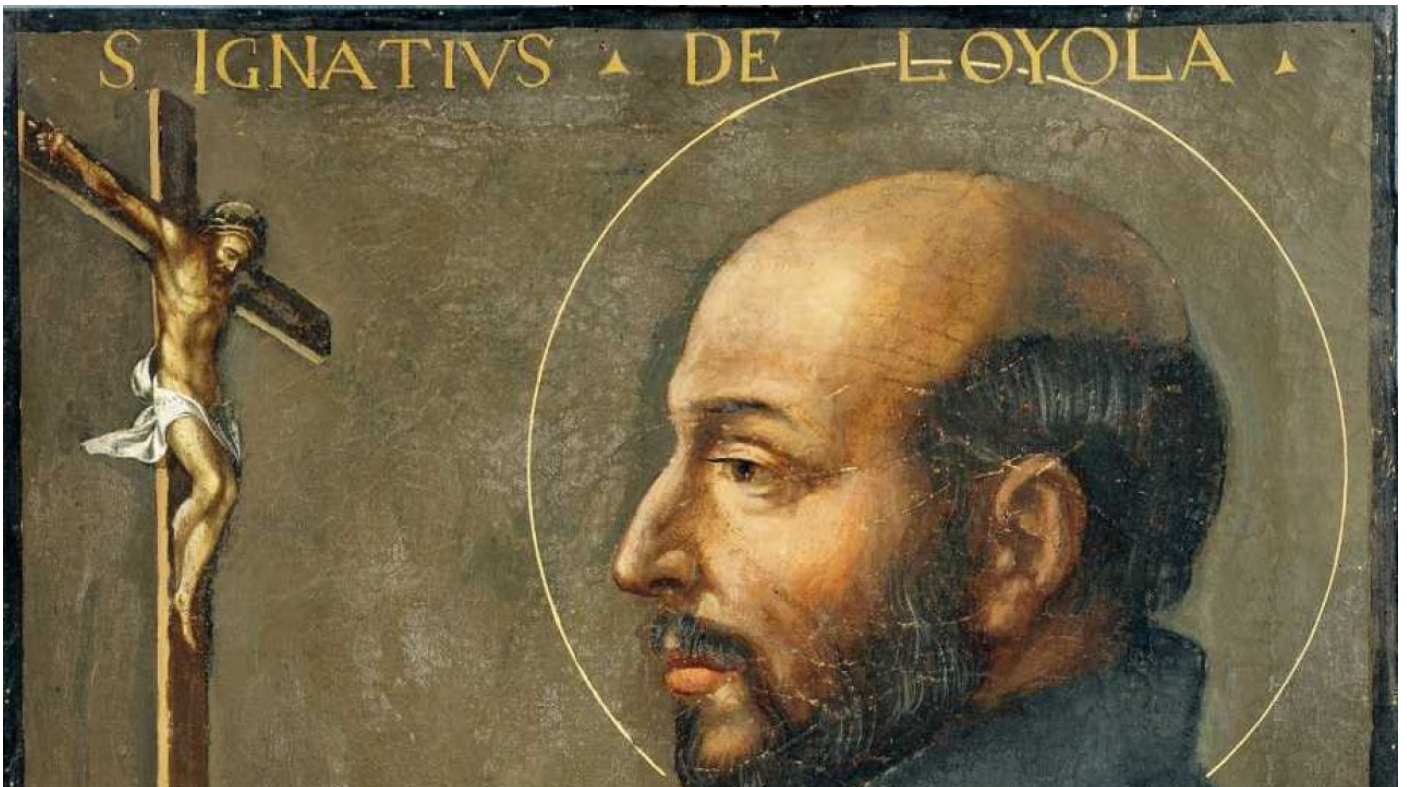


St Mary's, Inverness
The RC Diocese of Aberdeen: SC005122]
The Year of St Ignatius
20 MAY 2021 >31 JULY 2022

TWENTY-SEVENTH REFLECTION
ROME & THE SOCIETY OF JESUS

CONTEXT:



Fr Diego Lainez wrote : “ *He [Ignatius] told me that it had seemed to him that God the Father had imprinted these words in his heart, ‘Ego ero vobis Romae propitius’—‘ I will be favourable to you in Rome’.....*

The foundations of the La Storta experience were the fruits of Ignatius’ sense of ‘irrevocable dedication’, his experience of companionship, his prayerful reflection on the Jesus of the Gospels, and his recollection of

the many graces that he had been shown since the life-changing events at Pamplona, from his recovery at Loyola, to the experiences of Montserrat, Manresa, Barcelona, Alcala, Salamanca, Paris, Venice, and Vicenza.

Now in November 1537 Ignatius had a renewed inner conviction arising from the prayerful encounter La Storta. This sense of assurance inspired his closest colleagues and enabled them all to complete the journey to Rome.



