



Day 5

NOVENA
TO
ST IGNATIUS OF
LOYOLA

VIDYANIKETAN

South Indian Common Juniorate

St. Xavier's College

Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala



Veron SJ

Day 5

Union of Hearts and Minds as Companions in the Society

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:

From the day I joined the Society of Jesus to this day, one of the aspects that I cherish in my life is community life. It is really joyful to come together as one family bound by companionship. Born somewhere in a different family and raised in a different culture and language, we are today united as companions in the lap of the Mother Society. Let us thank God for giving us the gift of companionship. There are many diversities amidst us yet the aspect of companionship is what builds up our community life. The union of hearts and minds is the heart and breath of our community life. Called by God and united by the Society of Jesus, companionship is the life in union of hearts and minds.

Companionship cherishes happiness in the victory of our own Jesuits, sharing their suffering as our own, celebrating everyone's achievements as our own family, and shouldering the failures of others. Although there are many kinds of relationships in this world, companionship always has a special place in human relationships. Companionship is the dimension of divine love that wells up from the depths of the heart. Our Mother Society is united in the umbilical cord of fellowship that evolves into a bond of affection, and blossoms in filial love.

Readings:

St Ignatius, in the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus, no.655, says, "The society cannot be preserved or governed or, consequently, attain the aim it seeks, for the greater glory of God unless its members are united among themselves and with their head. My dear friends in the Lord. When our community life flourishes, the whole religious life is sound. The general norms of the society

of Jesus no.314 say, our community is the entire body of the society itself, no matter how widely dispersed over the face of the earth. During this community prayer let us pray that we may be united like St Ignatius and his companions were united. Let us ardently pray during this community prayer.

Insight: constitutions of the Society of Jesus part 8 Union of Minds and Hearts no 655

The most difficult it is for the members of the congregation to be united with their head and among themselves since they are so spread out in diverse parts of the world among believers and unbelievers. For the Society cannot be preserved or governed or consequently attain aim it seeks for the greater glory of God unless its members are united among themselves and with their head.

Symbolic Offerings:

Response: Accept, Lord, accept our Offering.

1. Candle: A candle that gives light to others by losing itself is a symbol of dedication. In the way of our Lord Jesus, who calls us to let our light shine before people, we also offer these candles to God to illuminate our lives through kind words and loving understanding, and to live the companionship of Jesus. Lord, we offer you.

Answer: Accept, Lord, accept our Offering.

2. Flowers: fragrant flowers are a symbol of God's amazing creation. We are created in the image of God, and we marvel at the greatness of God who crowns the little grass and the flower. We are gathered into the companionship of Jesus. We, who have realized the value of creation, in the company of Christ, pray for the blessing that grow in the union of hearts and minds and sing your praises. Lord, we offer you.

Answer: Accept, Lord, accept our Offering.

3. Grains: The fruit of human labour is a symbol of God's gift of sustenance to man. Companionship is the sustenance of our community life, just as the fruit that nourishes human life is bestowed upon us by God's grace. Just as a seed cannot bear fruit unless it falls into the soil, dies, sprouts and grows up we cannot fully bear fruit unless we overcome our divisions and be united in the companionship of Christ. We pray for the grace that we may grow more and more in

companionship and offer ourselves wholeheartedly for the greater glory of God. Lord, we offer you.

Answer: Accept, Lord, accept us

4. Youth: We present our young people at the feet of God, praying for the blessing that they may grow up in the characteristics of Christ's companionship and may bear witness to his love and grow in the divine values of Christ. Lord, we offer you.

Answer: Accept, Lord, accept our Offering.

Reading: John 15: 1-5

Let us spend reflect on the Gospel in silence

Reflection:

1. Have we grown in the union of hearts and minds as companions in the Society of Jesus?
2. What are the barriers to me growing more deeply in companionship?
3. What efforts should I make to cross divisions and unite in the companionship of Christ to do the work of God more actively?
4. How to unite young people in the Christian way as companions of Christ for our ministry?
5. It is the need of the hour to unite the youth who are caught up in the clutches of cinema craze, consumer culture, etc., as companions of Jesus. Through what kind of initiatives can young people be united as companions of Christ?
6. In our educational institutions, is it possible to bring Ignatian values into the lives of young people by grouping the young people in the workplaces under the name "Inigo Youth" and explaining the life history of Ignatius once a month?

Petitions

1. Lord our holy Father, at this holy moment, we pray for the union in our Mother Society. As all the Jesuits are engaged in various ministries with many conflicts and difficulties on our way, grant us the grace that we may shoulder and support each other and build up beautiful communities. For this grace let us to the Lord.

2. Lord our protector and consoler, at this moment of grace, we earnestly pray for our country, especially for the people in Manipuri who are being persecuted, ill-treated and trampled by others. Dear Lord, hear their plea and wipe away their sufferings and help the persecutors understand what is right and just. So that they may reconcile and bring peace and unity to the people. For this grace let us turn to the Lord.
3. Lord our heavenly father, we offer all the Christians across the world. Bless them with the grace of unity in diversity. Called and united by Jesus our Master, they may experience the union of minds and hearts and build up universal Catholic communities. For this grace let us turn to the 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 faith, so that your name be glorified and your people may be saved. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen