



FACING COVID-19 WITH ST. IGNATIUS

Day 5

Theme: Lonely Trips to Journeying together

Grace: Lord, give me the passion to work as a team, to hold hope in conditions of misery.

Opening Prayer

Dearest Lord, we feel alone at our homes during this lockdown while disregarding the possibility of coming together online and do much good for people around us. You prayed for our unity because you knew that our days were going to be hard without the company of others. May we stay together in our prayers, in sharing our love and creativity. Amen

An Appropriate Hymn Could be Sung

Scripture Reading

Jn 17: 14 - 23

Through the Life of St. Ignatius

St. Ignatius, being a young man, had failed twice before the founding of the Society of Jesus in 1540 as a missionary order for men. The first defeat occurred in 1528, when he had to leave three companions in Spain to prepare a place for them at the University of Paris. In his absence, their enthusiasm for his way of life faded, and the group eventually got disbanded. He attempted again with at least three men in Paris from 1529 to 1530, but failed once again on the grounds of resistance from relatives and university authorities. He never lost hope. He stayed in touch with many of them, and one of his reasons for returning to Spain in 1535 was to persuade his old friends to join the First Companions. Ignatius was convinced that the formation of a group was God's will for him, in which he made every effort, even though he had come across many failures and repeated rejections from his friends.



Reflection

We are in a world, struck by the Corona virus. Yet, there is fresh energy and restlessness among young people who, although often misunderstood, have been able to come up with lots of creative ventures to make us happier, more open, and stronger witnesses to the Gospel. In this desperate situation, too, the crucified Lord invites us to go forward with new aspirations, to meet one another virtually, to wish each other good health and to rejoice every moment with the Lord. Pope Francis says, “we need one another, that we have to encourage dreaming of and working for tomorrow, starting today. Not tomorrow but now. Realize that you have a mission and fall in love, we may possess everything, but if we lack the passion of love, we will have nothing.” We should ask ourselves: what holds us united? What makes us experience each other? What helps us to journey together?

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 our father, make our youth people of joy, enabling them to have faith in you in these conditions of hopelessness. Fill them with your spirit and make them creative. Through the intercession of St. Ignatius, your passionate soldier, may our joy always lead us to your hope, so that we may help one another to bring to Earth your kingdom of love and happiness. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

AMDG