

ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

MONTHLY ENGLISH BULLETIN

July 2020

MISSION 2030: [2020 THEME]

A NEW “COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY”

Grappling with a “New Collaborative Effort”



A New Collaborative Effort

This abridged article was first published in the June issue of MAGIS, the monthly Japanese magazine of St. Ignatius Church. With the “first step of the reopening of Churches” in the Archdiocese of Tokyo, the article of our Pastor may well be a catalyst for the creation of a new way of “being Church” in these pandemic times and beyond.

Due to the new coronavirus, all church activities have been halted for nearly three months. As this abnormal situation continues, we are not able to offer Mass along with the laity. Even after the State of Emergency was lifted, we have only been able to restart a very limited number of activities. In this situation, something came to mind. After my appointment here, there was a meeting of religious clergy. Someone proposed that the parish was too busy with too many activities and wondered if something might be done about it. Actually, there really were too many activities each day, and the council members were truly

Fr. Hanafusa Ryuichiro, SJ

overburdened. It was suggested that all activities be halted and put under review for one year. However, no agreement could be reached about this proposal and it never materialized.

Because of this experience, I became acutely aware of the urgent need for a review of our parish activities. This opportunity came when we started a Church Activities Review Workshop, which eventually became the “**Mission 2030 Plan of Action.**” At the beginning, Mission 2030 was actually a plan for a one-year activity hiatus. This year, that plan for a one-year hiatus seems miraculously to be coming to the foreground. I feel that this is a mysterious judgement from Our Lord.

Based on the church's Mission 2030 Plan of Action, let's use this time as an opportunity to review our parish activities and events. The theme for this year is “**A New Collaborative Effort.**” From April until now, explanatory articles have been written. Within those articles are some concrete events which we will not be able to implement, but I think it is possible to deepen the spirit behind them. Let's look again, with new awareness, at how we can work together.

First, please look back over all the various themes up until now. We have deepened our awareness of these, but



Fr. Hanafusa, SJ

we must now apply them afresh precisely in our present situation.

Deepening Prayer: In a church where everyone cannot freely participate in the Mass, each one of us must deepen our prayer life. Can we figure out how to live, have faith, and pray in a church without Masses?

Spreading the Gospel: When it comes to spreading the Gospel, we often think of introductory classes, but we cannot hold such classes now. However, in this situation, we all still have our individual mission to spread the Gospel. How might we spread the Gospel in a situation where our chances to be near others directly are severely limited? And as a first premise we must consider how, in this limited situation, we might be able to live out the Gospel. Our living out of the Gospel always takes place where we are at present. In our present context, with what sort of attention and practice can we achieve?

Living Community: The largest challenge resides in how we are to live

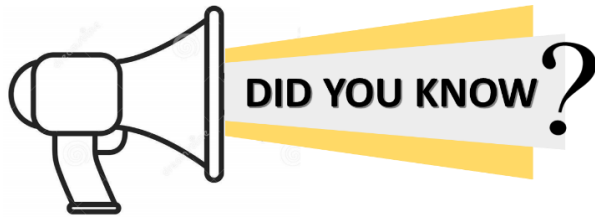
as a community. While we can't be near our parish friends now, how can we retain the bonds of community?

If we can newly recapture these three themes (**Prayer, Gospel, Community**), we may be able to see how best to collaborate with a new awareness. As with any theme, there

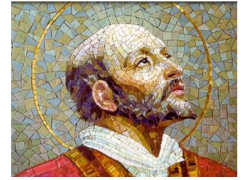
are large hurdles, but our present difficult situation challenges us all to work harder to figure things out. With faith as our foundation, we can look at the present situation positively and new roads may be found. For my part, I will continue to seek answers. But I wish to

gather wisdom from all of you as well. I am welcoming any interesting ideas or practices. Please e-mail or mail a letter to the church directly. I will continue to update you all with ideas via the MAGIS magazine.

