

**Theme: Seek Yourself to Seek God in All Beings**

Grace: Lord, may I transcend myself to see Your loving presence in all creation.

Opening Prayer: Loving Father, Creator of this wondrous universe, we thank you for the beauty and life around and within us. Jesus taught us to learn from the majesty of the lilies of the fields and the value of the sparrows that not one of them is forgotten before God. Lord, may we see them all as our own selves and respect them. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

An Appropriate Hymn Could be Sung.

Scripture Reading

Job 12: 7-10 or

Job 38 and 39 (choose an excerpt)

Through the Life of Ignatius

From the enlightenment moment at the river Cardoner, where the eyes of his understanding were opened to watching night skies for hours, Ignatius was often deeply moved by the work of God in creation. At the climax exercise of *Spiritual Exercises*, 'Contemplation to Attain love', Ignatius instructs us to see how God is labouring in creation, giving them life and sustenance with great love. In the third point (236) of the meditation he says, "This is to consider how God works and labors for me in all creatures upon the face of the earth, that is, He conducts Himself as one who labors. Thus, in the heavens, the elements, the plants, the fruits, the cattle, etc., He gives being, conserves them, confers life and sensation, etc." Through this meditation, he directs us to recall two key ideas; first, "love is shown more in deeds than in words" (230); second, "love consists in the mutual sharing of goods" (231). Thus, nature becomes a definite way to God through absolute love as the response.



Reflection

During the lockdown, we witnessed how nature was gently reclaiming a breathing space from us. Locking us all inside God showed us that the Earth was not a private property of humans to manipulate as we wished. We have been forced to sit back and reflect how our life and the life of a person in Wuhan, China is interconnected through the web of relationships. Similar is our interconnectedness with nature. Our life is so fragile that the tiniest of creatures can unsettle its balance. So, there is the need for right relationship with every creature. When we tamper with the limits of exploitation, we are paid back by nature itself.

Ignatius invites us to find nature as a way to God. The covid-19 pandemic is an occasion to find a way to God through our care and respect for nature. We are taught that there is no 'other', only extensions of our own selves and that if we neglect nature, we will have to pay a heavy price like this pandemic.

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

Merciful Father, we thank you for providing everything that we need for our earthly life. Give us the grace to perceive, admire and appreciate your beauty manifested in and around us. Grant us a deep sense of interconnectedness with every being. May we see your spirit animating and giving life to every being on Earth and thus, respect and value it as our own selves. Amen

AMDG