

Special Edition

JULY 2021



## In Honor of St. Ignatius of Loyola and the Ignatian Year

In this **SPECIAL EDITION** of the English Bulletin, we would like to share with you selected articles and references for deepening the Ignatian Year at your own pace and time. **May they be means to God through St. Ignatius of Loyola**, whose Feast we celebrate on July 31. We encourage the readers to use them for spiritual reading, personal reflection and prayer, and in the process be transformed and renewed gently by God. They are recommended for spiritual conversations and faith sharing in the various Ministries and Groups in the parish, so that together, we may all fix our gaze more on Christ and "see all things new in Him." Indeed, we are blessed in belonging to a parish that bears the name of this great Saint and in being able to drink from the fountain of his charism and spirituality. St. Ignatius of Loyola is A GIFT TO THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD!

### A Courtier's Conversion

Fr. Victor Baltazar, SJ

**TO PRAY ON AND PONDER:** Ignatius' moment of *metanoia* and contemplating the way God called him to radical conversion. I may reflect on my own experience of God also calling me out of an old life into a new one where God is the foundational value of my life.

The Battlefield at Pamplona and the Bed of Convalescence in the Castle of Loyola are the first two iconic and sacred spaces in Ignatius' journey. They represent an important foundational experience in Ignatius' life and the life of any disciple for that matter, i.e., conversion. But first, a look into "pre-conversion" Ignatius.

When our saint first looked back at his life in order to recount it to an appointed companion scribe, a young Jesuit named Luis Gonçalves da Câmara, Ignatius described his younger self in these words: "Until the age of twenty-six, he was a man given over to vanities of the world; with a great and vain desire to win fame, he delighted especially in the exercise of arms" [Autobiography, 1].

One author even described him this way: "Though he had the faith, he was not exactly virtuous. We will never know what precisely happened in Azpeitia during the Carnival of 1515, when an accusation was brought

against him which mentioned 'terrible crimes, perpetrated at night, with premeditation, cunning and treachery...' except that he got off scot-free" [Dhotel, "Who are you, Ignatius of Loyola?" Progressio, Supplement no.27].

Ignatius would summarily describe the personal sinfulness that he had himself experienced in terms of "sensual love, carnal love, and worldly love" [SpEx 97] and he traced the root and fruit of such sinfulness in what he portrayed as the strategy of Satan in ensnaring humans: tempt them to covet riches so that they may the more easily attain the empty honors of the world, and then come to overweening pride" [SpEx 142].

In a sense, what Ignatius experienced and later described in his Spiritual Exercises and Autobiography are experiences all too familiar to us. Contemporary descriptions of this dynamic of sinfulness can perhaps bring home to us Ignatius' points a little more strongly. Contemporary moralists and theologians would say that, at its core, sin is a breaking away from covenant relationship with God. It seems to be a consistent dynamic that sinful patterns emerge and evolve from a deep sense of insecurity and fear within each person, which push us to create security mechanisms that evolve into absolutized idols within each of us and

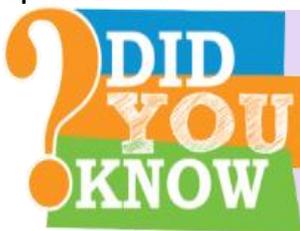
further elaborate themselves into behavior patterns of lack or excess which are ultimately destructive of self, neighbor, and the world.

When these selfish patterns harden in a person's character core, sinful habits form and a core orientation develops which sucks away the person's life and energy as well as his/her power to love, and these begin to possess the person, feeding the sinful dynamic with further perversions, deceptions, and outright violence against others. This is a vicious cycle that only be broken by a genuine experience of God reaching out to the person with unconditional love and mercy.

We can discover only in wonder and awe that the greater the sinfulness we bring to God in repentance, the great love God pours out to lure us and win us back. The more we take responsibility for our sinfulness and bring our sins into God's light, the more healing and freedom will grow back in us.

Pamplona. In Ignatius we see several stages in his experience of call and conversion. His cannonball experience in Pamplona was a deeper shattering than simply the shattering of his leg. **That cannonball experience was a wake-up call for Ignatius.** More than simply his leg, his dreams of what his life could be and where

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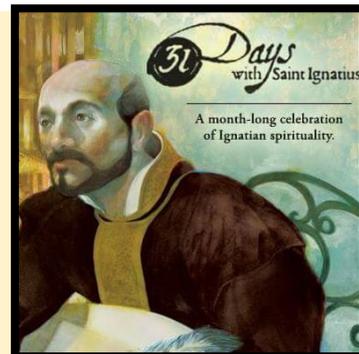
### Plenary Indulgence

On the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the conversion of St. Ignatius of Loyola and the 400th anniversary of his canonization, the Holy See has granted a plenary indulgence to the faithful who will visit the churches and oratories of the Society of Jesus during this Jubilee Year. This was in response to a request made by Fr. Arturo Sosa, the Father General of the Society of Jesus. This is certainly a piece of good news for us parishioners of St. Ignatius Church.

