



FACING COVID-19 WITH ST. IGNATIUS

Day 6

Theme: Human Work to God's Work

Grace: Dear Father, place us with Your Son Jesus and help us engage with Him in His labours.

Opening prayer

Most Blessed Trinity, we surrender ourselves to you. As we are trying to ponder over the gifts that you have bestowed upon St. Ignatius at La Storta, grant us also the grace to be placed with your Son and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

An Appropriate Hymn Could be Sung

Scripture

Lk 10: 38-42, Jesus visits Martha and Mary

Through the Life of Ignatius

While on his journey from Venice to Rome in 1537, Ignatius had been praying the colloquy of the 'Two Standards' meditation in the *Spiritual Exercises* (concentrating apparently on petitioning Our Lady), and at La Storta, he received the grace he had been asking for. As soon as Ignatius entered the church, he felt a sudden change come over him. He saw God the Father, together with Jesus, who was carrying His cross. Both the Father and the Son were looking most kindly on him and he heard the Father say to the Son: 'I wish you to take this man as your servant'. Jesus then directed his words to the kneeling pilgrim and said, 'I wish you to be our servant'. This was what Ignatius had always wanted. Then he heard the Father add, 'I will be favourable to you in Rome'. Whether this promise meant success or persecution, Ignatius was unsure, but he knew for certain that the Lord would be with him. That was sufficient for him to continue in full confidence trusting God.



Reflection

Serving God doesn't mean doing only social services. Work without prayer can lead to pride and fatigue. Many of us do a lot of activities and works in order to sustain ourselves. Amidst them we could find some time to be with our Lord in a meaningfully transforming way. When prayer becomes part of one's life, touching the core of one's being, he/she would bear God with him/her. We need to have a '*sanctus tensio*' a holy tension within us; a tension between prayer and action, between mysticism and service. If not directed through union with the Lord, all our jobs, professions etc, may degenerate into worthless activities and we will become those sapless vine branches trying to produce their own illusory fruits, which are separated from Jesus, the Vine. Today amidst this great pandemic, we could see if we have been doing God's work or chasing our own little dreams. Let us 'Fall in love, stay in love' with our Lord and make each of our works an effort towards the establishment of the Kingdom.

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 God, we thank you for the gift of divine accompaniment throughout our lives. You favoured St. Ignatius with your accompaniment. May we grow more in the divine friendship with you and spread your kingdom everywhere we toil. May the world be blessed by this act of ours done in friendship with you. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

AMDG