

St Mary's, Inverness
The RC Diocese of Aberdeen: SC005122]
The Year of St Ignatius
20 MAY 2021 >31 MAY 2022

FOURTEENTH REFLECTION : A ROUGH PASSAGE
23 Sep 1523 to mid- January 1524



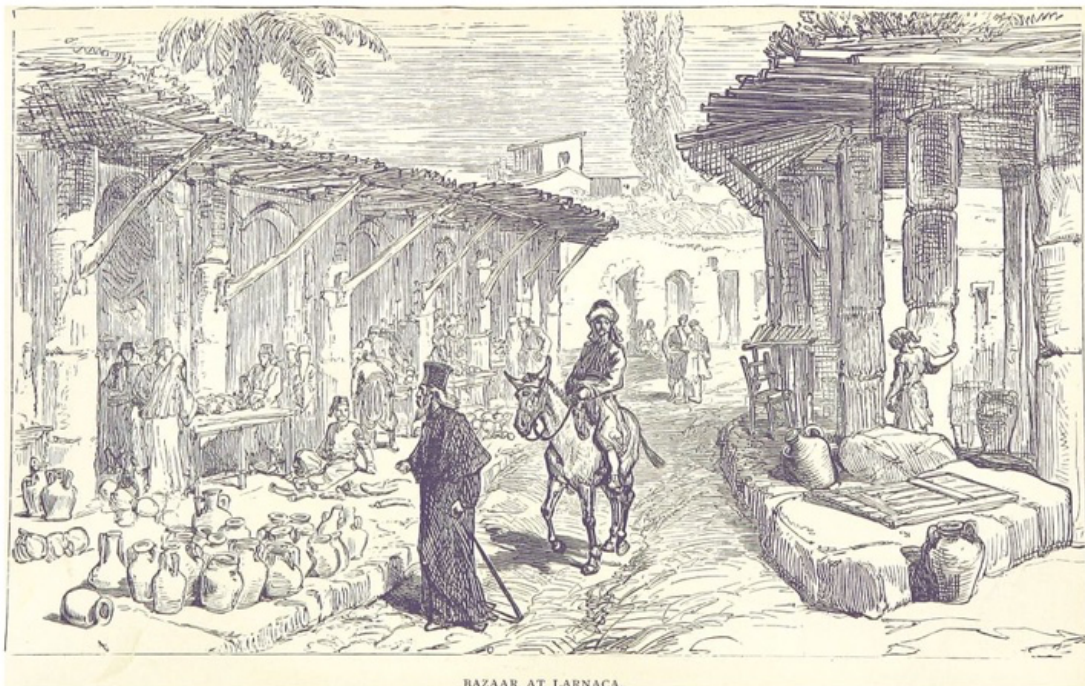
The Port of Jaffa

Context : Our Pilgrim had visited the Holy Places in and around Jerusalem.

His dream of remaining in the Holy Land was shattered when The Franciscan Provincial made it clear to him that this would not be possible. Ignatius accepted the finality of the Franciscan Provincial's decision. Before he left the Holy Land, Ignatius returned to the Mount of Olives to see the place of the Ascension, and the footprints of the Lord. He was in the habit of entering imaginatively into the different gospel stories and scenes, and, in this way, he made them very real and personal to himself. He was still on a journey of self-discovery about his long-term intentions. The travelling itself became the context of his decision making process.

The returning party of pilgrims left Jerusalem on 23 Sep 1523. The journey proved hazardous, both by land and sea. Travelling from Jerusalem to Jaffa by road, on foot took nine days during which the party were robbed by a gang of Bedouins and also were banged-up in jail for three days by some corrupt Turkish officials seeking their money.

The Port of Jaffa [seen above] was a long-established centre of Mediterranean trade. It had weathered many storms, political and military, having been captured and lost during the Crusades. Ignatius and his fellow returning pilgrims had to negotiate their way as best they could to find a ship. They managed to gain a passage on a small ship which took them eleven days to cross sixty miles of dangerous seas to arrive in Cyprus [Larnaca] on the 14 Oct 1523.