### 31 Days with Ignatius

Have you ever tried opening <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/>? They have inaugurated a month-long celebration of Ignatian spirituality called **31 Days with St. Ignatius**, in honor of the Ignatian Year and the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola on July 31. Written by lay people, it is a collection of short articles, blog posts, and videos to help you explore the richness of Ignatian spirituality in contemporary times. To give you a glimpse, here are some interesting articles in the series:

- 10 Reasons to Choose Ignatius, What Surprises You about St. Ignatius?
- Screen Time and St. Ignatius, Surrendering Our Swords, Taking the Ignatian Challenge
- What Would You Say if St. Ignatius Came to Visit?, What I like about St. Ignatius of Loyola



### Excellent Talks on YouTube

There is a one-hour talk entitled **The 3 Conversions of St. Ignatius of Loyola (Part 1)** given by Fr. Danilo Huang SJ, Professor of Theology at the Gregorian University, Rome. What does this have to do with us? Find out by accessing:

[https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=562021538537001&ref=watch\\_permalink](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=562021538537001&ref=watch_permalink)

The Christian Life Community of the Philippines joined in the celebration of the Ignatian Year 2021-2022 by inviting Fr. Ramon Bautista SJ to a talk entitled **Struck by a Cannon, Struck by the Spirit**. Here is the link to the more or less one-hour talk. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvO6vtg-csc>

For a day of prayer, definitely, it is worth listening to!



### Videos for Children

Ignatius of Loyola is also featured in the **Story of Saints** meant for children. This can be good material for English Sunday School. For part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rMbCu5TuX0>  
For part 2: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DykAh\\_AyPOo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DykAh_AyPOo)  
Duration is 12 minutes for each part.

On the local front. How much do the children of our English Sunday School know about the name of the church they go to? Their catechists have produced a 20-minute video on St. Ignatius for release in August. Ask for the link at the English Center.

### A Short Film on St. Ignatius of Loyola #ignatius500

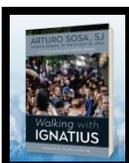
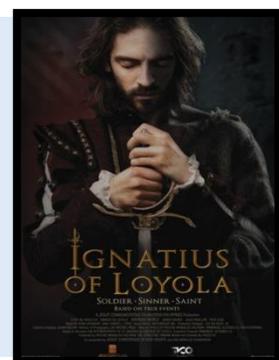
Yes, it is less than ten minutes and in cartoon style. But it captures in excellent form the life of St. Ignatius. It was made by The Jesuits of the European Low Countries. Access:

<https://www.facebook.com/jepoy.pioquinto/videos/10159061505829550>.

### A Full-Length Film

There is an excellent film entitled **IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, SOLDIER, SINNER, SAINT**, which was awarded Best Film at Mirabile Dictu International Catholic Film Festival and Best Inspirational at Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA), Philippines. Produced by Jesuit Communications Philippines (JesCom), **IGNACIO DE LOYOLA** was shot on location over two months in the northern regions of Spain. The film explores the genesis of Ignacio's conversion and his beginnings as a preacher and spiritual adviser. It touches on his humanity, his conversion, his short temper, his frustrations, his yearning for God.

Watch the trailer <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/ignaciodeloyola2> and, better still, grab a copy. It is available in English, Spanish, and French. Duration: 1 hour 18 minutes.



### New Publication

Have you heard of the book, **Walking with Ignatius!**? It was written by Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ to open the "Ignatian Year" and marks the 500th anniversary of the wound that led to the conversion of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Pre-order is available at <https://bit.ly/3zcG5DN>.

# Celebrating a Failure: Is that Not Odd?

## A Courtier's Conversion (Continue Reading)

life could be leading him were all shattered. His old envisioned world was, as it were, deconstructed

Especially when the past dreams to which he had passionately applied to himself brought him defeat, failure, betrayal, disillusionment and then a realization of their emptiness and futility—all these could have laid to question the past world he allowed himself to inhabit and nurture ideals and hopes in. The long travel back to their family home in Loyola, carried in a litter by his very enemies while he was grimacing in pain, all these must have been an effective trigger of sorts for a radical shattering of his life world and life's dreams. The two surgeries he experienced (and without anesthesia!) and the long period of convalescence that followed must have been the first moment of death and life for Ignatius: death to an old life's dream so that another might be reborn.

