

# CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY KENYA

## Meeting for youth: Booklet Two

### **Meeting 1; SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA; A Brief History on the Saint**

*In 1491 Inigo Lopez de Onaz y Loyola was born. He was the youngest of 7 daughters, 5 sons.*

Inigo served in household of Juan Velasquez de Cuellar, Treasurer to King of Spain. Inigo gambled, brawled, dallied and flirted. Juan was unpopular with new queen, hence sacked. Inigo then joined the army of viceroy of Navarre, valiant soldier in the defense of Pamplona, in 1517.

During the battle, Inigo's right leg was shattered by cannonball, he was taken home to recover; while recovering he read "Lives of the Saints", "Life of Christ"; as there was no other literature around. This was the start of his conversation. He was determined to go to Montserrat, confess, and then go to Jerusalem.

In 1522, At Montserrat, he stripped all his belongings gave to beggar and surrendered to God. He was at Manresa for 11 months, where he had experiences that formed basis for the spiritual Exercises. As he needed approval for his pilgrimage to Jerusalem he went to Rome begging all the way, While in Jerusalem, he visited holy places but was denied permission to stay.

He went back to Barcelona, there, he knew he needed more education to preach the word. So he went back to school at the age of 33, learning Latin for two years with boys who were about 12 yrs. At the University of Alcala, he studied Philosophy studies, this he did through begging.

He preached informally, got in trouble with church authorities, fell sick and was banned from preaching; moved to Salamanca, hoping for better environment; there he was banned again. In 1528, he went to Paris, had by then changed his name to Ignatius in honour of early bishop and martyr Ignatius of Antioch

He studied Philosophy and theology at University of Paris; continued to give spiritual Exercises and begun to gather around him with others who were drawn by his charism – Peter, Faber, Xavier and others. In 1534 Ignatius and 6 others made vows, promised to go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem or offer themselves to the Pope for whatever service.

In 1535, Ignatius completed philosophy and Theology studies. In 1537, Ignatius was ordained; he travelled to Rome with companions (Company of Jesus). At La Storta he had vision where he had a voice in him say “I will show you favour in Rome”.

He was received by Pope Paul III. He was then involved in the ministry of teaching religion, preaching, and service to the poor; deliberations of companion about whether and how to remain together. In 1539, they decided to remain together and take vows of obedience to one of them. In 1540, the Society of Jesus was recognized. The Society of Jesus, spearheaded reform and renewal of the church, opened schools, sent out missionaries.

In 1556, Ignatius died after long illness; by this time, there were 1000 Jesuits in 46 European Colleges and 110 houses around the world.

## **Sharing**

In the large group... What is the one thing that has touched you most as you were reflecting on the story?

## **Evaluation Announcements**

## **Meeting 2; SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA; Prayer and Action**

*“Besides his seven hours of prayer he busied himself in spiritual matters certain souls who came there looking for him. All the rest of the day he spent thinking about the things of God that he had meditated upon or read that day.” (26)*

At Manresa, Ignatius lived a life wholly to God and to others. Living in contact with God he became everyday more and more a witness to Christ and a witness to Christ and “a man for others”. He felt in himself the vocation to be an apostle, he felt “sent”. His life of union with God in prayer from the time of his conversation had made him a man of lively faith, no doubt, but a faith imbued with a sincere love for others after the imitation of Christ. This was evident in his life. “He spent time helping people who came to seek his advice”. Thus Manresa was a school of prayer and apostolic formation for “the pilgrim.” The felt experience of God’s presence, filled him with joy, the withdrawal of which caused him suffering, he was experiencing, but whatever he was experiencing inwardly, his attitude towards others was always one of service.

### **Sharing**

In groups of three... what has touched you in what you have read?

### **Reflection Questions**

Have you discerned with your spiritual director the time you should give to prayer?

Are you “a man for others”? What does this mean for you?

Is your spiritual experience integrated with your apostolic action? In other words: Does your prayer transform your life? Or does your life transform your prayer? Give examples.

### **Sharing**

In the large Group... What is the one thing that has touched you most as you were reflecting on the questions?

### **Evaluation**

### **Announcements**

## **Further Reading**

### *Ignatian Insight*

“Man, even angels, can do nothing nobler than glorify his creator and bring back other men to him as far as that is possible”. (Ignatius of Loyola. .Letter to the scholastics at Coimbra)

### *Meditating with the word of God*

Jn 15, 1-5 “He, who deals in me as I dwell in Him, bears much fruit.”