Translated by Ryan Hicks



The Saint "**St. Ignatius of Loyola**" on which our church was named after, his Feast day is on July 31



IMPORTANT NOTICES FOR JULY

- As part of the "first step of reopening of churches" in the Archdiocese of Tokyo, St. Ignatius Church has resumed, on an experimental basis, the following:

WHAT	WHEN	TIME	WHERE
EXPOSITION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT *	Weekdays	7:00 a.m.	Main Church
CONFESSIONS *	Weekdays	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Inside the vestibule of the main church near Our Lady's statue in the garden
	Sundays	During Mass Hours	
MASSES **	Weekdays (Japanese)	12:00 p.m.	Main Church
		6:00 p.m.	
	Sundays (Japanese)	10:00 a.m.	
	Sundays (English)	12:00 p.m.	
	Sundays (Spanish)	1:30 p.m.	
	Sundays (Vietnamese)	3:00 p.m.	

* Free participation. ** Pre-registration Required.

*** For other sacraments inquire at the Parish Office or English Center.

- Sunday masses are also livestreamed. Please go to www.stignatius.jp/en/ for instructions on how to access.
- The monthly English Bulletin can now be accessed on-line in the above website, under the Publication section.
- Mass Celebrants of the month:
 - Fr. Doyle, SJ (July 5), Fr. Bony, SJ (July 12), Fr. Cusumano, SJ (July 19), Fr. Veliath (July 2)

DID YOU KNOW ?

St. Ignatius of Loyola is best known as the person who founded the Jesuits and whose spiritual insights gave birth to Ignatian spirituality and the Spiritual Exercises. A lesser-known fact is that it was the cannonball wound he received in battle that actually led to his conversion experience. Without this conversion, there would be no Jesuits, no Ignatian spirituality.

Listed below are three fun facts about the 16th-century saint, St. Ignatius of Loyola:

- He once allowed the donkey on which he was riding to determine whether he should follow and murder someone he thought had insulted the Blessed Virgin Mary. Fortunately, the donkey chose the path that led away from the insulter.
- He thought that his leg had been set poorly after the cannonball incident and that, as a result, he wouldn't look good in his courtier's tights. So he had a doctor rebreak his leg and start over!
- He may be the only canonized saint to have a notarized police record—for nighttime brawling with intent to inflict serious harm.

The Catholic Faith

Glimpses of Faith



Taidama! Observing social distancing



Intimate Moments with the Lord



Oratio Imperata



Origami Cranes for "the absent ones"



Lord, we trust in You !



Reunion of the African Community



Weddings continue even in Pandemic times



Provisional Confessional - Waiting for you



Here is your Mother



Before the Mass



Covered water font at the entrance



After four months, The Bread of Life !



I am here for you !

St. Ignatius Church News and Events

OUR NEW NEIGHBOR

Are you aware that the John de Britto Center has a new "neighbor"? Right beside our door, there is a name plate with a foreign name. The Bulletin requested him for some information about himself and this new office. The international community WELCOMES him, as from now on, together, we serve St. Ignatius Church.



Fr. Nhã

Hello everyone! Greetings from our new Office! I am Joseph Nguyễn Thanh Nhã, a Vietnamese Jesuit priest sent to Japan in 2009. My name is a bit long and difficult for the Japanese to say. That is why my friends call me "Cat" or "Nha Chan" because Japanese cats make a sound similar to my name. Anyway, that is an easy way to remember my name.

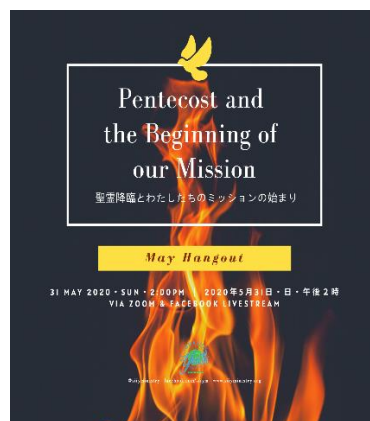
After arriving in Japan, I took two years for language study. As you know, Japanese is not an easy language. So after my Japanese Language School, I took another half year to study Japanese history and culture under a teacher from one of our high schools, Eiko Gakuen. From 2012, I spent two years at the Jesuit Tokyo Social Center before entering Sophia University in 2014 to study Theology. During this time, on September 23, 2017, I was ordained a priest in the Society of Jesus. In 2018, I graduated from my basic studies and moved on for a Masters' degree in Theology. Until recently, I was busy doing my research on weekdays and on weekends I was occupied with pastoral duties.