In Rome they found accommodation in a small villa near the old Church of Trinita dei Monti. After his visit to Monte Cassino where he gave The Spiritual Exercises to Dr Ortiz Ignatius returned to Rome.

Ignatius gave The Spiritual Exercises to many eager people deepening Faith and transforming lives.

Returning to Rome the Companions had been confronted with further difficulties, criticism and lying stories about their missionary preaching. On 18 Nov 1538 Ignatius was acquitted of all. Charges against him and

the Companions. This public declaration put an end to the persecuting calumny.

Because of warfare and disease the Pilgrimage to Jerusalem was not feasible. The Holy Father asked, ***“Why go to Jerusalem? Italy is a true Jerusalem if you desire to bring forth fruit in God’s Church”***

So it was that the Companions settled to work within Italy.

Now that the Companions were to begin their Apostolate in Rome, Ignatius celebrated his first Mass within the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore on Christmas Eve, being the Midnight Mass on 24 December 1538.



Early in 1539 the Companions began to discuss their future and by July of that year Ignatius prepares a "Formula of the Institute". By September the Holy Father, Paul III, has given his oral approval for "The Formula".

1540 is a decisive year in the development of the order, The Society of Jesus.

Even before the definitive recognition in furtherance of their Apostolic ministry two of the original Companions began new responsibilities.



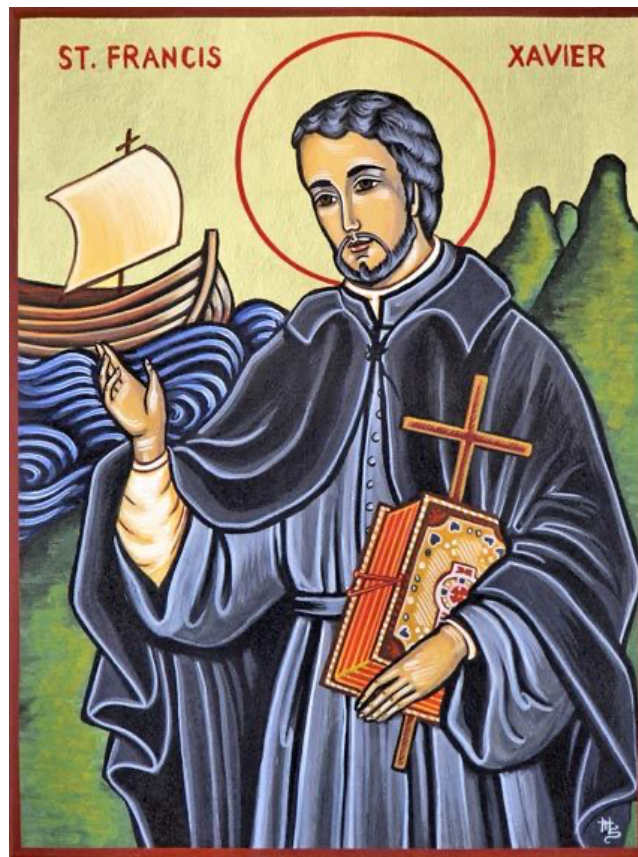
On 4th March Fr Simao Rodrigues left Rome for Portugal. Fr Simao was one of the original six companions who made their vows of poverty and celibate chastity to Fr Fabre at Montmartre on the Feast of the Assumption [15 Aug 1534]. Fr Simao was a most attractive personality from a noble family around whom people gathered. As a result of his personality and his missionary endeavours in his homeland many men and women found faith, or their Catholic faith was renewed.



Fr Simao's powerful personality was hugely influential in Coimbra where the oldest university in the Portuguese speaking world was well established. Many young men were brought to a living faith through the Spiritual Exercises, the preaching of Rodrigues and his gift for friendship.

Such was the fervour of burgeoning Catholic life that some people were led into excessively pious behaviour, even into extreme self-flagellation. When news of these activities, particularly at Coimbra, reached Rome, Ignatius recalled a somewhat reluctant Fr Rodrigues. In the event he returned to Rome where he spent most of his further ministry, living faithfully under obedience as a Jesuit.

In later life he wrote a history of the early years of the Society in which he was a foundation-member. He returned home to Portugal home not long before his death at the age of sixty-nine in 1579.



Francis Xavier exemplary Jesuit missionary

On 10th March 1540 Fr Francis Xavier left Rome for Portugal en-route to India. This was an emotional time as Francis Xavier was the second of the group of six, after Peter Fabre, to have done the Exercises with Ignatius in Paris, also making his vows with the six at Montmartre. He had been a student with Ignatius at the University in Paris, and had many things in common, being from the Spanish nobility. Francis Xavier's missionary journeys are compared with those of the first great missionary to the Gentiles, St Paul the Apostle. Like Paul, Francis Xavier undertook hazardous and arduous sea-journeys travelling to India particularly to Goa where he requested assistance from King John III of Portugal in establishing a Catholic Mission. He travelled to Japan, Borneo, and the Maluku Islands. Francis Xavier died in 1552 while planning to extend his mission to China. He could see the Chinese mainland from his death-bed.