### **Meeting 3; SAINT IGNATIUS LOYOLA; Manresa, School of Faith for Ignatius**

*“God treated him at this time just as a schoolmaster treats a child who needs teaching.” He had great devotion to the most Holy Trinity. Each day he prayed to the Three Persons separately. Once, the manner in which God inspired his understanding filled him with great spiritual joy. One day at Manresa while he was attending Mass in the church of a Monastery, during consecration, he saw with interior eyes something like white rays coming from above. Although he cannot explain about this very well, after so long a time, nevertheless what he saw clearly with his understanding was how Jesus Christ our Lord was there in the most holy sacrament. Often and for a long time, while at prayer, he saw with interior eyes the humanity of Christ. He also saw our Lady. Once he was going out of devotion to a church situated more than a mile from Manresa- St. Paul’s. As the road goes by the river, Cardoner, pre occupied with his devotion, he sat down for a little. While he was seated there, the eyes of his understanding begun to be open, it is not that he saw a vision, but he understood and learnt many things, both spiritual matters, matters of faith and of education. This with so great an enlightenment, that everything seemed new to him (27, 28, 29, 30)*

From the interior vision which he received at Manresa, he drew the fundamental sources of strength for his spiritual life: these included aspects on the Trinity, the gift of creation, the Eucharist, the mystery of the Incarnation accepted by Mary. While he was sitting by the river Cardoner he was given an illumination in which the whole of the spiritual experience was confirmed. He became deeply aware of God-Lover who communicates Himself in the creation of the universe and in His own creation, as an integral part of this marvelous design of God. He understood that he must make plans as to how he should live, what he should do but at the same time, he had to accept the word of God. In the events of his life. He received a consciousness of the God-Lover, who out of His powerful power to give himself freely, became a human being and would always remain with us in Eucharist. He was so imbued by his experience on the banks of the Cardoner, God drew Ignatius to Himself, so irresistibly, in all his being that from the moment Ignatius could not escape from God’s love. He was a new man; a man penetrated by this revelation, a man inseparable from the Mystery of God.

## **Sharing**

In groups of three... what has touched you from what you have read?

## **Reflection Questions**

1. Who is God for you personally? Do you feel that your relationship with God is growing?
2. Do you feel a conflict between your scientific knowledge and your experience of the Christian life?
3. Do you receive Holy Communion regularly? What for you is the most important aspect of the Mass? Can you say that in some way your devotion centers on the Eucharistic presence of the Lord?

## **Sharing**

In the large group... What is the one thing that has touched you most as you were reflecting on the same questions?

## **Evaluation and Announcements**

### **Further Reading**

#### *Ignatian Insight*

The human person is created to praise, reverence, and serve God Our Lord, and by doing so, to save his or her soul. All other things on the face of the earth are created for the human beings in order for them to pursue the end for which they are created. It follows from this that one must use other created things, in so far as they help towards one's end. To do this, we need to make ourselves indifferent to all created things, provided the matter is subject to our free choice and there is no other prohibition. Thus as far as we are concerned, we should not want health more than illness, wealth more than poverty, fame more than disgrace, a long life more than a short life and similarly for all the rest, but we should desire and choose only what helps us more towards the end for which we are created. (Ex 23)

#### *Meditating with the word of God*

Jn. 1, 1-18 "To all who received, he gave the right to become children of God.

## **Meeting 4; SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA; An Incident at Gaeta, Ignatius Champion of Purity**

*“Of those who came on ship, a mother and her daughter whom she had in boys’ clothing and another youth, accompanied him. They joined him because they too were begging. Having reached a lodge, they came along a great blaze with many soldiers warming themselves up. Later, they separated them, the mother and the daughter being placed in a room above and the pilgrim and the youth in a stable. But at midnight, he had loud cries from that courtyard above, getting up to see what it was, he found the mother and the daughter in the courtyard below, wailing and complaining that there was an attempt to violate them. At this, such a strong feeling came over him that he began to shout, saying: “Must one put up with this?” And similar protests. He uttered these words with such force that all those in the house were alarmed. No one did him any harm... ” (38)*

Ignatius was very concerned about the respect due to children and young girls. He defended the chastity of the woman and the girl in spite of the risk he took upon to himself. All those who take up the service of the Lord must draw from Him the strength they need in the struggle for chastity. They must keep themselves pure in body, mind, even in the imagination and in their whole person for the sake of the Kingdom. For this is not self-control for its own sake but we may harness our life energies for Christ’s work. It often means standing out against current opinions and customs, against the prevalent spirit of the world.

### **Sharing**

In Group of three... what has touched you in what you have read?

### **Reflection Questions**

1. Are you prepared to respect your body as a temple of the Holy Spirit, and carry on the struggles which you will meet?
2. Are you open and simple enough to be able to talk to someone on sexual matters?
3. In the matter of chastity, what do you make of the way people talk and act in your neighbourhood, of the way they dress and so on? Give some factual examples.
4. What is your attitude in regard towards the opposite sex? How do you about your attitude?