Since this April I have been working at the Jesuit Tokyo Social Center from Monday to Thursday. On weekends I will help in the pastoral ministries at St Ignatius Church. For my ministries, I got the office that was formerly the Claver Center. In general, I will be in charge of the Vietnamese people. Many Vietnamese come to St Ignatius Church for Mass. Most of them are young. I hope I can give them good accompaniment. I also hope that I can be a bridge between the Vietnamese group and other groups in the Church. I look forward to your collaboration

and support. Please share in my ministries, especially through your prayers.

PENTECOST AND THE BEGINNING OF OUR MISSION

Amidst the challenges and difficulties of the current pandemic, one of the most disheartening situations for us Catholic youth in Tokyo is not being able to attend regular Mass and parish activities on Sundays. For most of us, the parish is not only our spiritual sanctuary, but also our source of emotional support, a venue to cultivate relational bonds with our fellow Catholic youth. These are the reasons why even though we are confined to our individual homes, we strive to keep up our Sunday observances - attending the English Mass together through live streaming and afterwards conducting our youth activities through an online meeting platform called "Zoom."



Pentecost Poster

The Feast of the Pentecost on May 31 coincided with our online "Youth Hangout" entitled "Pentecost and the Beginning of our Mission." The objective of this event was for us to get to know our mission as Catholics through testimonies and sharings provided by different missionaries residing in Japan. That day, we prepared and showed a simple documentary featuring interviews with Fr. Robert Chiesa, Fr. Joseph Nguyễn Thanh Nhã, Bro. Mukadi Ilunga Christian, all from the Society of Jesus (SJ), Fr. Raniel 'Pal' Badilla Berdos of the Priestly Fraternity of the Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo (FSCB), Sr. Flor Florece, a religious of

the Congregation of the Daughters of, Jesus (FI), and Maria Paula Reis Gomes a consecrated missionary of the Servants of the Gospel of God's Mercy.

For us youth, the lives of these missionaries are a source of hope and inspiration. During this time of social distancing when we experience inner struggles due to loneliness and the feeling of being away from Christ, the stories of our missionaries reminded us that the journey of faith truly involves difficulties as well as loneliness, given that our mission may involve being separated from our beloved families and native countries. Yet, we are never alone, as God accompanies us always in our journey. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can overcome challenges and can continue spreading the Good News. Social media and online platforms at this time are great means for his message to travel across the world.

We express our deepest gratitude to missionaries here in Japan as we, the international youth, have benefited greatly from their mission. Together, we join them in witnessing to and sharing our faith, united as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Miguel Evangelista
SIIYM Leader

CATECHISM OF CHILDREN AND A YOUNG ADULT

"Real class is much better than virtual communication!" This was the first feedback from one family when they were asked about online Catechism classes. How true this is: it is harder to maintain the interest of young children in a Zoom meeting!

One child and some parents, however, agree that online Catechism classes have given the children time to get away from their whole day regular academic classes, which for the past months have also been held online. It is also a good time to enjoy with their peers and share their thoughts. It is refreshing to hear about God, his great love for each person, his teachings. After the session, the children are eager to share the lessons with their parents further. After all, parents are the first teachers of the faith. The family is the "Domestic Church,"

the first school of love and for developing children's Christian values so that they will be strong in facing life's challenges as they grow up. The parents' enthusiasm and support for these online classes are, therefore, greatly appreciated.

