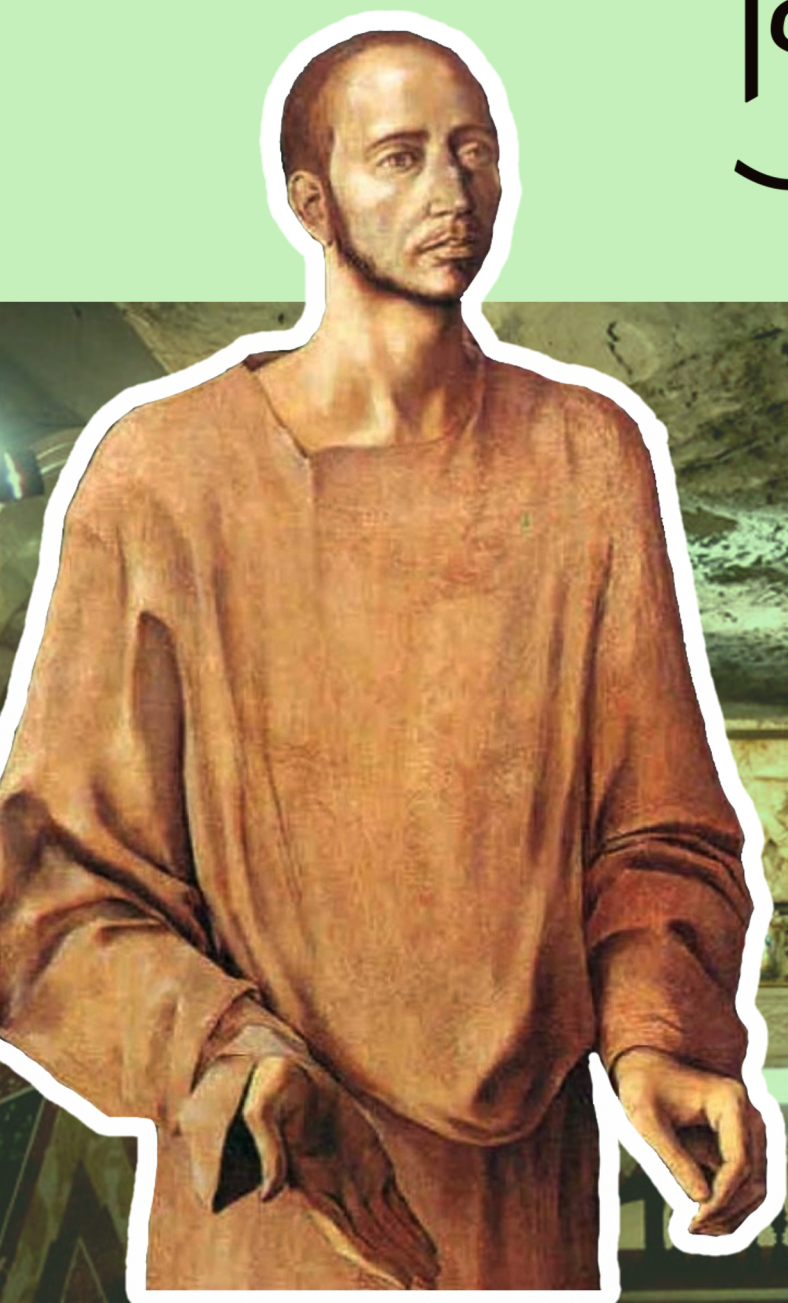


Ignatius Soo

ANNIVERSARY OF
THE CONVERSION
OF IGNATIUS



**“TO SEE ALL
THINGS NEW
IN CHRIST”**

**NOVENA IN HONOUR OF
ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA**



Jamshedpur Jesuits

THEMES

Day-1	22 July 2021	God in the significant turning points
Day-2	23 July 2021	Growing in the Spirit of poverty
Day-3	24 July 2021	The culture of vocation promotion
Day-4	25 July 2021	Discerning God's will in obedience
Day-5	26 July 2021	Walking with the anawims of God
Day-6	27 July 2021	Caring for our common home
Day-7	28 July 2021	Journeying with the youth
Day-8	29 July 2021	Culture of safeguarding
Day-9	30 July 2021	Readiness to go to new frontiers

INTRODUCTION

We, the Ignatian Year team of Jamshedpur Province, have compiled the Novena Prayers to St. Ignatius of Loyola. Our effort here has been to touch upon the various dimensions of Ignatian Year in these Novena Prayer. The themes like “God in the significant turning points of our life” and ‘Growing in the Christ-like spirit of poverty’ emphasize the significance of the Ignatian Year, in particular, that invite us to look inwardly and recognize the moments of grace in our personal life and follow Jesus, the poor. The other four themes of this Novena are based on Universal Apostolic Preferences. As through these UAP themes, we wish to seek God’s grace for a more profound commitment to the same. The other themes like “Vocation Promotion and Culture of Safeguarding” and “Readiness to go to new Frontiers” are the current central issues the Society of Jesus is engaged with.

The Novena Prayers also includes the Cannonball moments of some of our Province men. Their inspiring graced moments will indeed help us in our reflection and prayer. We appreciate their generosity to share their special moments. We hope these prayers will be helpful in our preparation to celebrate the Feast during this special year. May Mary, our Mother, accompany and intercede for us.