## **Sharing**

In the large group... What is the thing that has touched you most as you were reflecting on the questions?

## **Evaluation and Announcements**

## **Further Reading**

### *Ignatian Insight*

“We should praise laws of religion, obedience, poverty, chastity, and the vows to perform other works conducive to perfection.” (Ex. 357)

### *Meditating with the word of God*

1 Cor. 6, 12-20: “... Your body you know is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you since you received him from God...”



## **Meeting 5; SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA; Ignatius begins his studies at Barcelona**

*“He told his master exactly all that he went on his soul and what little progress that he made until then for that reason; but he promised the same master saying: I promise you never to fail to listen to you these two years, so long as I can find bread and water in Barcelona, with which I might support myself.” As he made this promise with great determination he never again had that temptation.” (35)*

Ignatius realized that in order to help others he would have to prepare himself by study. So on returning to Barcelona he set to work. But from the start he encountered difficulties. For example, when he begun to study, there came to him new insights into spiritual matters and fresh relish for these things...” in effect, continued distractions! Ignatius became aware that this was a new kind of temptation. Satan in fact under the appearance of an Angel of light. These beautiful thoughts might render his future apostolate quite fruitless!

He confronted this problem; ‘for great evils, great remedies’. Prayer, but above all openness with his confessor, without justifying himself, without making excuses and with all simplicity. Ignatius knew that he wanted and he would take the pain to obtain it. This strength of will would always be his salvation. Starting with small things, he would attain great ones. If you are faithful in little things I will put you in great ones. Mathew. 25, 21 the humble of heart will possess the land.

He had one fundamental purpose; to serve the Lord with his whole person and he pursued this in the reality of everyday life.

### **Sharing**

In Groups of three... what has touched you in what you have read?

### **Reflection Questions**

1. Do you consider the consequences of the decisions you make for your life?
2. Do you take firm decisions with regard to temptations or the misguided steps in your life?

3. Do you assume responsibility for your professional work? Apostolic work? Your formation?
4. Do you see the difference of attitude implied in the following expressions:  
I would like, I shall try, and I am determined to?

### **Sharing**

In the large group... what is the one thing that has touched you most as you were reflecting on the questions?

### **Evaluation Announcements**

### **Further Reading**

#### *Ignatian Insight*

Should beg our God to reign, to move my will and to bring my mind what I ought to do to promote His praise and glory regard to matter in question. Then I should use the understanding to weigh the matter I care and fidelity and to make my choice in conformity with His most holy will. (Ex. 180)

#### *Meditating with the Word of God*

Luke. 14, 25-33: Would any of you think of building a tower without first sitting down and calculating the cost?

## **Meeting 6; SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA; Ignatius Decides To Go On With His Studies and Gather a Group of Companions**

*“At the time of his imprisonment in Salamanca, he still felt the same desire that he had to help souls, and for that reason to study first and to gather some others with the same ideas, and to keep those he had. So he decided to go to Paris and he arranged with them that they wait there while he went to see if he could find some means by which they might study... When he arrived at Barcelona, all those who knew him advised him against the journey to France because of the fierce wars, recounting very specific instances, even telling him they put Spaniards on spits but he never had any kind of fear.” (71, 72)*

At Salamanca, the pilgrim came to this conclusion that they should form themselves into a group. This seemed to him a pressing necessity. And so, it was that other young people, joined the first ones who had already associated themselves with him. Pilgrim became a real leader, a coordinator of the group of companions. He would not impose on them, but put himself at their services to infect each one with his own enthusiasm while at the same time was fully aware of his own limitations.

The secret of his attraction with everyone felt he identified himself with Christ, by his attitudes, motives, his way of life. His example was persuasive; like Christ he made himself all things to all men. He would write later on: “anyone who works for the benefits of others will gain more by humbling himself than by acting in a superior fashion. He was able to convince others because he had already conquered himself. With his eye on the future he left Spain for France. The country was at war but he put all his trust in God. In order to find out the possibilities for study here, he left without his companions thinking that perhaps later he would be able to call them.

### **Sharing**

In Groups of three... what has touched you in what you have read?

### **Reflection Questions**

1. What do you think of your way of life? Does it draw others to the imitation of Christ?

2. Do you feel responsible for helping others to grow? Is there anyone in particular for whom you feel responsible?
3. In what way most likely would you like to resemble Christ
4. On the whole, do you retain your enthusiasm about following the will of the Lord in spite of difficulties, or are you easily discouraged?

### **Sharing**

In the large group... what is the one thing that has touched you most as you were reflecting on the questions?

### **Evaluation Announcements**

### **Further Reading**

#### *Ignatian Insight*

“Keep your soul in peace – let God work for you. Welcome thoughts that raise your heart to him. Open the windows of your soul” (Letter to Francis Borgia, 15<sup>th</sup> September 1548)

#### *Meditating with the word of God*

Jn. 1, 35-45: The call of John and Andrew.

