whether this was because of his lack of education or because he had no one to teach him, or because of the strong desire God himself had given him to serve Him, he always believed without doubt that God treated him in this way.

Through trial and error, Ignatius had to discover the importance of education for the effectiveness of ministry. It was in Barcelona, that Ignatius experienced an 'inclination' to study, to take intellectual life seriously. "He continually pondered within himself what he ought to do. Eventually, he was rather inclined to study for some time..." (Autobiography 50). Eventually, Ignatius and all his first companions had a master's degree from the University of Paris. From the time of Ignatius till today, there has not been a human field of knowledge that the society of Jesus has not ventured in and contributed to.



It is with confidence in God's gift that the General Congregation of 1995 could state: "It is therefore characteristic of a Jesuit that he embody in creative tension this Ignatian requirement to use all human means, science, art, learning, natural virtue, while maintaining at the same time a total reliance on God's grace" (553).

Reflection

In the *Spiritual Exercises*, St. Ignatius says in the Principle and Foundation, Human beings are created to praise, reverence and serve God our Lord, and by means of doing this to save their souls. Saint Ignatius and his first companions pursued intellectual formation, established universities, and colleges, did apostolic work and encouraged studies. All these were at the service of the Lord and for the salvation of souls.

How can one be intellectually bright and spiritually deep? It is an art and a way of life. In Jesuit charism this can be achieved through constant seeking after 'the greater glory of God', being 'contemplative in action'; by being 'men and women for others', by being 'all things to all men'; by selfless service to the poor and marginalized; by striving to integrate 'faith and justice'; and by being loyal to the Church, incarnating it in different cultures. During lockdown, we can use our time and knowledge either as a way to merely make money or use them to help others by sharing it, or to understand oneself, or better the world etc.

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 Jesus, help us with your wisdom and discernment to share our concerns about contemporary culture. May we learn the role of holiness and wisdom in our lives that we need to uphold for the greater glory of God and the salvation of the souls. Amen

AMDG