Day-01

22 July 2021

GOD IN THE SIGNIFICANT TURNING POINTS OF OUR LIFE

Opening Prayer

Lord, in your providence, you guided St. Ignatius to found the Society of Jesus. Make us all one with you in holiness and love, that we may discern your will and carry it out with constancy and faith. O Father Ignatius, our guide in our spiritual journey, commend us to God our Lord that He may grant us light to clearly know his most holy will and the grace to fulfil it perfectly. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn: **Coming Home...** (Hymn from *With Joyful Lips*, No. **G.53**)

Scripture Reading: John 1: 45-51

Reflection

The Battle of Pamplona serves as a metaphor for a common human experience: We all have our ‘inner fortresses,’ the private spaces in our minds and hearts, to protect our dreams, our ambitions, our emotional cravings and attachments. We build them with ‘walls’ cemented by our convictions, values, personality and character. And then, there are the ‘cannonball’ attacks: unexpected, sudden and sizeable tragedies - loss, sickness, failure, accidents - that we all inadvertently encounter sometime or other in life. They knock us off our feet or derail our pursuits. The fainthearted take long to recover from the shock and may remain paralyzed by the wayside. Those who are resilient and resolute bounce back and get going with renewed vigour, enthusiasm and determination... just as Saint Ignatius did.

The Cannonball Moments:	<i>Graced Moments shared by Fr. Alex Gnana, SJ</i>
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I don't have any cannonball experience in my life, but looking back at my past, I see a special moment of the grace of being led by God into the unknown. I shall share two such moments here below:

While I was working in the Gande Dungri Mission effectively, Fr Charlie Pereira, the then Provincial, called me and said, "I would like to send you to Indian Social Institute

(ISI), Delhi, to work as the Administrator and Chief Finance Officer. I am sure you will do well, and it will be good for you if you take it up.” I was totally blank. It came out of the blue, and I was not ready for it. However, after a brief silence, I surrendered in God’s hands and agreed to go to Delhi. I had to say goodbye to all in Gande Dungri campus the following week to set off to an unknown assignment in May 2000 that lasted 21 long years—6 years in Delhi and 15 years in Pune. Although I was inexperienced, providence helped me learn the work as it was expected of me. Looking back at my life in the common houses of the Assistancy, I can say without any hesitation that these were the most productive years of my life as a Jesuit, a period of special grace.

The second instance of leaping into the unknown was this, while I felt destined to be in Pune forever, there came another shock—a request from the Provincial of South Asia saying, “I want you to go to Afghanistan.” Again, I was bowled over! Just the thought of Afghanistan made me feel very nervous. All my friends and family members dissuaded me from going there. However, I accepted it and even made a short visit to Afghanistan to see the works related to the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) there. But the onslaught of the second wave of Corona put a hold on my travel indefinitely. While waiting patiently for the resumption of the international travels, I ventured into putting down my experiential knowledge of accounts into a book titled “Registered Charitable and Religious Trusts in India”. Seeing the impact this book had on our Church personnel, and I now look back at those lockdown days as a time of special grace!

Point for Reflection and Silent Prayer

- Ignatius started discovering himself since the Pamplona episode. Do I have such experience, or am I waiting for such moments in my life, too, to open up fully to God and serve him?

Intercessory Prayers

Response: *St. Ignatius, pray for us.*

1. Lord, your ways are mysterious, often beyond our comprehension. You made the cannonball that shattered the knee of the ambitious Ignatius a blessing in disguise for him - leading to his conversion into an ardent apostle of the Gospel. Help us to see your loving hand in the various happenings of our life - be they joyful or painful. R/

2. After defeating Ignatius and his Spanish band, the French soldiers were still good to the wounded Inigo and had the nobility to take him to his native Loyola, thereby showing the heroic Christian virtue of love of one's enemy. Lord, may this noble-mindedness be ours in dealing with those who oppose us. R/
3. The steadfast determination of Ignatius to fight the enemy in the face of terrible odds later came in handy in his undaunted perseverance in his resolve to work for Christ in the Church. That you give us too, a strong will to be loyal followers of such a leader, we pray to you, O Lord. R/
4. We pray for all those working in remote places for your Kingdom. Lord, be with them and help them in their difficulties to experience your presence, and work resolutely to bring your peace and love to those oppressed in society. R/
5. That all of us may look at the lives of exemplary people and be challenged by their example as St. Ignatius himself was challenged by the lives of saints he read during his convalescence at Loyola, we pray. R/

Concluding Prayer

O God, for the Greater Glory of Your Name, you chose St Ignatius to be your servant, to do great things for Christ and the Church under the banner of the Cross. Grant to us, that through the help and example of St. Ignatius, we may lead all persons to experience the peace and joy of your Kingdom, so that your name be glorified always and everywhere. This prayer we make through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The Angelus

St. Ignatius of Loyola Pray for us

Day-2

23 July 2021

GROWING IN THE CHRIST-LIKE SPIRIT OF POVERTY

Opening Prayer

Lord, in your providence, you guided St. Ignatius to found the Society of Jesus. Make us all one with you in holiness and love, that we may discern your will and carry it out with constancy and faith. O Father Ignatius, our guide in our spiritual journey, commend us to God our Lord that He may grant us light to clearly know his most holy will and the grace to fulfil it perfectly. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Hymn: **Whatsoever you do ...** (Hymn from *With Joyful Lips*, No. **D.27**)

Scripture Reading: Mark 10: 17-23

Reflection

For Ignatius, a life of poverty was an expression of intimacy with Jesus, the Lord. More than words, his poverty was a sign of his interior transformation, of his growing vulnerability before the Lord, of his radical indifference to preparing himself to follow God's will, of his sense that everything came down from above as a gift. A life of poverty led Ignatius, the pilgrim to identify himself with Christ poor and humble, to be counter-cultural and to be a friend of the poor. However, after the Manresa experience, his poverty became more and more apostolic as his focus was to help souls. Fr. Arrupe once said that many of us are lacking in supernatural Spirit and that our resolutions to be poor are not entirely wholehearted. It is in this context of Ignatian year which invites us to review our life of poverty, reset our priorities and ask earnestly as to what it means to lead a life of poverty during the time of the pandemic?