Ignatius' shattering may have been too cathartic and dramatic for comfort, but I suspect all of us have such moments in our lives. When an old envisioned world and an old comprehensive dream of what we wanted to become and how we wanted to bring it to fruition all fell into foundational doubt and were brought to question, we must have had our own moments of shattering.

**Reflection: In which of life's battlefields did these happen? What were your triggers? What values and ideals came to question? How did you receive your experience of shattering? What helped you pause, take stock of things and count your real losses? In brief, what was your own Battlefield and Pamplona?**

Loyola. And then there was the bed of recovery at the Castle of Loyola. Surely, God will never leave us shattered, broken, or undefined. "There is time to destroy and a time to rebuild," says the wise one of Ecclesiastes (Qoheleth). For Ignatius, it was alternating visions and alternating moods that helped him rebuild and come out a new man. While convalescing, Ignatius asked for some books in the castle so that he might read and perhaps cope with boredom. Boredom, in fact, is a sign that something is beginning to stir. For in a sense, when one begins to feel boredom, it is because one has been cut off from the usual external stimuli which prevents one from looking squarely at oneself. Ignatius is limited to his bed. He is forced into isolation and solitude. This is perhaps why we have to pause and explore more deeply the boredom and even depression triggered in us during this pandemic, for they might be ushering us into a necessary deconstruction of our lives and our persons.

In his isolation and boredom, Ignatius was ripe for an alternate view of his life world and person and thanked God for the books. These two books that were handed to him eventually gained his focused attention because he must have wanted to while away his boredom. But lo and behold, God had other plans. All through the castle only two books could be found for Ignatius' entertainment and these were the *Vita Christi* (Life of Christ) and the *Flos Sanctorum* (Lives of Saints). Reading these books, Ignatius began to reimagine his world and himself. He found that he felt great and enduring joy imagining himself as a soldier not of the Spanish King but of Christ, the heavenly and Eternal King. He imagined himself as one of the saints serving the Lord. And he found the great ideals lived by the saints as challenges to his own honor and pride: "If Francis did it, I can do it, If Dominic did it, I can do it..."

Not only did he imagine new worlds for himself and new deeds, he also found that, when the old and new alternated, it was in the new dreams that he found his heart really fired up with passion, filled with joy and life, and a longer lasting joy at that. By the time he had fully recovered and could walk, albeit with a limp, Ignatius already knew what he wanted to do next. He wanted to become the best soldier for this Christ, his newfound King. He would go to the Holy Land to walk in his path, still quite literally. The shattered old dreams were now a thing of the past. This new life world and life's dreams had emerged.

**Reflection on Loyola. And so you have your turn to reflect again: How does God call your attention when he wants to communicate a new call and new dream to you? How does God use your own language so he may draw you close and attract you to a positive and generous response? When did you experience God opening a new path for you and gifting you with a radically new self-description—one that honors your giftedness to the hilt and connects you with people in great need?**

As we continue to celebrate the gift of St. Ignatius of Loyola, may we awaken to the great gift of call and conversion that sets us forth on our own pilgrimage toward our loving God. God Bless!

*What wounds can work in our lives by God's grace on 20 May 1521, exactly 500 years ago today.*

*The soldier Ignatius falls to the ground in the battlefield of Pamplona, struck by a cannonball.*

*Leg wounded, knee wounded and even more, his pride. But those wounds become openings well springs of grace.*

By Fr. Xavier Olin SJ  
(reprinted with permission)

*You were stuck, until you were struck, by a sudden stroke of luck!*

*A cannonball that shattered your legs would make you whole.*

*Conquered, you became free.*

*Crippled, you started to run.*

*Soldier still, but a new battle began.*

Happy 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of that Blessed Cannonball that struck Iñigo López de Loyola!  
By Leo Ocampo  
(reprinted with permission)

*In Pamplona, five hundred years ago, all Ignatius' worldly dreams were shattered in an instant. The cannonball that wounded him changed the course of his life, and the course of the world.*

*Seemingly small things can be important. That cannonball also meant that Ignatius failed in the dreams he had for his life. But God had a bigger dream for him.*

*God's dream for Ignatius was not about Ignatius. It was about helping souls. It was a dream of redemption, a dream of going out into the world, accompanied by Jesus, humble and poor.*