The Society of Jesus : 1540

By the Papal Bull, "Regimini militantes Ecclesiae" of 27 Sep 1540 the Society of Jesus was confirmed as a religious order within the Church by Pope Paul III



Paul III gave some direction to Ignatius for works of mercy that the new Society might undertake. These led to the establishment of a House of Refuge for Orphans in February 1541. Arrangements were made for the care and settlement of Converted Jews in 1542. The following year, in

1543, the House of St Martha was established for the protection of vulnerable girls and women.

While these charitable works were being undertaken so also were evangelism, teaching, giving the Exercises and preparing for Mission. The newly formed society was also engaged in working out its future structure- to be established in the Constitutions.

Some thoughts to ponder as fellow Pilgrims :

- Recalling La Storta, the prayerful Ignatius seeks the assistance of Our Lady's prayers. The Mother of Jesus gives us a powerful, yet tender, perspective to approach questions of Faith, always seeking to know her Son, the Jesus of the Gospels.
- Recognising that the experiences of life, when seen through the eyes of a Living Faith, can help us to discern/discover God working in our lives. We need perhaps to recall 'gracious' times, moments and people.
- Our Companionship in Christ is always encouraging us to support each other, and to be ready to assist in the great Universal Mission.
- Ignatius and his Companions were continually seeking and finding Jesus, in the afflicted, the vulnerable and those in any kind of need.
- The Church is the expression of the Living Risen Lord- we are the sinews and members, the life and the breath of the Body of Christ. The Spirit has empowered all the baptised, the confirmed, the married, the professed, and the ordained with appropriate gifts and

graces for their state of life. By a radical self-offering we can live in the hope of knowing God's graces and His love.

Suscipe

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.

THE EXAMINATION OF OUR LIVES [THE EXAMEN]

Daily Examen : Looking with quiet sincerity and simplicity of heart at the day:

This particular Examen is based on that of "Emerging from COVID": An Examen *by Elaine Ireland a Christian writer, retreat leader, and spiritual director focused on finding God's presence in the everyday, and on bringing the Scripture alive for our world today. She works as Spiritual Director with the Ignatian Volunteer Corps.*

1. Begin, as always, with thanksgiving:

Thank you, Lord, for helping me and my loved ones endure this past year. Thank you for health and peace. Thank you for being at my side as I confront loss and grief.

Thank you for all medical and essential personnel who have worked tirelessly—some, giving their very lives—to help others. I give thanks for your mercy on those who were and will be taken too soon from their loved ones. I thank you for (add your own prayers of gratitude.)

2. Ask the Spirit to shine a light on the past year.

This request for enlightenment is particularly important as for many of us, the days all blended together. What events or stories or people stand out? Was there a particular book or prayer or sermon or webinar that spoke to you? Who or what helped you to cope? Try not to get caught up with “the best and worst” moments—remember, Jesus’ story is about how he lived in ordinary time, not just the Passion. What stood out?

3. Pick one thing that stands out for you.

It can be either something that gave you hope and consolation, or that caused you sorrow or grief, or something in between. (If it’s “nothing,” then pray about it.) Listen for the Spirit’s guidance. What is nudging you to prayer?

4. Reflect: Where the Spirit is leading you?

If it is somewhere difficult, ask the Spirit to show you what you are to learn. Are there blessings hidden behind the difficulty? Try not to relive or replay the thing on which you are praying. Look at it with new eyes.

5. Before you bring your prayer to a close, ask:

Lord, what would you like me to take forward into the post-pandemic world? How are you calling me to serve your creatures and creation? What is my personal vocation?

End prayer time by praying the “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit”.

We should repose quietly in the Holy Trinity before reading:

The Scripture for Reflection :

Matthew 28:18-20

[New International Version]

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Go therefore
and make
disciples
of all the
nations

**THE
GREAT
COMMISSION**



Thoughts for reflection and prayer :

- The Risen Lord is speaking to his disciples- the first apostles. This is 'The Great Commission' entrusted to the Church- to all the baptized. It is our privilege and our task.
- Jesus commanded by his teaching – the radical Law of Love to interpret Scripture.
- Jesus commands us to ***'Do this is memory of me'***: the Holy Mass is again our privilege and our opportunity for witness, our task is to bring others to share in the Table of the Lord.
- The Sense of the Presence of Jesus, with us in each moment of our day, simply there awaiting recall and recognition- He gives us an assurance of well-being under God.

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

"For those who love, nothing is too difficult, especially when it is done for the love of our Lord Jesus Christ."
Ignatius Loyola

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus Mercy, Mary Pray



Praise God Always