The Cannonball Moments:	Graced Moments shared by Fr. Charlie Pereira, SJ
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I can share here what I had said in my golden jubilee event at XIMB in 2014. I was a school dropout after class VIII and never had a thought of becoming a Jesuit or a Priest. Being a small farmer's son, I was helping my father in farming, growing vegetables and carrying them to the town market about 14 kilometres away. As there was just one bus

and too many people waited to board with their loads, at times, I would go walking 10 kilometres with the load. This was my regular work. I could think of nothing else other than my work.

Then one day in February 1960, as I was ploughing in a field, the thought of going back to school completely filled my head, and I could think of nothing else. After ploughing and washing the buffaloes, I tied them and told my father that I wanted to go back to school from June onwards, as in the South new academic year began in June. He yelled at me, saying, “Who stopped you from going; you yourself did; go to school if you want to.” So I came to St. Aloysius High School, Mangalore. My former parishioners and companions like Hilary Lobo (RIP), Freddy Rodrigues (RIP), Alex Misquith, Cyril D’Souza (who left the Society in 1972) were in the school ahead of me. Then after completion of my schooling, I too jumped on with them into the Jamshedpur bandwagon. Frs. Tony Roberts, the then Jamshedpur Province Vice Provincial and Frank McGauley, the then vocation promoter, visited my house to welcome me into Jamshedpur in January 1964.

Point for Reflection and Silent Prayer

- How can we receive and live this grace of evangelical poverty?

Intercessory Prayers

Response: *St. Ignatius, pray for us.*

1. That we may overcome the appetite for enjoyment and consumption of material goods gripping so many people today and seek liberty and happiness in the simplicity of life; that our lives, our communities, our poverty, may have a meaning and a message to the world of today, let us pray the Lord
2. That like the poor people who have to labour and toil their living, like Christ who submitted himself to the law of labour, we too make hard work an essential part of our apostolic poverty, let us pray the Lord.

3. That we hear the cry of the poor and have personal experience of their miseries and distress, and effectively renounce the security of possessions, knowledge and power, let us pray the Lord.
4. That be our sharing of ourselves and all we have, our communities be clearly seen as communities of charity and concern for each other and all others, let us pray the Lord.
5. That the efforts of our Society for a stricter practice of poverty on both the personal and the institutional level achieve their purpose and all of us be prompt and generous to put theory into practice, rules into execution, let us pray the Lord.

Concluding Prayer

O God, for the Greater Glory of Your Name, you chose St Ignatius to be your servant, to do great things for Christ and the Church under the banner of the Cross. Grant to us, that through the help and example of St. Ignatius, we may lead all persons to experience the peace and joy of your Kingdom, so that your name be glorified always and everywhere. This prayer we make through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Angelus

St. Ignatius of Loyola Pray for us

Day-3

24 July 2021

THE CULTURE OF VOCATION PROMOTION

Opening Prayer

Lord, in your providence, you guided St. Ignatius to found the Society of Jesus. Make us all one with you in holiness and love, that we may discern your will and carry it out with constancy and faith. O Father Ignatius, our guide in our spiritual journey, commend us to God our Lord that He may grant us light to clearly know his most holy will and the grace to fulfil it perfectly. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn: **Let there be love ...** (Hymn from *With Joyful Lips*, No. D. 121)

Scripture Reading: Luke 10: 1-3

Reflection

Crucial to our Jesuit vocation is the novel style of religious life that Ignatius imagined and his appreciation that the apostolic body of the Society needs diverse workers, both priests and brothers, called by the Lord to work in his vineyard. In particular, Fr. General emphasized the importance of the brother's vocation, and he stressed that the "Society of Jesus, without brothers, would not be the Society of Jesus." Father General wants to rekindle the flame of "culture of vocation promotion" in the Society of Jesus. Such a culture flows from the fact that vocation promotion is part of our Jesuit identity; hence, it must be a substantive part of the life-mission of each member of the apostolic body of the Society. Key characteristics of this culture of vocation promotion include dedicating ourselves to daily prayer for vocations, creating welcoming Jesuit communities, animating vocation promotion throughout our apostolates, encouraging each Jesuit to take personal responsibility for inviting men to consider religious life, and striving to lead faithful and inspiring lives that embody the best of who we can be.

I met Fr. Charlie, the then Provincial, on 25 July 2002, and told him, “I want to leave Loyola”. He took the news calmly and said, “We will send you to Lupungutu.” But later, Fr. James Kalapura, the new Provincial, came to my room and said, “Tony, I hear you want to leave Loyola”. “Can you think once again if you really want to leave?” Having no choice, I assured him that I would not be leaving Loyola.

Six years later, in 2007, one morning, I met Fr. James in the Provincial’s office at 10 a.m., and I told him that I wanted to leave Loyola. He was surprised to hear that from me and asked me to inform Fr. Oscar Horo, the Rector. I told Fr. Oscar the same, and he too was surprised to hear me say to find someone else for the bookstore as I no longer intended to continue in Loyola. I then prepared the inventory of the stocks and handed all the inventory sheets to Fr. Alex Mascarenhas for totalling and to be submitted to the Treasurer. Then I left Loyola for Jesu Bhavan, Mango, on 10 December 2007.

While I stayed there, one morning, I heard a whispering voice asking me to make a retreat. So I met Fr. Carl Dincher and requested him to direct a retreat for me. He willingly agreed to give me a five-day retreat from 23 April 2008. But in the morning session of the third day, this most momentous happening occurred. I went for a confession to Fr. Carl Dincher that lasted for nearly 40 minutes, admitting my miserable, sinful past, with tears of sorrow streaming down my face. Then during the evening Holy Hour, I expressed my gratitude to Jesus and Mary for all the consolations I received in the morning. On the last day of the retreat, Fr. Dincher prayed over me and gave me a blessing of absolution. Two days later, I heard an inner voice telling to join the Society of Jesus. On 30 April 2008, I sent my application to Fr. James Kalapura, the then Provincial, expressing my desire to enter the Society of Jesus. God’s ways are strange and unfathomable that brought a turning point in my life.

