

Day 6

NOVENA
TO
ST IGNATIUS OF
LOYOLA



VIDYANIKETAN

South Indian Common Juniorate

St. Xavier's College

Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala

Day-6

To show the way to God through Spiritual Exercises and Discernment (UAP 1)

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

The spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius have made a remarkable impact on the world. Though there are many kinds of spirituality introduced by different saints at different ages, Ignatian Spirituality stands unique and remarkable. It has changed the lives of many people, brought them to the Lord, given us a number of saints.

During the European Renaissance, at the beginning of the modern age, Christians were restless to find new holiness. They wanted saints who, though unworldly in their desires, remained fully in the world and wise in the ways of the world, searching for a spirituality that would combine ancient prayer and work.

When the Spirituality of that age focused either only on work or prayer like monks in the monasteries, there was the need to combine both. people sought after a new form of spirituality that embraced the beauty and goodness of the world, and trusted the power of thoughtful human enterprise to make good things happen in this world, shaping and reshaping it as best they could through God's redemptive love and guidance. 'We are Monks in the market place' is phrase attribute to Jesuits and Fr Nadal says, "Road is our Home."

Ignatius Spiritual Exercises inspire us to find God in all things: at every situation, relationship, and experience of human life—in the daily stuff of working, raising children, caring for neighbours, seeking justice in civic life, fighting for the rights of the people, working for the upliftment of the poor, protecting the earth, and building the human community, as well as in experiences of friendship, of solidarity in a common cause, in times of rejoicing and great happiness, times of sorrow and grieving, and times of loneliness and fear.

Characteristics of Ignatian Spirituality

1. It sees life and the whole universe as a gift calling forth wonder and gratefulness.
2. It gives ample scope to imagination and emotion as well as intellect.
3. It seeks to find the divine in all things – in all peoples and cultures, in all areas of study and learning, in every human experience, and (for the Christian) especially in the person of Jesus.
4. It cultivates critical awareness of personal and social evil but points to God's love as more powerful than any evil.
5. It stresses freedom, the need for discernment, and responsible action.
6. It empowers people to become leaders in service, men and women for others, whole persons of solidarity, building a more just and humane world.
7. It holds the personal relationship with Christ and loves for the Church as the foundation for continuing God's mission.
8. It considers the union of minds and hearts as the basis for our community as we listen for our God present among us, admitting no division based on ethnicity, nationality, background, age or gender.

Hymn: Lord I come to thee

Gospel: Mt 12:25-27

Reflection

Holy Father Ignatius, after experiencing the immense love of Christ, at Maresa after the conversation, was inspired, instead of storing it as a personal treasure within himself, he was passionate to share with others and guide others with a divine purpose of saving souls. Ignatius desired to share with the world the bliss that he received through mystical experiences. Saving souls through Spiritual Exercises and rules for discernment was his passion. He wanted to give Spiritual Exercises to every person who was lost in worldly desires. In fact, when we reflect deeply, it is the Spiritual Exercises that gathered the first companions at the beginning and eventually transformed them to dedicate themselves to the Kingdom of God. Francis Xavier or Peter Faber would have never thought of leaving their renowned post in the university or leaving behind their royal life, it is the Spiritual Exercises that transformed them and gave them

the light of new life.

Petitions: Response: Lord! help us to save souls.

1. Dear Loving Lord, we pray for all Jesuits across the world, the spiritual life is the fountain of our life and mission, realizing its depth, we may be deepened in our spiritual life as St. Ignatius and may be inspired to share with partners our inner most spiritual experiences. For this intention, let us pray to the Lord.
2. Dear Loving Lord, we pray for all novice masters, spiritual fathers and those who are involved in spiritual ministry. Grant them good health and lavish your blessings upon them. That they may be able to teach the Spiritual Exercises to many people guide them in your path. For this intention, let us pray to the Lord.
3. Dear Lord, we pray that every soul that benefits from spiritual exercise may inspire many others to transform their life and fulfil the principle and foundation for which we are created. For this intention, let us pray to the Lord.
4. Dear Lord, our master, as religious fanaticism becomes a dominant evil poisoned by political agenda in India, we pray for all the people irrespective of religion, race and ethnicity. Enlighten them and enkindle them to see God in all people and share their love and friendship beyond the divisions. For this intention, let us pray to the Lord.

Conclusion:

Heavenly Father, as we are aware of your immense love, we have experienced help us reach the lost and lead them to your amazing grace through the spiritual exercises and discernment through the great tool you have gifted us through St Ignatius your servant. We pray this through Christ our lord.

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 defense and spread of the faith, so that your name be glorified and your people may be saved. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen