

St Mary's, Inverness
The Year of St Ignatius
20 MAY 2021 >31 MAY 2022

FOURTH REFLECTION : AN UNEXPECTED ENCOUNTER

The Sense of the Mule



Context : The Pilgrim set out from the Shrine of Our Lady of Aranazazu. The newly-converted Ignatius, fresh from his Vigil, [later referred to as a time of great grace, strengthening his resolve to be a Pilgrim for Jesus] was heading towards the Abbey of the Black Madonna at Monserrat. He found himself travelling alongside a Moor, a Muslim. They fell into discussion about Our Lady when Ignatius became affronted by the different views of the Moor. He regarded the Moor's remarks as a dishonour done to the Blessed Virgin. Perhaps sensing his outrage, the Moor rode on ahead. Reflecting on this the new Pilgrim-Soldier reverted in some ways to his previous character and he resolved to follow the Moor and kill him for what Ignatius, even now entertaining thoughts of knightly obligations, saw as a slight on the integrity of Our Lady. Yet, was this deadly intention appropriate for the Converted Soldier-Courtier? Being unsure Ignatius sat tight and let the mule that he was riding take him along the route – to carry on to Monserrat or follow the Moor who had turned off the highway. In his Autobiography [written toward the end of his life, with input from friends] we find Ignatius' account,

referring to himself in the third person: *'So, being tired of examining what would be best to do and not arriving at a definite conclusion, he decided as follows : to let the mule go with the reins slack as far as the place where the ways parted.'*

That was done, the Moor went off on his way, and Ignatius carried on towards Monserrat on the main highway. No murder was done.

This story is peculiarly edifying in that it makes the younger Ignatius look rather foolish. Is the mature Ignatius saying to us: beware of being puffed up and prideful about your religion? None of us is completely master of ourselves and we need God's hidden hand of grace to take us gently in the right direction.

A Prayer : *God of all people, open our hearts to understanding the men and women of other faith traditions.*

We are all made in your image and seek to know and follow your ways, to praise you, and to be instruments of your Holy presence. May we respect those who are different from us, who follow a different faith tradition from ourselves.

May we seek to know the truth of your Word and find common ground among the many traditions of faith and enable us to recognize that we share a common humanity.

Help us to be people of compassion and understanding, creating a path to a peaceful coexistence among all people.

Prayer : Examen :

Looking at the week of Pilgrimage with the Ignatian Reflections we might look at our own recollections.

How do we travel with others? Are we quick to take offence?

Do we honour God in all his children whatever colour, class or creed?

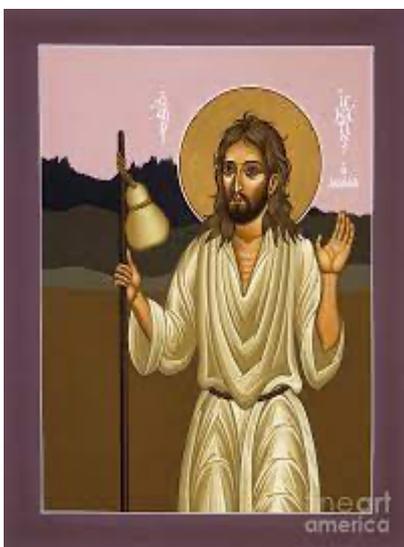


Looking forward with grace, following the Way, seeking the Good. Today and tomorrow, we embrace the Lord Jesus : ***'Jesus, I trust in You'***.

We walk, in our prayerful journey as pilgrims with Ignatius the Pilgrim.

An Ignatian Offering of Life

Suscipe - a prayer of radical, self-less offering of every aspect of ourselves



*Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding,
and my entire will,
All I have and call my own.
You have given all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.*

*Everything is yours; do with it what you will.
Give me only your love and your grace,
that is enough for me.*

Scriptural Reflection: Psalm 100

A Psalm for giving thanks. Jubilate !! Jubilate everybody!!

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the LORD, he is God!

*It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!*

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the LORD is good;

*his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.*



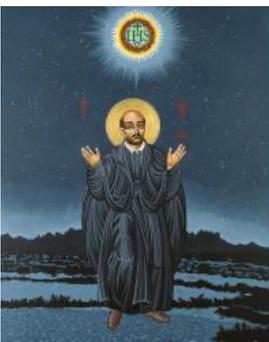
Thoughts to ponder as we re-read this psalm of David :

Make a joyful noise to the LORD: Jubilate ! We begin with the simple and direct encouragement to **all the earth** to praise God with a **joyful noise** This is a call to people everywhere, reaching out to the whole world.

A joyful noise: This signifies a glad shout such as loyal subjects would give when their king appears among them. Jubilant -sharing and rejoicing with our gracious Lord

All you lands: The universal call to recognise a shared humanity and our dependence on each other under the Creator God.

A Period of Silence in which we pray with St Ignatius seeking understanding and insight.



The Lord's Prayer
Praise God Always !



Jesu, I trust in You

Jesus Mercy, Mary Pray

