

**Theme: From all Roads to No Roads**

**Grace:** Lord, grant us the generosity and strength to walk with the poor and the unemployed with a sense of empathy in their daily struggles.

**Opening Prayer**

Dearest Father, when Jesus sent His disciples to distant lands, He instructed them to give without payment what they had received without payment. Guide us in every step we take to be free, audacious, and generous to carry out the mission that You entrust us at the frontiers of our modern life. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

*An Appropriate Hymn Could be Sung.*

**Scripture Reading**

Mt 10: 7 - 14

**Through the Life of Ignatius**

When heading for Rome, Ignatius wanted to give himself totally to work there after submitting himself to the Pope. While engaged in numerous works of charity, they were struck by the needs of the whole world. The desire for greater good for the world impelled them to come together and deliberate about whether they should disperse or stay united there itself. It is remembered among Jesuits as the 'Deliberations of the First Fathers'. Finally, after much discernment they were rightly guided by the Spirit to go out into the whole world and labour with God. Thus, the whole world became their new Rome where they encountered God in all forms. During the lifetime of Ignatius, Jesuits, who numbered more than 1000, were spread across India, Brazil, the Congo region, Ethiopia, and many other places. No ministry that benefitted humanity is alien to the Jesuits. Being friends of the poor in the remotest human habitation to having craters in the moon named after them, they are everywhere.



## Reflection

‘All roads’ refers to the proverb, ‘all roads lead to Rome’ - where Ignatius and his Companions started working and ‘no roads’ refers to this whole world of frontier missions - where they ended up working. We see how the pandemic could already push about 40-60 million people into extreme poverty and millions to lose jobs every week. We hear weekly reports of hundreds of migrants and bonded labourers perishing as they try to reach home.

When the poor cannot even go out of their homes to seek for work or ask for charity, their lives become ever more miserable. Their presence, even without words, demands our care and solidarity. We could see how concerned we are of our neighbors who may be poor and wanting of financial help or love and concern during this lockdown. Can we break our comfort zones and reach out to those frontiers even if not physically and make them happy in little ways possible? There we become great missionaries.

## 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:

Loving God, May we see the plight of all those who suffer in our midst. Give us courage and compassion to invent ways to help them even when we cannot be present physically. Thus, may we preach You without preaching and embody You in spirit. We make this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

AMDG