Point for Reflection and Silent Prayer

- The lack of simplicity in our lifestyle, inconsistencies in our way of living the vows, lack of zeal and apostolic creativity, and the lack of openness and

hospitality in our communities certainly play a role in the dramatic decrease in vocations in some parts of the Society.

Intercessory Prayers

Response: *St. Ignatius, pray for us.*

1. For our witnessing of Christ: that through our sincerity and honesty, our detachment and simplicity of life, our charity, patience and humility, we may be living evidence of Christ to all, especially to the youth, let us pray the Lord.
1. For young men and women: that God may give them the gift of understanding to discern their service in the Church, the priesthood, diaconate, or consecrated life; and for the gift of courage to follow His call, let us pray the Lord.
2. For the grace of confidence in prayer for all those discerning their vocation as Priests, Sisters and Brothers, that they will be faithful to the voice of the Good Shepherd, let us pray the Lord.
3. That Catholic mothers will make a home for the Lord in their hearts and their families, welcoming His call to their children, especially should He honour them with vocations to the priesthood or the consecrated life, let us pray the Lord.
4. That one with the Blessed Virgin Mary, in whose company the Apostles received the Holy Spirit, those now discerning their vocations in the Society of Jesus will grow in their ability to recognize the Lord's call and respond with generous hearts, let us pray the Lord.

Concluding Prayer

O God, for the Greater Glory of Your Name, you chose St Ignatius to be your servant, to do great things for Christ and the Church under the banner of the Cross. Grant to us, that through the help and example of St. Ignatius, we may lead all persons to experience the peace and joy of your Kingdom so that your name be glorified always and everywhere. This prayer we make through Christ Our Lord. Amen

The Angelus

St. Ignatius of Loyola Pray for us

DAY-4
25 JULY 2021
DISCERNING GOD'S WILL IN OBEDIENCE TO SUPERIORS

Opening Prayer

Lord, in your providence, you guided St. Ignatius to found the Society of Jesus. Make us all one with you in holiness and love, that we may discern your will and carry it out with constancy and faith. O Father Ignatius, our guide in our spiritual journey, commend us to God our Lord that He may grant us light to clearly know his most holy will and the grace to fulfil it perfectly. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn: **Make me a channel of your peace...** (Hymn from *With Joyful Lips*, No. **D.51**)

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:16-21

Reflection

Ignatius was constantly discerning in his life. The main aim while leaving Manresa was to have trust in God alone and to practice that trust in God alone; to have God as refuge. Thus, God unfolded his plan for Ignatius as he discerned His will. Therefore, “We need to follow the call to deepen our knowledge and experience of Ignatian spirituality, and we want to do so out of a living faith that is incarnate and consistent, a faith nourished by familiarity with God that is the fruit of a life of prayer, a faith that enters into dialogue with other religions and with all cultures. Our faith is manifested in works of justice and reconciliation because it comes from the Crucified and Risen One who leads us to the crucified of this world so that we might be bearers of hope in the new life that the Lord gives us. Ours is a faith lived in community that becomes a testimony to hope.” said Fr. General.

I took over the reins of Loyola from my mentor and guide, Fr Eric Cassel, in 1992, with great trepidation and anxiety. I was mentally prepared to survive in Loyola for three years (as any less would be considered below average performance). It was a challenging experience. I was expected to head teachers who had teaching experience equal to my age! After having completed five years I earnestly asked for a change. “Carry on”, I was told in no uncertain terms. Years flew by, and soon I had completed a decade as Principal of Loyola, thereby breaking the record held by Fr Hess. I felt I had conquered Mount Everest!

However, my passion for teaching the teachers soon overpowered me, and I requested a change as I wanted to get back to my favourite job, that is, to teach the future teachers in B.Ed College. But my Superiors had other plans for me. I was told to take over De Nobili, FRI. After five years in the coal capital, I was moved to head Loyola BBSR which lasted seven years. There was another bolt from the blue, as I was sent to De Nobili, FRI again for the second innings. In 2017, I was asked to take over Loyola, Jamshedpur again and I was back in the pavilion.

Even as I write this, I have entered my fifth year in my second innings at Loyola and my 30th year as the Principal. Moments of ecstasy interspersed with moments of despair. While there has been a great joy in dealing with children, teachers, and parents, the pressure from government officials, businessmen, and politicians to admit their candidates has been the flip side of the coin. I have sometimes ended up making more enemies than friends.

I am yet to fully understand God’s actual plan for me as I always felt that I was not suited for the job. When I reflect back, probably it is my blind faith in my Superiors, i.e. just obeying them in doing whatever task was entrusted to me in the firm faith in God that He will show me the way too. This may sound too naïve today, but it has certainly proved true time and again.

Point for Contemplation and Silence Prayer

- How do I help others to have familiarity with God through my mission?