## **Meeting 7; SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA; At Venice, Ignatius Gives The Exercise To Many People**

*“There was another Spaniard called José. He was in close touch with the pilgrim and also with the Bishop of Cette. Although he had some desire to make the Exercises it took some time before he actually began making them. After he had begun, he confessed to Ignatius that he had been afraid Ignatius would teach him some evil doctrine in the Exercises. For this reason he had brought with him certain books so that he could have referred to them if by chance Ignatius tried to deceive him. At the end he felt that he had been helped very much by the exercise and resolved to live the pilgrim way.”*

While at Venice Ignatius spent a great deal of time giving the Exercise. A young graduate wanted to make his retreat but he was afraid of being deceived by Ignatius, having heard unfavourable rumours about him. Finally he took the risk but only half-heartedly. He was the kind of person who demanded guarantees before embarking on the following of Christ. He came armed with books and arguments but in spite of this God broke through his defenses. Ignatius proved himself to be an instrument of God, helping this man to open himself for divine Love. Finally, Jose was able to answer God’s call with complete generosity. He had gone through the narrow gate. He became a companion of Jesus and was to be the first to die.

### **Sharing**

### **Reflection Questions**

1. Have you experienced doubts, periods of indecision, or fears in your spiritual life? Do you speak of these in your sharing with your CLC group?
2. Are you ready to question your vocation when necessary?
3. How do you make use of the means at your disposal for reaching God: prayer, sacraments, spiritual reading, and conversation with your friends, the events with your life, etc.? Through all these, are you sincerely seeking God and His will? Or are you seeking your own will?
4. In what areas do you put up defenses?

## **Sharing**

In the large group... what is the one thing that has touched you most as you were reflecting on the questions?

## **Evaluation Announcements**

### **Further Reading**

#### *Ignatian Insight*

I will recall to my mind the blessings of creation, redemption and the special gifts I have received. Pondering with great affection how much God our Lord has done for me, how much He has given me of what he possesses, and how much as far as He can, the same Lord desires to give himself to me according to his Divine Decrees. Then I will reflect upon myself and consider, according to all reason and justice, what I ought, on my part, to offer and give His Divine Majesty. That is, all my possession, and myself with them. Thus as one would do, who is moved by great feeling, I will make this offering of myself: Take, my Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and all my will; all that I have and possess. You have given all this to me, and I now offer it back to you, for all of it is truly yours. Do with it whatever you will. Give me only your love and your grace, for that is enough for me.” (Ex. 234)

#### *Meditating with the Word of God*

Mt. 7, 13- 14: “Enter by the narrow gate.”

## **Meeting 8; SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA; At La Storta on the Way to Rome Ignatius Receives a Great Grace**

*“Divided into three or four groups, the pilgrim with Faber and Lainez, they went to Rome. On this journey he was visited very specially by God. He had decided to stay a year without saying mass after he became a priest, preparing himself and praying for our Lady to design to place him with her son. One day, a few miles before reaching Rome, he was at prayer at a church and he experienced such a change in his soul and saw so clearly that God the Father placed him with Christ His son that he would not dare doubt it-that God the Father had placed him with His Son” (96)*

Once again the companions set out for Rome to hear what the Pope III would tell them to do. They were prepared to be sent anywhere in the world. On the way Christ visited the pilgrim in a special way. They had stopped at the chapel of La Storta and were praying when Ignatius heard a voice within himself: “I will be favourable to you in Rome,” a mysterious communication from God in the depths of his heart.

Ignatius had disposed himself for this grace by preserving constant purity of heart, by often directing his thoughts and his desires to God and also by asking for this grace of intimacy with God. He often used to make this petition through the intercession of Mary, Mother of God and Mother of men. It was through Mary that he went to Christ and through Christ to the Father

### **Sharing**

In Groups of three... what has touched you in what you have read?

### **Reflection Question**

What place does Mary hold in your life? Do you like praying too her? Do you show that you would really welcome the gift of intimacy with the Lord by earnestly asking for it in prayer, by seeking for it? Is there anything or any person that is preventing from giving yourself completely to the lord? In your prayer whom do you speak spontaneously: Christ, the Father, the Spirit? Do you reflect on this?

## **Sharing**

In the large Group... what is the one thing that has touched you most as you were reflecting on the questions?

