

Day 2

NOVENA
TO
ST IGNATIUS OF
LOYOLA



VIDYANIKETAN

South Indian Common Juniorate

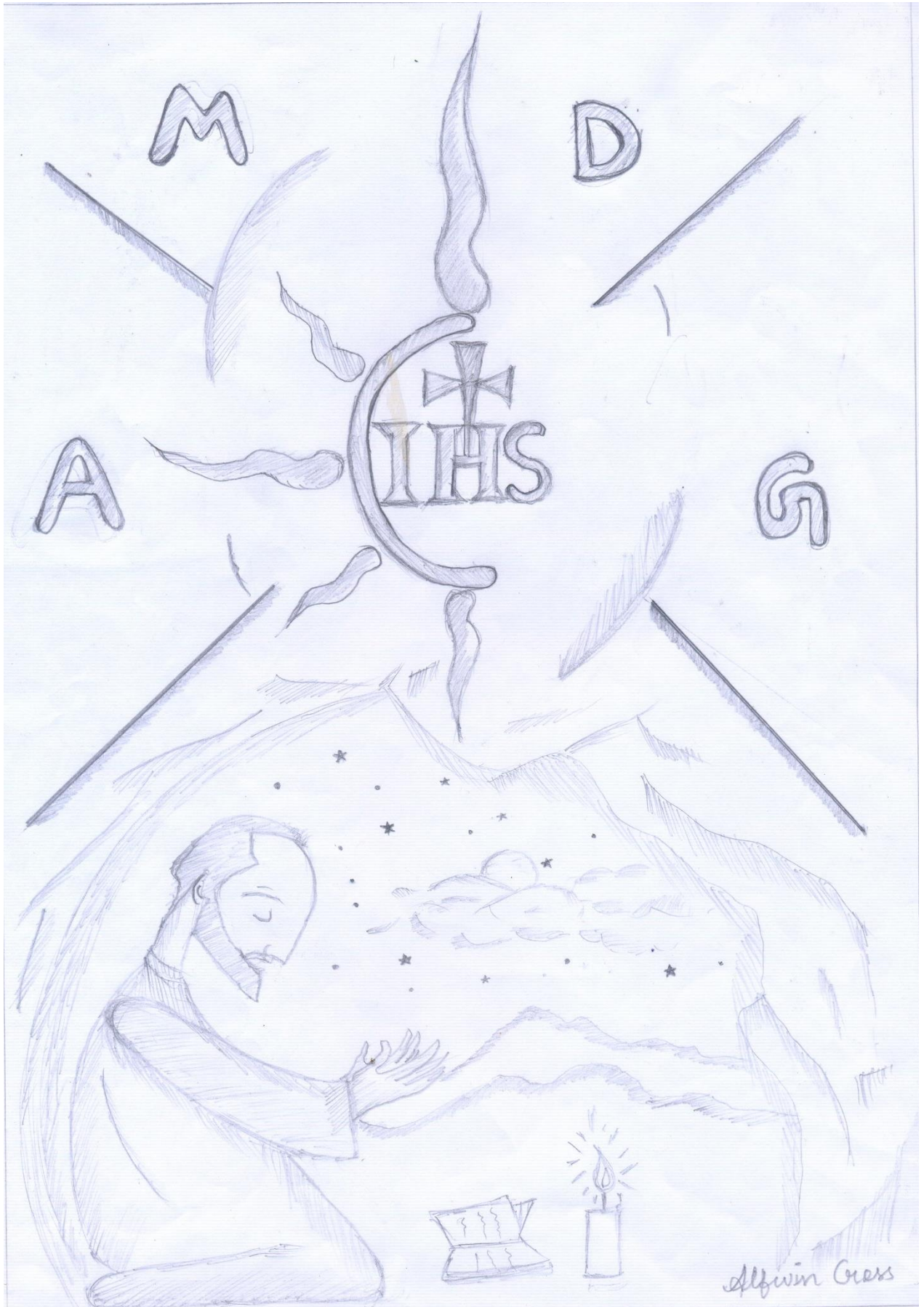
St. Xavier's College

Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala

Day 2

“Effects of Spiritual Reading During the Convalescence of Ignatius”