Intercessory Prayers

Response: *St. Ignatius, pray for us.*

1. That all Jesuits, and we, in particular, accept God's divine will to transform our communities and become pillars of strength to each other in the pursuit of holiness and in apostolic ventures, let us pray. R/
2. Lord, in the Spirit of the Exercises, may we desire to discern your will and to accomplish the mission you have entrusted to us. Let us pray. R/
3. Lord, tune our ears to listen to your voice, sharpen our intellect to know your will, so that we may know ourselves and our talents better as we pray, study and work, let us pray. R/
4. We are continually called to go with Christ looking at the world with His eyes, loving the world with His heart and enter into its depths with His unlimited compassion. Let us pray for strength and courage to become fitting instruments of His love, mercy and compassion, let us pray. R/
5. At La Storta, St. Ignatius received the grace from the Father of being placed with His son and drawn into the Son's pattern of life, joys and sufferings. Let us pray that we be imbued by the Spirit of St. Ignatius and thereby make the preference of showing way to God through our ministry become a reality, let us pray. R/

Concluding Prayer

O God, for the Greater Glory of Your Name, you chose St Ignatius to be your servant, to do great things for Christ and the church under the banner of the Cross. Grant to us, that through the help and example of St. Ignatius, we may lead all persons to experience the peace and joy of your Kingdom, so that your name be glorified always and everywhere. This prayer we make through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The Angelus

St. Ignatius of Loyola Pray for us

Day-5
26 July 2021

WALKING WITH THE ANAWIMS OF GOD

Opening Prayer

Lord, in your providence, you guided St. Ignatius to found the Society of Jesus. Make us all one with you in holiness and love, that we may discern your will and carry it out with constancy and faith. O Father Ignatius, our guide in our spiritual journey, commend us to God our Lord that He may grant us light to clearly know his most holy will and the grace to fulfil it perfectly. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn: **In need of liberation ...** (*From With Joyful Lips: No. Q. 10*)

Scripture Reading: Luke 10:25-29

Reflection

The path we seek to follow with the poor is one that promotes social justice and the change of economic, political, and social structures that generate injustice; this path is a necessary dimension of the reconciliation of individuals, peoples, and their cultures with one another, with nature, and with God. Care for indigenous peoples, their cultures, and their basic rights occupies a special place in our commitment to reconciliation and justice in all their dimensions. We commit ourselves to promoting a process of globalization that recognizes multiplicity of cultures as a human treasure, protects cultural diversity, and promotes intercultural exchange. We accompany the poor, inspired by our faith in God the Father of mercy who invites us to embrace reconciliation as the foundation of a new humanity. We confirm our commitment to care for migrants, displaced persons, refugees, and victims of wars and human trafficking. We desire, first and foremost, a conversion in our own hearts, that makes us alive and sensitive to the suffering Christ in our midst. (Father Arturo Sosa, 6 February, 2019)

The Cannonball Moments : Graced moments shared by **Fr. Romanus Tete, S.J**

I served the mission as social worker, pastor, treasurer and minister in different places. I suffered from minor ailments quietly for many years. But in spite of these huddles, as I happily carried out the ministries to the best of my abilities, I was diagnosed with the rectum cancer in September, 2020. It shattered my hopes and dreams of carrying out God's mission. I was seized by grief and fear that my life was coming to an unfortunate end. I spent many restless and sleepless nights. I questioned God time and again, saying, "Why is it me Lord?" I went through insurmountable agony physically and mentally.

With the generosity of Jamshedpur Jesuits, the treatment of the disease began in 2020 at St John's Medical College Hospital, Bangalore. The surgeon of the oncology department was adhered to definitive operation rather than any alternative treatment. When I asked for an option to avoid surgery, he suggested me to consult with radiation doctor. The radiation doctor assured me of a chance to avoid surgery. Thus I had to go through thirty four radiation and six chemo therapies. I had to bear much pain and sufferings with patience and calmness. In the process I had to face its side effects of multiple levels, such as fever, stomach ache, hiccups, weakness, tiredness, burning sensation in palms, soles, etc.

The illness has affected physically but it nurtured me spiritually. The spiritual life has been deepened in me. The people of good will either known or unknown to me, constantly pray for my healing. The effect of their prayer is experienced and felt day by day in my life. While being indebted to the Jesuits of my Province, I embrace life's turning point with open arms, completely surrendering myself into God's hand.

Point for Reflections and Silent Prayer

- What are the concrete steps that I can take to walk in solidarity with the poor?

Intercessory Prayers

Response: *St. Ignatius, pray for us.*

1. Solidarity with the poor demands of us that we go beyond mere conceptual thinking, it invites us to work towards a comprehensive collective solidarity that

includes the rich, the corporate world and the authorities in fulfilling the needs of the poor. May the Lord who is the master of both the rich and the poor, enlighten all to recognize that everyone has to right to a decent and secure life.

R/

2. Fr. Stan stood in solidarity with the poor, tribal even to the point of sacrificing his life for them. May his Spirit enkindle our hearts and make us generous and courageous in standing for the rights of the poor- dignity, decent work and adequate wages. R/
3. God our loving Father, we repent for the times when we had failed to love the oppressed and the outcasts. Help us to love the poor as you did. R/
4. Lord, we pray for JRS and for all our missions, for all those who joyfully engage themselves in bringing peace, justice, and harmony to this broken world. Bless them and strengthen them so that they may continue to do this work of charity with vigor and commitment. R/
5. We pray for women. Many are victims of molestation, sexual, physical and domestic violence. Their rights are often taken away. We pray for the grace that society may recognize the dignity of women and begin to respect them after the example of Christ. R/

Concluding Prayer

O God, for the Greater Glory of Your Name, you chose St Ignatius to be your servant, to do great things for Christ and the Church under the banner of the Cross. Grant to us, that through the help and example of St. Ignatius, we may lead all persons to experience the peace and joy of your Kingdom, so that your name be glorified always and everywhere. This prayer we make through Christ Our Lord, Amen

The Angelus

St. Ignatius of Loyola Pray for us

Day-6

27 July 2021

CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Opening Prayer

Lord, in your providence, you guided St. Ignatius to found the Society of Jesus. Make us all one with you in holiness and love, that we may discern your will and carry it out with constancy and faith. O Father Ignatius, our guide in our spiritual journey, commend us to God our Lord that He may grant us light to clearly know his most holy will and the grace to fulfil it perfectly. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn: **Thanks be to God ...** (*From With Joyful Lips: No. X. 30*)

Scripture Reading: Psalm 104: 16-31

Reflection

In the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that all human beings share responsibility for care of creation, considered by many peoples "mother earth." "This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. Therefore, we resolve, considering who we are and the means that we have, to collaborate with others in the construction of alternative models of life that are based on respect for creation and on a sustainable development capable of producing goods that, when justly distributed, ensure a decent life for all human beings on our planet. Conversion for us, Jesuits and our companions in mission, begins by changing the habits of life promoted by an economic and cultural system based on the consumption of an irrational production of goods. The words of Pope Francis encourage us in this direction: "There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about real changes in lifestyle."