## **Evaluation Announcements**

### **Further Reading**

*Ignatian Insight*

“To love God in return for the love to work more and more for him”. (Vita Bartoli, IV, 26, P.332)

*Meditating with the Word of God*

Jn. 14, 23-28: “We will come to him and make our dwelling with Him”



## **Meeting 9; SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA; The Spiritual Exercise an Experience for Life**

*“He told me that he had not composed the exercises all at once, but when he noticed some things in his soul and found them useful, he thought that they might also be useful to others and so he put them in writing; for example, the examination of conscience with that arrangement of lines, etc. He told me that he derived the elections in particular with the diversity of spirits and thoughts which he had at Loyola.” (99)*

Ignatius in his life and work had one aim, to give the greatest glory to God and to win over others to the same end by means of “Spiritual Exercise”. This is a retreat comprising exercise which aim at preparing and disposing the retreatant to seek and find the Will of God for his life, in a word to help him find Christ closely. “To seek and find the Will of God”, it means a fundamental and determining life experience by means of prayer and with the help of the one who gives the retreat. Ignatius himself had, had the experience at Manresa in Spain; even to his last years in Rome he was perfecting them for the use of others. The exercise begins with great eternal truths, creation, sin, salvation, in the light of which the retreatant is called upon to confront his own life. There follows a period of deepening the knowledge of Christ in order to love Him and serve Him better.

And so one contemplates the mysteries of His life, His passion and His resurrection. The peak moment at the end of the exercise is the contemplation of Devine love. In the course of this progress in the contemplation of the mysteries, the retreatant is led to let himself be captured more and more by the love of the Lord and to choose in what concrete, personal and total way he will respond to that love. This is the “election” of eternal life of God. The Exercises are the school of the highest love, the initiation into and humility in renunciation of self in order to cleave to the person of Christ, the Eternal King and enlist in His service.

### **Sharing**

In Groups of three... what has touched you in what you have read?

### **Reflection Questions**

Do you, like Saint Ignatius, read the Gospel frequently and pray over it?

How did you make your election (the choice of your vocation)? Do you think that it is well made?

Do you continue to be attentive to the various interior movements which you experience so as to discover more and more the Will of God?

### **Sharing**

In the large Group... what is the one thing that has touched you most as you were reflecting on the questions?

### **Evaluation Announcements**

#### **Further Reading**

*Ignatian insight*

“The exercise contain all that I can conceive of good in this life, they are the best means (Ignatius of Doctor Miona, 16<sup>th</sup> November 1536.)

*Meditating with the word of God*

Lk.2:49 (The first words of Jesus); Lk.8:19-22 “My mother and my brothers they are those who hear the word of God and act upon it”; Lk.23:46 (The last words of Jesus)

## **Meeting 10; SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA; At the foot of the cross of Jesus**

### **Christ**

*“After this had lasted for a good while he went to kneel before a nearby cross to give thanks to God”*

The Pilgrim got up and left the banks of the Cardoner. He knelt down by a nearby wayside cross. With a full heart he thanked God for all that his good Master had taught him. In an attitude of prayer at the foot of the cross he remembered the words of the Lord; “If anyone wishes to be a follower of mine he must leave himself behind; day after day he must take up his cross and come with me.”( Luke 9:28) The Cross of Jesus Christ: the royal road which leads to the Lord, the sign and standard which mark the disciples of Jesus! It changed Ignatius into a pilgrim who would never decide beforehand how God should act in his regard, who would never cease to follow in the footsteps of Christ. The Cross of Jesus Christ: a stumbling block for those who would have a saviour to suit their own standards.

The Cross of Jesus: foolishness for those who want to hold on obstinately to their own plans and who remain coldly indifferently to the truth, impervious to the Mystery of Love. Ignatius thanked God and went on his way. A pilgrim, he would go with his staff by unknown ways wherever the Lord would lead him.

### **Sharing**

In Groups of three... what has touched you in what you have read?

### **Reflection Questions**

Are you afraid of change, of risks, of the unknown? Do you know how to meet the expected fearlessly?

Do you accept the sacrifices which come from following Christ? How? Give some instances from your life.

The Christian is a crucified man, his heart anchored in God and his arms open to others. What does that mean to you?

What are you actually doing to bring about “A better world”? Give concrete instances.

### **Evaluation Announcements**

### **Further Reading**

#### *Ignatian insight*

“Imagine Christ our Lord present before you upon the cross and begin to speak with Him, ask Him how it is that though He is the Creator He has stooped to become man to pass from eternal life to death here in time that thus He might die for my sins. I also reflect upon myself and ask: what have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What I ought to do for Christ?” as I behold Christ in this plight, nailed to the cross, I should over what presents itself to my mind.” (Ex.53)

#### Meditating with the word

1 cor. 1:7-25: “We proclaim Christ – yes, Christ nailed to the cross.”