Address of Pope Francis to participants in the International Prayer video: "Pilgrims with Ignatius" opening the Ignatian Year (23.05.2021)

# From the Youth Ministry

**2021  
IGNATIUS  
YOUTH  
DAY  
(IYD)**

AUGUST 1, 2021 (SUNDAY)  
15:30 - 16:30  
ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH  
CHIYODA-KU, TOKYO

**THEME:  
AMDG  
2021**

Advancing our  
Mission as  
Disciples of  
God

COMBINED YOUTH MASS OF  
THE JAPANESE, ENGLISH,  
INDONESIAN & VIETNAMESE  
YOUTH GROUPS.  
CELEBRATING THE  
IGNATIUS YEAR (MAY 2021 -  
JULY 2022) MARKING THE  
500TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE CONVERSION OF  
ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA.

\*AVAILABLE VIA LIVESTREAM. FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE VISIT  
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/STIGNATIUSYOUTHCOMMUNITY](https://www.facebook.com/stignatiusyouthcommunity)

## Ignatian Youth Day (IYD)

The IYD celebration is coming soon. It is a good opportunity especially for young people to learn more about Christianity through the life of St. Ignatius, our Patron. Of course, differences of culture and language among international groups offer challenges when preparing an event, but this diversity is definitely going to make this event interesting.

(Klara Kristianingtyas, Indonesian Group)

Every time I go to church, I feel very proud and happy to have grown up in St. Ignatius. The big reason is that we can gather together with old friends from school days and with new ones. The circle expands. The IYD is a good opportunity to connect the circles or groups we have now. Although everyone is busy, we are delighted to be able to prepare for the feast of St. Ignatius with all the youth groups from different countries. The power of each youth group is amazing, so I am really looking forward to the day!

(Yumi Ninomiya, Japanese Group)

Despite the corona virus situation, we are really grateful we can celebrate the feast day of St. Ignatius. One of the most beautiful things about this year's IYD is that we are able physically to gather at church and attend the International Youth Mass together. Also, we are working together to create the first **virtual choral video** for this IYD 2021. We will be singing in different languages "Amare et Servire," a famous composition of Fr. Manoling Francisco, a Jesuit from the Philippines. As we sing, we pray that each one of us can incarnate in our lives what St. Ignatius taught us: "to love and serve the Lord!"

(Seika Masugi SIIYM)

During the preparation for the IYD, the good point has been that the team leaders have been able to connect with each other through discussion, planning, and division of tasks for each group. This lays the foundation for doing larger programs together in the future, when the pandemic is over!

(Vincent Hoang, Vietnamese Group)

## Outreach Activity

As part of the celebration of the Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola, a fund-raising activity has continued for more than a month already for families affected by COVID in India. Leaders of the International Youth Group met through ZOOM with Fr. Ryan Rodrigues SJ from Denobili College Jesuit Formation House, Pune. He discussed the situation in his province, like their lack of medical supplies, food, etc. and the projects they have devised to address this problem. Our group vowed to help in whatever way we could. Measures taken included mini projects such as making rosaries, personal donations from "little sacrifices" (such as giving up your favorite STARBUCKS!) and setting up a collection box in Room 103 to collect money every Sunday. Donations from members of the various Ministries and Groups in the John de Britto Center and other friends are also welcome. The fund-raising drive runs until Aug. 1 (during IYD).



**For all those who made this  
Special Edition Possible.  
Thank You Very Much and  
God Bless!**

イグナチオ・ユース・デー 国際ミサ 2021年  
IGNATIUS YOUTH DAY MASS, 2021

2021.08.01(日)  
15:30 - 16:30  
August 1, (Sun)  
3:30pm - 4:30pm

LIVE

IYD Mass  
Live Stream  
AUG-1<sup>st</sup> 15:30

# Happy 2021 Feast Day of St. Ignatius!



Thank You Fr. Victor Baltazar, S.J. for your article,  
"A Courtier's Conversion".

Fr. Victor Baltazar, S.J. is currently a Jesuit Collaborator on the Faculty for Formation at the Ignatian Spirituality and Formation Office of the Ateneo de Davao University, Philippines. His main line of work is Formation in Ignatian Spirituality, Retreat Giving, and Spiritual Direction.

**St. Ignatius Church**  
Pastor: Fr. Ruichiro Hanafusa, SJ

**John de Britto English Center**  
Director: Fr. Bony James, S.J.  
Sr. Leny Fery FdCC Sr. Flor Florece FI