Little is known about the time spent in Cyprus, but Ignatius did manage to find a place on a small ship sailing for Venice. These were perilous times to be at sea as

there were considerable storms and tumultuous gales. Three ships set out but only the small vessel carrying our Pilgrim survived the ghastly weather. He arrived in mid -January 1524 in tattered clothing having survived rough conditions at sea for over two and a half months.



At last in Venice, staying again with the same generous families – probably in the Palace of a Venetian senator, Marcantonio Trevisano, and also with the unknown Spanish grandee who had been hospitable before- our Pilgrim was able to settle and take stock. Their generosity both with accommodation, food and material support enabled Ignatius to reflect, and as he says in his Autobiography he "***came to realise that it was God's will that he not remain in Jerusalem, he kept wondering what he ought to do, and finally he was inclined toward spending some time in studies in order to help souls; and so he decided to go to Barcelona.***"

That decision takes us further on the Pilgrimage, from Venice to Genoa, from Genoa to Barcelona, with further perils and dangers by day and night.

Considerations for Reflection :

For Ignatius the direction of his life after Pamplona was always towards a full acceptance of Jesus as his captain. The soldier for Christ wanted to give himself entirely to the work of Jesus, proclaiming the Gospel, and since his own insights

at the River Cardoner at Manresa, Ignatius wanted others ['souls' he calls them in the language of the time] to share his insights into the Life of Jesus.

He now realises that he needs to be properly equipped for this, and he engages as he must, in attaining a better education.

This decision is one made on the back of other decisions; he is compounding his direction in life, with persevering faith he has set himself to a task that requires both unwavering hope and generous love.

We might reflect on how we can best use our gifts with such persistent faith in the service of the Master. Ignatius serves as an exemplar in dogged commitment, not for selfish ends but in pursuit of a life of service.

Many have found that this prayer, attributed to St Ignatius, is utterly expressive of that and is a good starting point for an offering of life and examination of our own efforts.

***Lord, teach me to be generous,
to serve you as you deserve,
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to look for any reward,
save that of knowing that I do your holy will.***

The authorship of this prayer has been much discussed, and a variety of attributions made, but what is surely conclusive is that the prayer derives from Ignatian spirituality.

Fr Jack Mahoney SJ suggests that, 'while we should conclude that the prayer for generosity is apparently not the work of St Ignatius himself, one thing of which we can be sure is that the master of generosity would wholeheartedly approve of it'.

That seems good enough to begin our search for radical generosity, at the feet of St Ignatius.

We review our day and look forward with Jesus

POCKET EXAMEN
The Ignatian Examen is a 5-step method for reviewing your day and giving thanks to God.