One young adult preparing for baptism, Kenshi Fujiwara, has also benefitted much from the online Catechism class. "Yes, I'm learning a lot from the classes! It was a big challenge for me to believe in the existence of God. However, through the classes, I'm learning and coming to know God more by degrees every week and have started to apply this knowledge to my daily life. I'm not sure whether I prefer in-person class, but there is no problem learning online for me."

Adelfa Armentia

FAITH SHARING GROUP

When the pandemic hit us, we could no longer physically meet, but with the aid of WhatsApp, we could all meet from our very own homes using our mobile phones. No need to worry about contracting the corona virus, travel distances, our surroundings, or our attire. Online Faith Sharing gave us a chance to encourage one another and seek direction and hold our spiritual hands in unison. It gave us hope, finding ways to cope and see the workings of God in all this. It has been a place for consolation, for our worries to subside, for expressing our gratitude,

praise, and laughter. God indeed came to our virtual space and touched everyone.

As we re-enter the world now with fear and trepidation and await the vaccines to be discovered, God has provided us a new way of gathering in his name. God is indeed in our midst.

Yoko Fujino

ANGELS' GROUP

How are the English-speaking and Japanese families with children doing? Since Masses were suspended for the past four months, so too, has our activity of gathering children in the Xavier Chapel just after the Opening Prayer of the Mass. Taking advantage of the international background of our members, we are now brainstorming to come up with alternative activities such as a video programs for children containing songs, the Sunday Gospel, and original storytelling based on the Bible etc. and reach out to them via Zoom application. Also, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, we have gathered online and dedicated our Rosary prayer for those affected.

Shiori Kimura

FAITH FORMATION CLASS

In our Faith Formation Series on Miss-

ionary Discipleship and Evangelization, we look at the lives of three pivotal saints in the history of Christianity, namely, Saint Paul, Saint Peter, and Saint Patrick. In our first online meeting, we asked, "Do We Need a Saint Paul Today?" Saint Paul proclaimed the "Resurrection of Christ" wherever he went. A Jew and a scholar of theology, a few years earlier he had been hunting down and arresting Christians, even acquiescing in the martyrdom of Saint Stephen. After his conversion, he embraced Christ's command to bring the Good News to the world, to both Gentiles and Jews, becoming hugely influential in bringing Christianity to the Roman Empire and ultimately throughout Europe. Yet, he also faced persecution, ridicule, and rejection from many. However, he persevered. From an enemy of the Faith to becoming its champion, his statue is prominently displayed in the Vatican alongside that of Saint Peter.

In our next two online meetings we continue with the second and third saints in the series, Saint Peter on June 28 and then Saint Patrick on July 5. All are welcome to join in the discussion.

Neil Day

day.neil@hmail.com

Collaborative Efforts (Preparing for the "1st Step" in Reopening the Church)



Feature Article

Ignatian Insights in a Context of Global Crisis and Uncertainty!

Since the COVID-19 disease outbreak last December and its rapid spread from Wuhan all over the world we have been experiencing fear, sorrow, and desolation. Watching with tears the catastrophic consequences of the COVID-19 disease, we realized our vulnerability. Nobody can predict how tomorrow will look. We are living in a time of uncertainty and profound change. Our “boat” is sinking and we cry: “Lord we are lost!”



In such a context of global crisis and uncertainty, how can St Ignatius of Loyola's spirituality inspire us? St Ignatius, whose feast is celebrated on **July 31**, the founder of the Society of Jesus, is the Father of the so-called **Ignatian spirituality**. Not only Jesuits but a large number of men and women all over the world, regardless their origin, culture, religious tradition, social position and affiliation, have rooted their lives in this spirituality since the 16th century. Spiritual masters or mystics do not give answers to our problems. They give us insights. They enlighten our views, feelings, and understanding of reality. Their life and experience always help us to renew our way of looking at and feeling about what happens within and around us. In fact, *the Ignatian way* gives us four insights: to be contemplative in action, to find God in all things, to look at the world through the Incarnation, and to seek freedom and detachment. These four insights are the pillars of Ignatian spirituality.