## **Meeting 11; SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA; En Route for Barcelona Italy and Holy Land**

*So at the beginning of the year 1523 he set out for Barcelona to take ship. Although various people offered to accompany him, he wanted to go quite alone, for his own idea was to have God alone as refuge. One day when some were urging strongly, because he did not know either the Italian or Latin languages, that he have a companion, telling him how much this would help him and praising the person highly, he said he would not go even in the company of the son or the brother of the Duke of Cardona, because he wanted to practice three virtues – charity, faith and hope. If he took a companion, he would expect help from him when he was hungry; if he fell down, the man would help him get up; and so also he would trust him and feel attachment to him on this account; but he wanted to place that trust, attachment and expectation on God alone. What he said in this way he felt also in his heart. (35)*

In 1523 Ignatius left Barcelona. He wanted to go first to Italy and from Venice to leave the Holy Land, where our Lord Jesus Christ, preached and died. He had but one determination: to preach the Good News to the people of Palestine as Jesus had done. He chose one route: a long pilgrimage without money, without any human security, alone in the company Jesus whom he wanted to follow, in whom he placed all his trust and affection. Man cannot live on bread alone; he lives on every word that God utters. (Mt. 4:4). He set out a poor man. Before he left: he found out he still had in his pocket five or six small coins. He left them there on a bench so as to be absolutely penniless! So the stages that Ignatius had gone through in a little more than a year were: Montserrat- the mountain where he was converted. Manresa – the school of prayer and apostolate. Barcelona –the point of departure for unknown world.

### **Sharing**

In Groups of three...what has touched you in what you have read?

### **Reflection Questions**

What stages have you passed through in your following Christ? Can you sum them up and write your history?

Where do you hope to find security? Degrees? Money? Family show? Or anywhere else?

Do you feel from time to time that God is your only security? In what circumstances do you experience this?

If Christ asks it of you, are you ready to lose it all for Him?

## **Evaluation Announcements**

### **Further reading**

#### *Ignatian Insight*

I call it consolation when an interior movement is aroused in the soul, by which it is inflamed with love of its Creator and Lord, as a consequence, can love no creature on the face of the earth its own sake, but only as the creator of them all. It is likewise consolation when one sheds tears that move to the love of God, whether it's because of sorrow for sin, or because of the suffering of Christ our Lord, or for any other reason that is immediately directed to the praise and service of God. Finally, I call consolation every increase of faith, love and hope and all interior joy that invites and attracts to what is heavenly and to the salvation of one's soul by filling it with peace and quiet in Christ our Lord. (Ex 316)

#### *Meditating with the word*

Lk.12:22-32: Abandonment to providence. Why are you anxious?

## **Meeting 12; SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA; Further trials of Ignatius**

*Great complains arose in Paris, especially among the Spaniards against the pilgrim. Our monster De Gouvea, saying that he caused Amador, who was in his college, to go and, decided and stated that the first time he came to St. Barbara he would give him a Salle (78)*

Complaints, difficulties, crosses marked the way of the Pilgrim. The punishment of the Salle consisted in beating the student who had broken the rules of the college. It was given in a room (French Salle hence the name) in presence of all the professors and the pupils.

The world reacted strongly when Ignatius brought about awakened concern in Gospel values, a conversion, a change of life, but Ignatius knew his world and judged it in the light of the Gospel. He was so much in love with Christ but he could not but see as Christ would, speak as Christ would, act as He would.

He was without fear; all he had to do was to love Christ with all the powers of his being: Love Him with his memory, recalling the benefits of God in his life, love Him with his understanding, getting to know Christ better and better, love Him with all his will seeking and relishing God in everything.

This passionate love in the heart of Ignatius set other young people on fire.

### **Sharing**

In Groups of three... what has touched you in what you have read?

### **Reflection Questions**

Have you already suffered from the opposition of others because of your commitment to Gospel values? How have you reacted? In order to love Christ better how do you use your memory...? Your understanding...? Your will?

### **Sharing**

In the large Group... what is the one thing that has touched you as you were reflecting on the questions that you have read?

### **Evaluation Announcements**

## **Further Reading**

### *Ignatian Insight*

The man who has a great fear of the world will never do great things for God. For one can never do anything greater for God without having much fear from the world who will stir up persecution and put everything in turmoil (Bartoli, Vita, IV 36, P.357)

### *Meditating with the Word of God*

Jn. 15, 8-17: A there no greater love than this, that a man should lay down his life for his friend.



## **Meeting 13: SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA; At Venice Ignatius is rejoined by his Companions**

*In Venice the pilgrim also endured another persecution, with many saying that his effigy had been burnt in Spain and in Paris. This business went so far that a trial was held and sentence was given in favour of the pilgrim/ The nine companions came to Venice at the beginning of 1535 there they separated to serve in various hospices. After two or three months they all went to Rome to obtain the blessing for their journey to Jerusalem. Not being able to go to Jerusalem they returned to Venice. Those who had not been ordained were ordained priests at the same time as Ignatius. (93)*

Though Ignatius suffered persecution, he rejoices in the triumph of the truth. The sentence was favourable to him in every point. The nine friends in the Lord then arrived at Venice where he welcomed them with great joy. They worked there for more than two months serving the sick people in hospital. It was by humbling themselves to do menial tasks that they grew in humility. One of them, Lainez, who was to become the second general of the companions were at the hospital for incurables and the other five at St. John and St. Paul's.