Opening prayer

Father of my very soul, always caring and solicitous of me, I revere you with all my heart and I humbly pray you as though I had you here present before me, to commend me earnestly and much to God our lord, that he may grant me light clearly to know his most holy will, and grace to fulfil it perfectly. And the same petition I make to all of our society, especially those I have known here on earth and are now with you in heaven. Amen

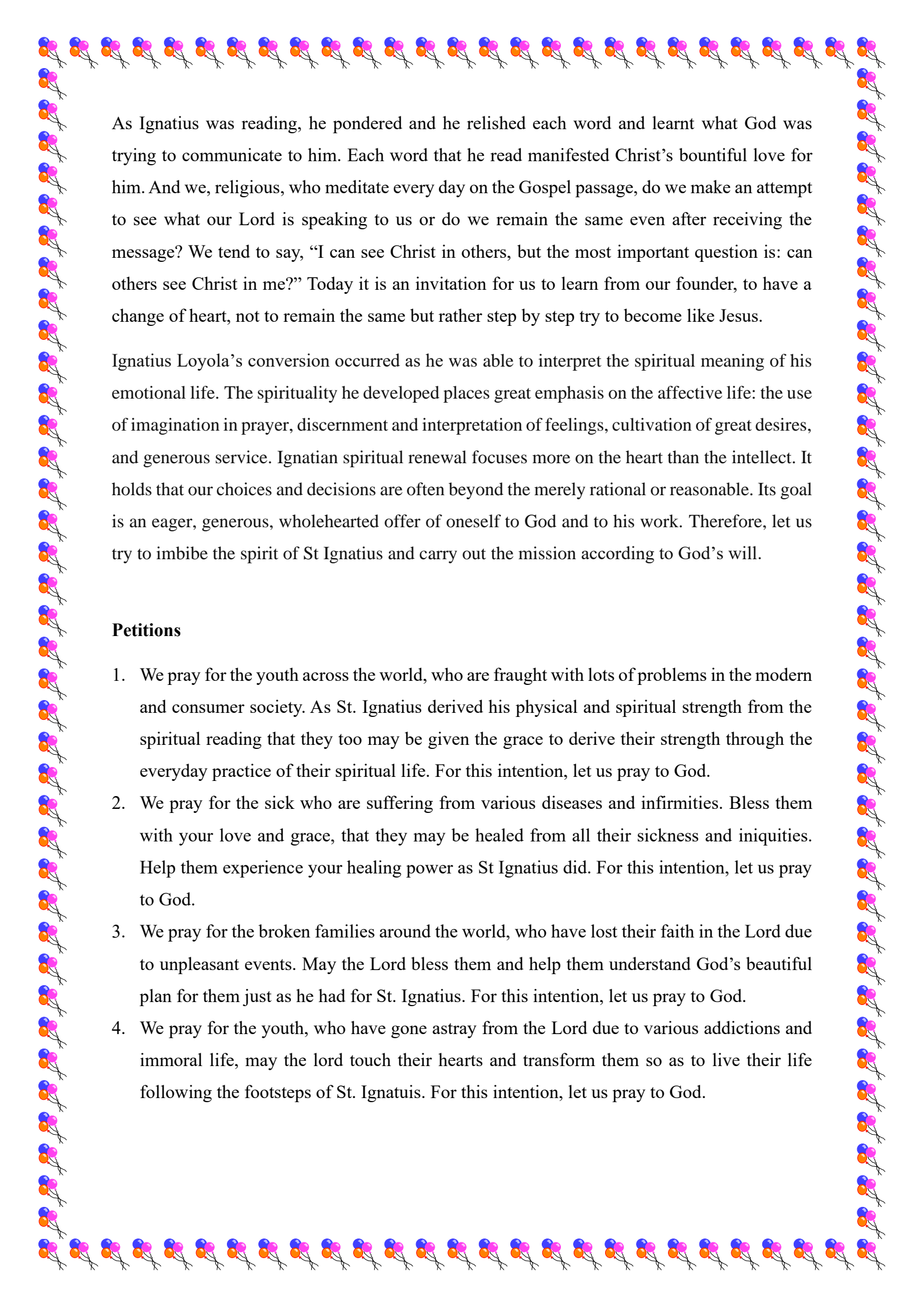
Introduction

Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future. Ignatius was an ordinary man up to the age of 26 and led a life like any one of the young soldiers of his time until he was struck by a cannonball. Ignatius underwent a great transformation from within after reading the books on the life of Christ and the lives of saints during his recuperation. We could visualize today it was God's plan to move him with the eagerness or the interest to read books. Though he wanted to read chivalrous books, another master plan of God we could say, there were only two spiritual books available in the castle. He could have kept them aside out of disinterest to read them. But Ignatius was ignited to read them which brought him a deep conversion of heart, from world-seeking desire to God-seeking desire. Thus, God chose him to be an instrument in his hands.

I invite you all to join your voices as we listen to the hymn, "Change my heart O Lord".
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUjUvoynGMM>

Reflection

Because of spiritual reading, conversion occurred in the life of Ignatius. He realized the unconditional love of God. How it would have been if Ignatius read only chivalrous books given to him? Or any other books for that matter? Where would he have gone? We would not have had our founder! The spiritual books, indeed, made the difference. Ignatius realized that apart from Christ everything is vanity and all the earthly pleasures are only temporary. As he was reading about the life of saints, there arose in him a great desire to imitate saints. He asked himself fervently: "If St. Dominic could do this, why can't I?". "If St. Francis could do this, why not I?" During the period of recuperation, Ignatius was healed not only physically but also spiritually. The spiritual books pierced his heart and appealed to him to lead a life of holiness. He changed his focus from being a brave knight winning the heart of a lady to becoming a brave saint and winning the world for Christ.