To be a contemplative in action: Being “busy” is one characteristic of our society. Most of the time we are overloaded with work, meetings, reports, business trips, etc. to the point of losing our peace of mind. But during this time of global crisis and the remote style which circumstances impose

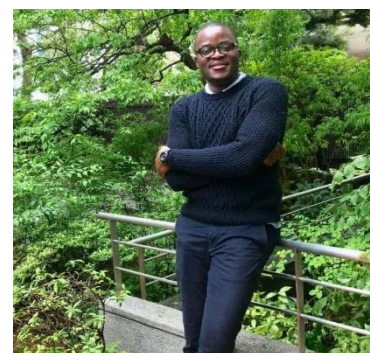
on us, we come to realize that another style of life is possible: Stay home, rush around less, focus on what is essential, spend more time with the family, have time to pray and meditate. Work can ennoble us. But at the same time, there is a need to realize that our job, our business is not the final purpose of our existence on earth. The Chinese character of the Japanese word *isogashii* (忙しい) meaning busy, suggests that whenever we are busy, we lack contemplation, meditation on the awareness of God's presence even in the midst of a busy life. We “lose our heart.” In that sense, Ignatian spirituality and Zen meditation are close: both underline the important central place of awareness in our life.

To find God in all things: We can ask why this pandemic happened. We could also ask why it should not have happened. We cannot find answers to these questions because it's not a part of the Christian vocation to be able to explain what happened and why, but to show how everything can be a way to experience God. So, this global crisis is an opportunity to return to God and find God not in architectural infrastructures, or ceremonies, but deep inside our heart, and in the banality of our existence. As Jesus said it: “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth.” (John 4: 23)

To look at the world through the Incarnation: According to St Ignatius, God dwells in real things, real places, and real people. He believes that God is not only “up there,” but he is also “all around” (J. Martin), and that Jesus Christ is his incarnation. However, there is no need to be a Christian to have an incarnational view. Incarnation is, first of all, a manifestation of compassion and the love of God for us. So, to look at the world through the Incarnation means to look hard at each reality with God's eyes, with compassion and love, to figure out what the world needs more and to act accordingly. In this time of global crisis and uncertainty, to look at the world through the Incarnation means not to “stay home” in comfort but to be able to make sacrifices as God did for our redemption by surrendering his only Son. We make sacrifices by

being more attentive to those who are most in need, and by doing concrete acts of charity: prayers, donations, and protection of our common home.

To seek freedom and detachment: Ignatian spirituality is a way of freeing ourselves from all kind of “disordered attachments,” to seek and find the divine will in regard to the disposition of our life for the good of souls. To seek detachment means to free ourselves from attitudes and habits which do not help us grow in our relationship with our self, with others, with nature, and with God. The Ignatian way teaches that each situation is an opportunity of encountering God, an occasion for learning and getting profit for our good. On the other hand, Ignatius was a champion of paying careful *attention* to experience (awareness), *reflecting* on its meaning (discernment), and *deciding how to act* (action), *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam* (for the greater Glory of God). In short, Ignatius believes that devotion is to *find God in all things*, because God dwells in concrete things, concrete places, concrete events, and concrete people. That was a conviction which made Ignatius a *contemplative in action*, a man who seeks and finds God active in all things, through the Incarnation, and a man who seeks detachment from anything which prevents him from praising, reverencing, and serving God our Lord.



Mukadi Ilunga Christian is a Jesuit scholastic from the Democratic Republic of Congo and missionary in Japan serving his Regency as a Campus Ministry Officer at Sophia University in Tokyo.