The day of reckoning is here! It was December, 1973, when I had completed three years after my ordination. I was in my living room at Loyola Retreat Centre, Michigan Province. While reading quietly the passage of Saint Paul on Philippians, I came across that passage: “God raised Him high and gave Him the name which is above all other names, so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus, and every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

To my amazement, I saw Father rising above and catching up His ten-year old Boy and saying to all concerned that He should be the highest name of all. That brought tears to my eyes and make me caught up in the mystery of God’ Son and His relation to the Father. The more I dwelt on the words of scripture, the more I was caught up in the mystery of God’s own Son and His Spirit being above all. Ever since that day, I cannot say these words of scripture without shedding tears over the passage and feeling at one with the mystery of the glory of God’s own Creation.

Point for Reflection and Silent Prayer

- Have I chosen quick-fix solutions to regain comforts, without being mindful of the harm to nature?

Intercessory Prayers

Response: *St. Ignatius, pray for us.*

1. Almighty God, forgive us for our negligence towards your creation. Help us to leave behind our selfish attitude and behaviour towards nature. Lord, it is through your grace we will be able to renew our life and appreciate the beauty of your creation and thus renew our life by living very close to nature. R/
2. We pray for all the religions of the world. As they try to take every human person closer to God in the divine realm, they may not negate the world and its necessary role in achieving that relationship with God. May they inspire us to build a clean and green world. R/

3. God, our Father, the earth is a visible sacrament of your providence and care.
Cultivate in us the reverence and respect for your creation. R/
4. Give us the grace that while enjoying such creative expressions and admiring the beauty of your creation we may work for its growth and its sustainability.
R/
5. Global warming, irregular monsoon, drought, cyclones, floods, tidal waves and tsunamis are some symptoms of climatic damage that we have caused. Lord, give us your wisdom that we may proactively do something to repair the damage we have caused. R/

Concluding Prayer

O God, for the Greater Glory of Your Name, you chose St Ignatius to be your servant, to do great things for Christ and the Church under the banner of the Cross. Grant to us, that through the help and example of St. Ignatius, we may lead all persons to experience the peace and joy of your Kingdom, so that your name be glorified always and everywhere. This prayer we make through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The Angelus

St. Ignatius of Loyola Pray for us

Day-7
28 July 2021
JOURNEYING WITH THE YOUTH

Opening Prayer

Lord, in your providence, you guided St. Ignatius to found the Society of Jesus. Make us all one with you in holiness and love, that we may discern your will and carry it out with constancy and faith. O Father Ignatius, our guide in our spiritual journey, commend us to God our Lord that He may grant us light to clearly know his most holy will and the grace to fulfil it perfectly. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn: **Oh the word of my Lord ...** (*From With Joyful Lips: No. N. 27*)

Scripture Reading: Mathew 19: 16-21

Reflection

The apostolic works of the Society of Jesus can make an important contribution to creating and maintaining spaces that are open to young people in society and the Church. It is the young who, from their perspective, can help us to understand better the epochal change that we are living and its hope-filled newness. To accompany young people demands of us authenticity of life, spiritual depth, and openness to sharing the life-mission that gives meaning to who we are and what we do. Having these, we can learn, along with the young, to find God in all things, and through our ministries and apostolates, we can help them live this stage of their lives more profoundly. Accompanying young people puts us on the path of personal, communitarian, and institutional conversion.

The Cannonball Moments :	<i>Graced Moments shared by Fr. Eric Cassel, SJ</i>
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It was way back in February of 1959. A message reached me from Fr. Joe Kennedy, Rector of Loyola School: "Please inform your parents if you could be spared for a short while to come to Loyola School". I was lolling in bed engrossed in a mystery novel by

Agatha Christie. I got on to my cycle and pedalled to Loyola. Fr. Kennedy leaned against the outside wall of his room as he engaged me in small conversation. When he found out that I was not at all busy, he popped the question, “Eric, how about joining your Grad Group for a three-day- retreat in Hazaribagh”

Yes, I was used to one day-retreat but three days - away from home! I was stunned. I was the regular stay-at-home type. I hesitantly blurted, “Sorry, Father, I don’t have that kind of money for travel and other expenses”. He countered with a reassuring smile, “Don’t bother yourself about that. Loyola will take care of all expenses. Are you ready? I dilly-dallied, hemmed and hawed a bit before saying, “Sure”.

There were six of us along with Fr. Ed Graham, who was going to escort us. Oh, the thrill of going out! It was a long wait at the Tatanagar Railway Station waiting for the train to roil in that would take us to Koderma Railway Station. Boring! At Koderma Railway Station, we got off and hopped into a State bus to Hazaribagh. At Hazaribagh we got into three cycle rickshaws that brought us to Sitagarha, a sprawling campus with a hilly mountain ahead of us. Who should be waiting at the entrance to this so-called-Novitiate but my former schoolmate, altar server, from St. Mary’s Parish – Rocky Vaz - all dressed in a cassock.