We had put aside our studies in order to devote ourselves to the service of the poor. Master Faber devoted himself especially to hearing confessions, Master Francis Xavier excelled in favor, charity, and self-conquest, he even went as far as swallowing the filth from the wounds of the sick in order to conquest himself. In this way the companions were learning humility and preparing to be the Disciples of Christ. Learn from me for I am gentle and humble hearted. (Mt. 11,29)

### **Sharing**

In Groups of three....what has touched you from the reading?

### **Reflection Questions**

What are you planning with regard to your studies?

Are you already getting practice in what will be your work later on? In what for instance

What place do you give to the poor in your life?

How far do you share with them? Serve them?

What are your thoughts about the priesthood?

### **Sharing**

In the large group....What is the one thing that has touched you most as you were reflecting on the questions?

### **Evaluation Announcement**

### **Further Reading**

#### *Ignatian Insight*

Ignatius wrote to his brother: Do a great deal of good to the poor, to orphans, to those in need. One to whom God our Lord has been so generous should not be stingy (Paris June 1532)

Meditating with the word of God

Jn. 13,1-16: I have set you an example: you are to do as I have done to you.

## **Meeting 14; SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER;**

*He later won Master Francis Xavier for God's service by means of the Exercise (82)*

*St. Ignatius Wins over Master Francis Xavier to the Service of Christ*

Francis Xavier was Ignatius' best retreatant and his companion and friend. Like Faber, he had a short life, 1506-1552. Converted at the age of 27, he was ordained at 31 and left for India 5 years later. He died at the age of 46 in sight of the coast of China. Today the church honors him as universal Patron of the Missions. While he was studying at Paris with Ignatius and Faber, he shared everything with them. His friendship was a very deep one and lasted even when he was far away in the east. He kept the signature of his friends round his neck like relics. He was a true contemplative while being an active missionary. Long hours of prayer at night before the blessed sacrament gave him the strength to hold out in extreme isolation and loneliness in the East. When he was studying, Ignatius had accosted him with Christ's questions: Francis, what profit if you gain the whole world and lose your soul?

Having gone through the exercises, he changed and surrendered to Christ, the Universal, and the eternal King. He then began a new life for himself as a priest, an apostle, a missionary. During his 11 years of missionary activity, the number of kilometers that he travelled was the equivalent of going round the world three times. A Jesuit companion described him: He is neither tall nor short, he holds himself with dignity and without any affection. He always looks serene, always smiling; he speaks little but his words are very moving.

### **Sharing**

In Groups of three....What has touched you in what you have read?

### **Reflection Questions**

1. Do you experience an urge, a call, to evangelize the world? Is that a priority in your life?
2. What does evangelization actually mean to you?
3. What do you consider the most important qualities for an apostle in the modern world?
4. In what ways are your social and prayer life, integrated reality?

### **Sharing**

In the large group....What is the one thing that has touched you most as you were reflecting on the questions?

## **Evaluation and Announcements**

### **Further Reading**

#### *Ignatian Insight*

Whoever wants to help his neighbor will succeed better by means of humility than by standing on his dignity. (Bartoli, Vita IV P. 365)

Meditating with the word of God

Mt. 9, 35-38 and 10, 1-10. As you go, proclaim the message, the kingdom of God is upon you.

## Meeting 15;

## SAINT JOSEPH

Jesus, role model

### Reflection

Quietly read the following passages and stay with the one that draws most fruit for you.

Matt 1:19 – 25                      a righteous man; honored by God

Matt 2:13 – 15                      was a refugee for \Jesus sake

Luke 2:33 – 39                      Obedient to Law of Moses in presenting Jesus to the Temple

Matt 2: 19 – 23                      on return after the persecution, made new home for Jesus and Mary

Mark 6:3                              Jesus is known as the carpenter's son; his manual labor is dignified

Luke 3:23                              Joseph is known as Jesus' father; any child needs the security of parents and home. The holy family is quite ordinary in what people saw

Luke 4:22                              they marveled at Jesus gracious words, wondering where Joseph's son got it from

John 1:45                              Philip Identifies Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah, who he says is Joseph's son

### Sharing

Share briefly on Saint Joseph's qualities that make him an exemplary follower of god, how is Saint Joseph an example to you?

### Evaluation

Say briefly what you liked in the meeting and/or what could be improved.