John de Britto English Center

Office Address: 6-5-1 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 102-0083

Office Hours: Weekdays (10:00 AM – 12:00 NN, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM)

Weekends (11:00 AM – 1:00 PM)

Telephone No: 03-3263-4576



John de Britto English Center Groups and Ministries

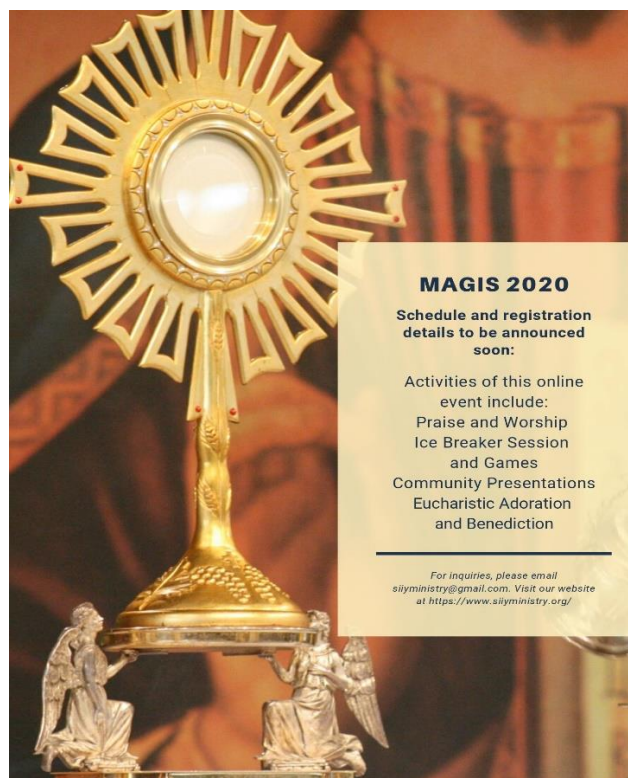
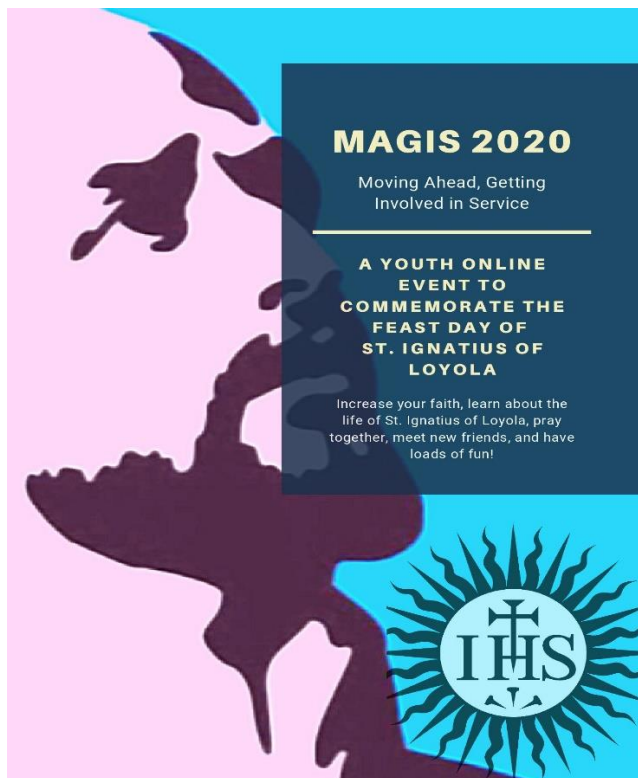
ALTAR SERVERS	Serve before, during, and after the English Mass assisting the priest and Liturgical Ministers. They are boys and girls from ages 10-15 who have already received First Communion.
ANGELS Group	Serves every 1 st Sunday of the month. Gathers children in Xavier Chapel just after the Opening Prayer of the Mass and provides stories of the Gospel in a language understood by them. They are adults and young people who love children.
CHOIR	Sings in the English Mass every Sunday. Practice before the Mass in Room 401, 11:00 AM
COFFEE WELCOME MINISTRY	Every last Sunday of the month in St. Teresia Hall, 1:00 - 1:45 PM Facilitates the opportunity for newcomers/parishioners to meet and feel that the Church is “my second home.”
ENGLISH-SPEAKING GROUP MEETING	Every 3 rd Sunday of the month Arrupe Hall Rm. 301-B (Main Bldg.) 2:00 - 3:15 PM Gathers to plan and think of better ways to serve St. Ignatius Church.
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	By turns they serve in the 12:00 NN English Mass. Special formation is required.
FAITH FORMATION CLASS FOR ADULTS	1 st Sunday of the month, Kibe Hall Rm. 310. 2:00 - 4:00 PM For adult Catholics who wish to deepen their understanding of the faith. Non-Catholics are welcome.
FAITH SHARING GROUP	Every 2 nd and 4 th Sunday of the month, Kibe Hall Room 310, 2:00-4:00 PM. For those who want to deepen the Sunday Readings of that day.
READERS GROUP	They serve in 12:00 NN Sunday English Mass. They are those who would like to proclaim the Word of God and guide the assembly during the liturgical rite.
MEDIA GROUP	Prepares the Sunday Mass power point, the monthly English Bulletin, special posters, and takes care of the English website and Facebook of St. Ignatius Church.
WEEKDAY OFFICE STAFF	They open the English Center on weekdays to attend to the needs of those who come.
PRAISE AND WORSHIP GROUP	Every 1 st Sunday of the month, Arrupe Hall Rm. 203, 10:00 AM onwards. Gathers to praise the Lord through songs, give thanks, and listen attentively to His life-giving Word. Personal intentions are received to be offered up in prayer.
USHERS	Every Sunday during the 12:00 NN English Mass. They facilitate an orderly and prayerful atmosphere before, during and after Mass.
YOUTH MINISTRY	Every 4 th Sunday of the month, Arrupe Hall 301-B, 1:30 – 4:00 PM. Made up of a very international group. Come and join their very energetic, dynamic monthly “Hangout”!