As Ignatius was reading, he pondered and he relished each word and learnt what God was trying to communicate to him. Each word that he read manifested Christ's bountiful love for him. And we, religious, who meditate every day on the Gospel passage, do we make an attempt to see what our Lord is speaking to us or do we remain the same even after receiving the message? We tend to say, "I can see Christ in others, but the most important question is: can others see Christ in me?" Today it is an invitation for us to learn from our founder, to have a change of heart, not to remain the same but rather step by step try to become like Jesus.

Ignatius Loyola's conversion occurred as he was able to interpret the spiritual meaning of his emotional life. The spirituality he developed places great emphasis on the affective life: the use of imagination in prayer, discernment and interpretation of feelings, cultivation of great desires, and generous service. Ignatian spiritual renewal focuses more on the heart than the intellect. It holds that our choices and decisions are often beyond the merely rational or reasonable. Its goal is an eager, generous, wholehearted offer of oneself to God and to his work. Therefore, let us try to imbibe the spirit of St Ignatius and carry out the mission according to God's will.

Petitions

1. We pray for the youth across the world, who are fraught with lots of problems in the modern and consumer society. As St. Ignatius derived his physical and spiritual strength from the spiritual reading that they too may be given the grace to derive their strength through the everyday practice of their spiritual life. For this intention, let us pray to God.
2. We pray for the sick who are suffering from various diseases and infirmities. Bless them with your love and grace, that they may be healed from all their sickness and iniquities. Help them experience your healing power as St Ignatius did. For this intention, let us pray to God.
3. We pray for the broken families around the world, who have lost their faith in the Lord due to unpleasant events. May the Lord bless them and help them understand God's beautiful plan for them just as he had for St. Ignatius. For this intention, let us pray to God.
4. We pray for the youth, who have gone astray from the Lord due to various addictions and immoral life, may the lord touch their hearts and transform them so as to live their life following the footsteps of St. Ignatius. For this intention, let us pray to God.

A decorative border of colorful balloons (blue, pink, orange) with black strings, framing the text on all four sides.

Concluding prayer

O God, for the greater glory of your name you chose Ignatius to be your servant, to battle for Christ and the Church under the banner of the cross. Grant to us who have received this grace of being his sons in the society that bears your Son's name, that through the help and example of our father, we may fight on earth for the defence and spread of faith, so that your name be glorified and your people may be saved. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen