



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! As we turn the calendar into August this week, a few calendar items and a brief reflection. Calendar Items:

1) We welcome Fr. Mapara to our parish this weekend and thank him for his missionary witness and work. Please keep him in your prayers and consider supporting his work financially, through the Missionary Co-op Appeal. Envelopes marked as such will be sent to his mission.

2) Tomorrow, Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 9AM, we will have the blessing of our new columbaria at the cemetery. All are welcome to join us for this brief ceremony. For more information on the columbaria which will be named in honor of Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus, please see our parish website.

Brief Reflection:

Over the past two weeks, we've experienced a lot – in politics and Church: the assignation attempt on President Trump, the “standing down” of President Biden and the 10<sup>th</sup> Eucharistic Congress. Any one of those events invites reflection but time keeps pressing on. I'm reminded of the opening lines of the Soap Opera “Days of our Lives”: Like sand thru the hour glass, so too the days of our lives! Indeed.

And yet, our lives are more – much more! Turning into August, we celebrate several founders of Religious Communities. Men and women who have found that more. One of whom is Ignatius of Antioch, founder of the Jesuits. I share a writing of his via Luis Gonzalez and invite you to our First Friday Holy Hour this week. There I will lead and teach His Way of Discernment that can help all.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

**From the life of Saint Ignatius from his own words by Luis Gonzalez**

*Put inward experiences to the test to see if they come from God*

Ignatius was passionately fond of reading worldly books of fiction and tales of knight-errantry. When he felt he was getting better, he asked for some of these books to pass the time. But no book of that sort could be found in the house; instead they gave him a life of Christ and a collection of the lives of saints written in Spanish.

By constantly reading these books he began to be attracted to what he found narrated there. Sometimes in the midst of his reading he would reflect on what he had read. Yet at other times he would dwell on many of the things which he had been accustomed to dwell on previously. But at this point our Lord came to his assistance, insuring that these thoughts were followed by others which arose from his current reading.

While reading the life of Christ our Lord or the lives of the saints, he would reflect and reason with himself: “What if I should do what Saint Francis or Saint Dominic did?” In this way he let his mind dwell on many thoughts; they lasted a while until other things took their place. Then those vain and worldly images would come into his mind and remain a long time. This sequence of thoughts persisted with him for a long time.

But there was a difference. When Ignatius reflected on worldly thoughts, he felt intense pleasure; but when he gave them up out of weariness, he felt dry and depressed. Yet when he thought of living the rigorous sort of life he knew the saints had lived, he not only experienced pleasure when he actually thought about it, but even after he dismissed these thoughts, he still experienced great joy. Yet he did not pay attention to this, nor did he appreciate it until one day, in a moment of insight, he began to marvel at the difference. Then he understood his experience: thoughts of one kind left him sad, the others full of joy. And this was the first time he applied a process of reasoning to his religious experience. Later on, when he began to formulate his spiritual exercises, he used this experience as an illustration to explain the doctrine he taught his disciples on the discernment of spirits.