It brought back memories of my days of altar serving in St. Mary’s. Rocky and I were always paired together in white for special occasions at the altar. Here we were both of us from the same parish, both from Loyola School, his mother was my God Mother while my eldest brother was his God Father. What a co-incidence! Or was the Lord telling me something more?

Point for Reflection and silent Prayer

- What are the challenges I personally face in guiding the youth?

Intercessory Prayers

Response: *St. Ignatius, pray for us.*

1. Lord Jesus, you called each one of us to be a good shepherd to be with the youth in their struggles and moments of challenges and sorrows. Give us courage and wisdom that we may accompany the younger generations and lead them along your way. R/
2. We remember all the young people who are victims of drug addiction and alcoholism. Lord Jesus, be with them and help them find the meaning and purpose of their lives and free from their addictions. R/
3. We pray for all youth who run behind the atheistic ideologies of the modern world. Lord Jesus, walk with them in their search for truth and meaning. R/
4. We remember all the unemployed youth across the globe. There are millions in their world who are in search of a decent job for their livelihood. Lord Jesus, send your grace and be their hope in their hopelessness. R/
5. We remember all the brain-washed youth who became victims to the violent and extremist ideologies. Lord Jesus, send your grace so that they may find truth and the real meaning of religions. R/

Concluding Prayer

O God, for the Greater Glory of Your Name, you chose St Ignatius to be your servant, to do great things for Christ and the Church under the banner of the Cross. Grant to us, that through the help and example of St. Ignatius, we may lead all persons to experience the peace and joy of your Kingdom, so that your name be glorified always and everywhere. This prayer we make through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Angelus

St. Ignatius of Loyola Pray for us

Day-8

29 July 2021

CULTURE OF SAFEGUARDING THE VULNERABLE SECTION

Opening Prayer

Lord, in your providence, you guided St. Ignatius to found the Society of Jesus. Make us all one with you in holiness and love, that we may discern your will and carry it out with constancy and faith. O Father Ignatius, our guide in our spiritual journey, commend us to God our Lord that He may grant us light to clearly know his most holy will and the grace to fulfil it perfectly. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn: Till the end of my days, O Lord... (*From With Joyful Lips: No. C. 56*)

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 18-20, 26

Reflection

Fr. Arturo Sosa has defined a consistent culture of protection as “a normal, habitual way of living, relating, working, in which those whom we serve, particularly children, always feel respected, safe, and loved.” This vision is in line with the wishes of Pope Francis to create a culture of care. In the words of Francis, “The Church loves all her children like a loving mother, but cares for all and protects with a special affection those who are smallest and defenceless. This is the duty that Christ himself entrusted to the entire Christian community as a whole. Aware of this, the Church is especially vigilant in protecting children and vulnerable adults.”

The Cannonball Moments: *Graced Moments shared by Kamal Kerketta, NSJ*

At the very beginning of my life in the Novitiate, I was touched by two sentences, “Welcome to Discover God.” and “See God in all things.” These encouraging and soothing words were an invitation for me to lay a spiritual foundation in my journey into the Society of Jesus. Just three days before I entered into the month-long retreat, the most important part of spiritual life in the Society of Jesus, my right-hand finger got

injured while I was playing basketball on 30 October, 2020. I felt devastated to learn from the X-Ray report that the bone of my middle finger was broken and I needed to undergo a major operation. It was done. Three days later I began the Long Retreat. I was worried about writing the reviews of my prayer and meditations. Other Fathers in the Community encouraged me to use my left hand. It was difficult initially, I experienced pain in my shoulder as I wrote the Reviews. As the saying goes, “No pain, no gain.” I persisted on it and made considerable progress in writing with my left hand. It was really an exciting experience to see that I was able to do it! The entire episode gave me a gut level feeling that Jesus was teaching me to write, like a parent holding his child’s hand and teaching to write.

The breaking of the finger bone became, of course, a big help and means to find and see God working through my brokenness. There were moments when I could not eat food and take medicines on my own. But my friends were there to help me with love and care. I could experience God’s love through my friends, doctor and nurses. I was even able to discover God in my distractions. What seemed to be an obstacle, was the beginning of a deeper relationship with the Lord. Whenever I was distracted, I prayed to God saying,

Lord, grant that whenever I see an old man, I may see the face of Jesus.

Whenever I meet my friends, I may see the face of Jesus.

In girls and women, I may see the face of Mother Mary”

If I failed to do so, send down your Spirit to guide me on the right path of life.

Point for Reflection and Silent Prayer

- In what way could I provide a safe milieu for children and vulnerable adults in my apostolates?

Intercessory Prayers

Response: *St. Ignatius, pray for us.*

1. Help us to cherish children and all in our community who are vulnerable, to protect them, and keep them safe. May this place rejoice to be a place where your love is celebrated with integrity. R/
2. For those who have caused your children to stumble, lead them to seek your forgiveness and to enter into true repentance. R/
3. For ourselves, we ask you to give us your heart for the vulnerable, the oppressed, the voiceless and the forgotten. Help us to see them as you see them; to value them as you value them, and to nurture and protect them as you desire. R/
4. We pray for women and children who are victims of trafficking, may they find protection and solace in a caring community. R/
5. We pray for those who suffer from all forms of discrimination, may they find comfort in God's love and care. R/

Concluding Prayer

O God, for the Greater Glory of Your Name, you chose St Ignatius to be your servant, to do great things for Christ and the Church under the banner of the Cross. Grant to us, that through the help and example of St. Ignatius, we may lead all persons to experience the peace and joy of your Kingdom, so that your name be glorified always and everywhere. This prayer we make through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

The Angelus

St. Ignatius of Loyola Pray for us

Day-9

30 July 2021

READINESS TO GO TO NEW FRONTIERS

Opening Prayer

Lord, in your providence, you guided St. Ignatius to found the Society of Jesus. Make us all one with you in holiness and love, that we may discern your will and carry it out with constancy and faith. O Father Ignatius, our guide in our spiritual journey, commend us to God our Lord that He may grant us light to clearly know his most holy will and the grace to fulfil it perfectly. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn: **No one can live as an island ...** (*From With Joyful Lips: No. T. 30*)

Scripture Reading: Jn 21: 15-19

Reflection

In that age of new discoveries and new inventions, Ignatius' men would go with a holy discontent, to the east and to the west, to spread the good news, even at the risk of their lives, with no hope of coming back. Though Ignatius had just six men at his disposal, he was willing to send two to the East at the King's request for the good of souls; when neither could go, he even parted with his son of predilection Xavier to India. Ignatius would not limit the Society's ministry to any continent or country, to any particular apostolate; when a choice of ministry has to be made, choose, he said, that which will bring greater good to a greater number of people, other things being equal. For in this he followed the golden rule: "The more universal the good, the more divine it is." New frontiers for a Jesuit are not limits or blocks to his work, but rather are challenges to go beyond.

The Cannonball Moments:*Graced Moments shared by Fr. Joseph Kalathil, S.J*

As Ignatius' pain and 'stubborn' determination and the consequent struggle turned out to be great 'graces and blessings' which gave birth to the Society of Jesus, so too my inner discerned determination and struggle gave birth to new frontiers. Although there

are many more correlated graced moments, I would like to state one such graced moment here below.

With blessings from Father General I reached Jammu in March 2006. I was 66 years old then and a patient of bronchial asthma for whom high altitude is almost like death. Bishop Peter Celestine of Jammu-Srinagar diocese took me to Kargil, situated over 10,000 feet above the sea level, and said: “This is your mission, find the money and do it”. It literally gave me a shock. I was completely lost, not knowing what to do and where to go. Feeling completely helpless I relied on mere Providence of God. Placing my trust in Jesus and at the same time, being prepared to face any eventuality including an ‘out-burst’ from the DC, I presented myself to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mr. K.I.Khaan I.A.S who, to my pleasant surprise, said: “Sankoo is the most backward area of this district, if you can please, initiate some welfare work there”. After studying the situations of Sankoo, I proposed to have a medical check-up camp to begin with. With unexpected support of the D.C. when the medical check-up camp was organized, again to my complete surprise, the DC, Mr.K.I.Khan personally inaugurated the medical check-up camp in Sankoo. The DC, a Shia-Muslim, lifting my right arm, introduced me to the crowd of Shia Muslims who had come for the inauguration of the medical check-up camp, in these words: “Jesus Christ was the greatest healer in this world. He had healed thousands of people. In His name, Fr. Joseph has come to serve you. Take maximum advantage from his services”. I was dumb-struck, tears of joy and surprise rolling down from my eyes! Even now when I think of it, I wonder, ‘how could that happen!’ I feel in the depth of my heart that one who lifted my hand was Jesus Himself and the one who spoke was the Spirit of Jesus, through the DC, otherwise, how could a ‘Shia Muslim address the Shia Muslim crowd in those words? It was a very pleasant surprise that strengthened my conviction that Jesus was very actively present with me in Kargil. How true are the words: “And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.” (Mt.28: 20)

Point for Reflection and Silent Prayer

- Am I an available and adaptable Jesuit?

Intercessory Prayers

Response: *St. Ignatius, pray for us.*

1. St Ignatius envisioned the whole world as his mission field. That we may transcend narrow parochialism and think and feel globally though we may have to labour locally, let us pray the Lord. R/
2. That as companions of Jesus we may vigorously carry out our mission “to engage, under the standard of the Cross, in the crucial struggle of our time: the struggle for faith and that struggle for justice which it includes”, let us pray the Lord. R/
3. That in our service of Christ and His Church we aim at a “sincere collaboration with the bishops, with other religious, with the diocesan clergy, and with other Christians and with people of other religious faiths”, let us pray the Lord. R/
4. That all Jesuits, and we in particular, accept the fundamental principle of inculturation, which is the incarnation of the Christian message and life in the cultural context of each one’s apostolate, in order to transform it into a new creation, let us pray the Lord. R/
5. That the richness of our spiritual life be the source of our apostolate, and the apostolate, in turn, be a motive for study and for deeper spiritual life, let us pray the Lord. R/

Concluding Prayer

O God, for the Greater Glory of Your Name, you chose St Ignatius to be your servant, to do great things for Christ and the Church under the banner of the Cross. Grant to us, that through the help and example of St. Ignatius, we may lead all persons to experience the peace and joy of your Kingdom, so that your name be glorified always and everywhere. This prayer we make through Christ our Lord. Amen

The Angelus

St. Ignatius of Loyola Pray for us

God of all people,

You were there when the cannonball shattered the leg of St. Ignatius, shattered his dreams, and shattered what he assumed his life would be. Even in a moment of pain and uncertainty, doubt and darkness, you spoke to Ignatius a word of peace and light. You showed him the path to you and the person he might become. We may not be soldiers standing in the path of a literal cannonball. And yet, we've been hit all the same. Cannonballs shatter our hopes and dreams, and expectations.

Like Ignatius, may we hear the compassionate voice of your Son in the aftermath of these cannonball blasts. May we seek the face of Christ even when our dreams are shattered. May we turn and follow Jesus with the courage it takes to change and grow.

As we journey through this Ignatian Year, may we be shown the path to you, God of all people, and live out our vocation, becoming the person you have invited us to be.

Please give us the grace to work for reconciliation every day: with you, with others and with your creation. Open our eyes so we might see all things new in Christ.

Amen.