1. CENTER 
Take a moment to become aware of God, myself and my surroundings.

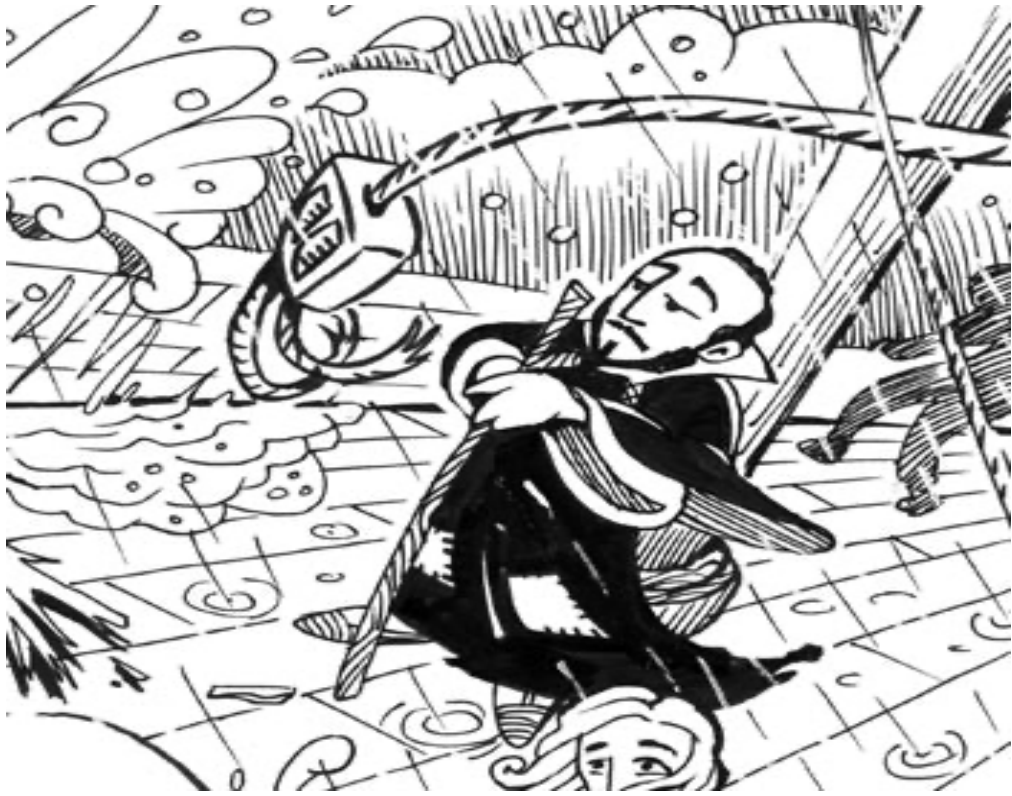
2. GRATITUDE 
What am I especially thankful for today?

3. REVIEW 
What brought me joy? What challenged me?

4. TURN TO GOD 
What could I have done or said differently?
How can I improve?

5. LOOK FORWARD 
In what spirit do I want to enter tomorrow?

CAMPUS MINISTRY



Ignatius in the storms at sea

Scriptural Reflection : *Mark 4:35-41*

35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" 39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. 40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" 41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"



A Comment : When storms hit, we often wonder, "Why is this happening?" We are beginning to understand the weather, and even now we are learning that our human nature can have adverse effects on our planet. Who would now deny that there are elements of 'global warming' that are affecting our weather? Taking responsibility for our lives and our planet is a primary obligation.

In the Biblical story, whatever historical episode lay behind the gospel narrative, we see that in it the disciples' faith in Jesus was being tested during the storm. They are suggesting that Jesus did not care for them. "***Do you not care if we perish?***"

The disciples were filled with great fear when Jesus rebuked the wind and told the sea, "***Peace! Be still!***" (Mark 4:39).

He asked them, "***Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?***" (Mark 4:40). Not only did Jesus rebuke the wind and the waves, but He rebuked the disciples for their unbelief.

This all seems a bit odd until we understand that the Jews had a great fear of the sea, the waters of the deep were the chaotic elements before the Word of God brought about order in the act of creation. We see this expressed in the first chapter of Genesis- beautiful Hebrew poetry about our planet and the human condition.

Jesus, in whom the Divine Word is active, is the agent of change for Salvation, for wholeness of being, for the betterment of all mankind, for a universe being restored. He creates order from chaos, whether of nature or in our human lives.

Can we look back on any storms in our lives and accept that God was there, a help, bringing order and peace? God-is -in- Christ restoring, bringing peace, making whole, casting out fear.

A Period of Silence in which we pray with St Ignatius seeking understanding and insight, ever searching, ever finding, always willing.

Where there is fear I can allay,
Where there is pain I can heal,
Where there are wounds I can bind,
And hunger I can fill:
Lord, grant me courage,
Lord, grant me strength,
Grant me compassion
That I may be your heart today.
Where there is hate I can confront,
Where there are yokes I can release,
Where there are captives I can free
And anger I can appease:
Lord, grant me courage,
Lord, grant me strength,
Grant me compassion
That I may be your heart today.
When comes the day I dread
To see our broken world,
Protect me from myself grown cold
That your people I may behold.
And when I've done all that I could,
Yet, there are hearts I cannot move,
Lord, give me hope,
That I may be your heart today.

- *Fr. Manoling Francisco, SJ*

The Lord's Prayer



Jesus Mercy, Mary Pray

Praise God Always