### Announcements

**Meeting 16;****SAINT MARY OUR MOTHER**

*And so he (Ignatius of Loyola) began to forget the previous thoughts, with which these holy desires he had, and they were confirmed by a spiritual experience, in this manner. One night while he was awake, he saw clearly the image of Our Lady with his holy child Jesus. From this sight he received for a considerable time very great consolation, and he was left with such loathing for his whole past life and especially for the images that it seemed to him that his spirit was rid of all the images that he had painted on it. Thus from that hour until August when this was written, but his brother and the rest of the household came to know from his creator that had wrote inwardly in his soul. (10)*

*St. Ignatius Vision of the picture of Our Lady with the Child*

The friendship of Ignatius with Jesus began to deepen. The only response to love is love. Jesus became his best friend and so as a good friend, he wanted Ignatius to get to know His mother, Mary. It was an unexpected visit which gave Ignatius great consolation and increased his faith, hope and love. It confirmed him in his good desires and produced in him a visible change. Even his family noticed it, he was so different. No Christian in his life of commitment is orphan. He has a mother the mother of Jesus. To you who have left father, mother, husband, brother, son and everything for me, I will give a hundredfold in this world and Eternal Life from then on Ignatius was to come closer to the heart of Christ, to attain friendship and intimacy with Him through the intercession, the mother of Jesus, especially in the important moments of his life. For example, at the time of his conversion, Ignatius was to say: Ask Our Lady to obtain for me from her son and Lord three things: That I may feel an interior knowledge of my sins and abhorrence for them, that I may feel the disorder of my actions so that filled with horror of them May amend my life and put in order, ask for a knowledge of the world so that filled with horror I may put away from me all worldly and vain things. (36) Ignatius further begged that our Lady would obtain from her son and Lord the grace to be received under His standards of the cross (Ex.147)

## **Sharing**

In Groups of three... what has touched you in what you have read?

## **Reflection Questions**

Do your friends notice that your life is changing? Do they question your behaviour?

Are you through the intercession of Our Lady growing in the horror of the sin? In the desire to put away vain and worldly things and in the desire to put away vain and worldly things and in the sincere wish to reform and order your life according to God's plan for you?

Have you progressed to the point of offering yourself and desiring to be received under the standard of Christ?

## **Sharing**

In the large Group... what is the one thing that has touched you most as were reflecting on the questions?

## **Evaluation Announcements**

## **Further Reading**

### *Ignatian Insight*

If anyone wishes to imitate our Lady in the use of his senses, he should recommend to her in prayer in order that she may obtain this grace for him from her son and Lord. (Ex. 248)

### *Meditating with the Word of God*

Phil. 3, 7-14A For his sake I have thrown away everything; I consider it all as mere refuse so that I may gain Christ and may be completely united with Him. I run forward trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me.

## **Meeting 17; SAINT PETER; Prayer of Awareness – The way of Saint Peter and my own way**

### **Grace**

That we may discover what our journey with Jesus has been like

### **Sharing**

Who is your role model and what qualities does this person possess

### **Reflection John 1:41 – 42**

Andrew first found his own brother Simon and told him, “We have found the messiah (which is translated anointed) then he brought him to Jesus, Jesus looked at him and said: you are Simon, the son of John; you will be called Cephas (which is translated Peter). The meeting will help us look at Peter, to whom the whole church was entrusted take time to read and reflect on the following passages

Fascinated Jesus

Luke 5:3 – 11, Mt. 14:26 – 33

On the roads with Jesus -

Mt. 16:15 – 19, Mt. 16:21 – 23, Mt. 17:1 – 9

Now look at your own history... what has the fascination... what has your journey been like?

### **Sharing**

Into groups of three, looking back at your own history, share on the following questions

What of Peters experience draws me to think of my own experiences with Christ?

Looking back at Peter’s experience, what has my road with Jesus like?



## **Personal Reflection**

A story is told of certain man who was climbing a mountain and slip and begun to fall. The man caught a cliff and hang on it. He cried out to God for help, God replied him in a whisper and told him let go and I will catch you, the man was scared and would not let go. Finally he grew too tired and let go and landed on a flat surface which was a few feet from where he was hanging.

## **Scripture Passages**

Read and reflect on the following passages.

- A. To lose confidence in Jesus – Jn 13:3 – 9, Luke 22:31 –34, Mt. 26:37 – 45, Mt. 26:69 – 75
- B. Transformed by Jesus – Jn 21:15 – 19, Acts 2:1 – 39.

## **Sharing in the large group**

Looking back into your life, recall the moments you lost confidence in someone you trust and why

Have you ever lost confidence in yourself? Why?

Looking back at my own history, share on the following question are there moments when confidence in Jesus?

## **Evaluation**

What did I take along? What struck me?