SACRAMENTS: SCHEDULE AND CLASSES

INFANT / ADULT BAPTISM	Schedule: 3 rd Sunday of February, April, June, September, and November, Xavier Chapel, 10:00 AM Classes: To be arranged with the Coordinators in-charge
MARRIAGE PREPARATION	Inquire at least 4 months before the wedding day.
OTHERS	English Sunday School for Children 1 st and 3 rd Sunday of the month, 10-30-11:30 AM, Main Building, Rm. 302 Sunday Japanese Language Classes Schedule: Please contact English Center. Time & Venue: 1:45 – 2:45 PM, Kibe Hall, RM 304, 305, 306, 307 Newcomers visit RM 305

WE NEED NEW VOLUNTEERS! For further inquiries, please visit us at the English Center.

Points to Ponder



Pope's Prayer Intentions for July 2020

Our Families

We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

Mission 2030 Prayer Intention:

July 2020

As we commemorate this month the Feast day of St. Ignatius of Loyola, we pray that like him, we may not be misled by worldly pleasures but serve the Lord joyfully.

Staff of St. Ignatius Church

Pastor: Fr. Ryuichiro Hanafusa, S.J.

Associate and Support Priests:

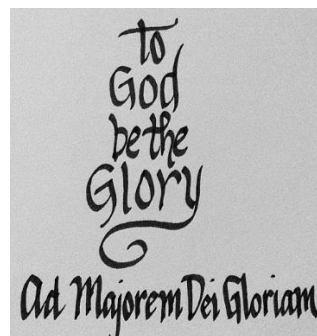
Fr. Sang-won Lee S.J.	Fr. Bony James S.J.
Fr. Javier Garralda S.J.	Fr. Generoso Florez S.J.
	Fr. Manuel Silgo S.J.
	Fr. Daniel Collins S.J.

Brother:	Bro. Hiroaki Yoshiba S.J.
Sister:	Sr. Ivette Sanchez, M.C.

John de Britto English Center:

Fr. Bony James, S.J. Director

Adelfa Armentia	Sr. Flor Florece FI
Sr. Leny Fery FDCC	



In everything we do



For all those who made this monthly **BULLETIN** possible, we extend our deepest gratitude. Thank you very much!

