



Loyola College Society, Chennai.

Happy Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola

Dear Officials, Staff (Teaching, Non-Teaching, Administrative, Supportive, and Technical), Alumni, Students, Parents, and Friends of Loyola family,

In the name of the Jesuit Community, I wish you all a happy feast of St Ignatius of Loyola.

The Caronavirus Pandemic has been an experience of crisis for us all. But we, with the grace of God, need to move forward to fullness of life. For Jesus, his death on the Cross was a crisis but His Resurrection was the creativity of God's might. For St Ignatius, a canon ball shattering his right knee at Pamplona was a crisis but his conversion was the creativity of finding God in his life. Entering the cave of Manresa, with utter confusion, was a crisis, but emerging, after 10 months, with The Spiritual Exercises was a creative tool for others to find God in life.

During the pandemic we were frightened to see how vulnerable and unprepared we were to face the crisis; we realized with fear our frailty and helplessness when we needed medicine; we felt the need for meaningful human relationships; and we are thankful to so many Good Samaritans, the frontline warriors, who offered us help.

Post Covid19 would give us a new vision: St Ignatius sitting on the banks of the river Cardoner, without any dramatic or traumatic event or incident, felt the presence of God making him see everything NEW. This Cardoner experience led him to see, in his Spiritual Exercises, God working for each one of us in the creation. Today we celebrate this experience of St Ignatius of Loyola: seeing God in everything and finding everything in God.

Seeing God in Corona? Perhaps, yes! We have been merciless to nature and we realize it too late. We are now called back to nature. We are reminded that not money but happiness that matters; and we realize that not power but accompanying love that is needed. Let us search within ourselves what is the lesson we have learnt from the Corona-experience. One thing we need to know, in the absence of effective medication, that the alternative is immunity building as a prerequisite to face Corona.

Let us look at God and place ourselves at His feet and say with St Ignatius: Take and receive, O Lord, all I have ... Give me your love and grace ... That is enough for me. Wish you all a happy feast of St Ignatius, the Master of Crisis Management. The Jesuit Community invites you all for the Mass of St Ignatius of Loyola, online, at 12:00 noon on 31st July 2020. May the saint continue to inspire us. Stay healthy.

With kind regards,

Francis P Xavier SJ

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