

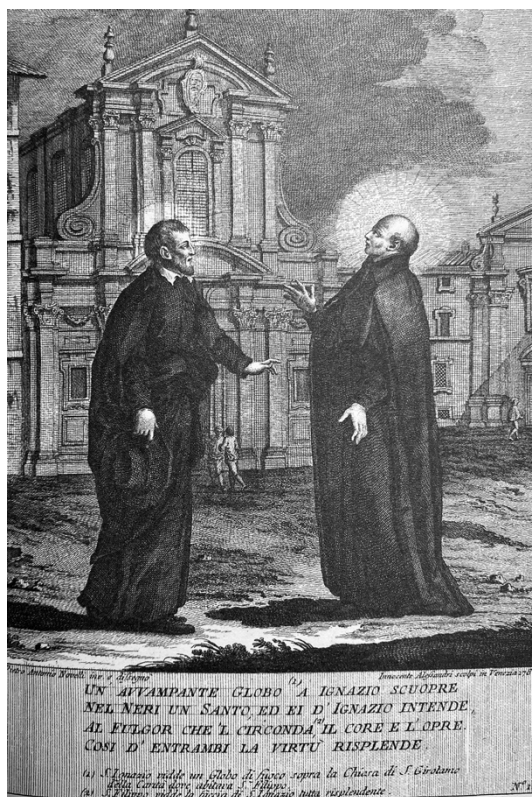
# Friday of the Second Week of Lent

## Celebrating the March 12, 2022 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Ignatius of Loyola

Homily of Bishop John Barres

St. Agnes Cathedral

March 11, 2022



St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), the Founder of the Jesuits, greets St. Philip Neri (1515-1595), the Founder of the Oratorians, in Rome. They were great friends and were canonized together on March 12, 1622 with St. Francis Xavier (1506-1552), St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582), St. Philip Neri (1515-1595) and St. Isidore the Farmer (1070-1130). Saturday, March 12, 2022 is the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this historic canonization. In this Year of St. Ignatius of Loyola, please pray with me that St. Ignatius be proclaimed a Doctor of the Church for the greater glory of God!

— Bishop John Barres

The lives of the saints are commentaries on Matthew 5. The saints are courageous and magnanimous forgivers – icons of the Divine Mercy working and acting in the world.

We are celebrating with the Universal Church a Year of St. Ignatius of Loyola which began on May 20, 2021 and will end on July 31, 2022, the Memorial of St. Ignatius.

This past May 20<sup>th</sup> was the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Pamplona in which Ignatius, the ambitious Spanish soldier, was hit in the leg by a cannon ball and injured severely.

In his time of convalescence and recovery, he read the life of Christ and the lives of saints. This experience of the Cross resulted in a dramatic conversion and the discovery of his ecclesial mission as the founder of the Society of Jesus.

Tomorrow Saturday, March 12, 2022 we will celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Ignatius and I wanted to anticipate that Anniversary by celebrating it

this morning with all of you present here at St. Agnes Cathedral and those joining us through the Catholic Faith Network.

On March 12, 1622, St. Ignatius (1491-1556) was canonized along with St. Francis Xavier (1506-1552), St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582), St. Philip Neri (1515-1595) and St. Isidore the Farmer (1070-1130).

That is quite a diverse group of saints and I would like to reflect on why in God's providence, St. Ignatius of Loyola may have been canonized with them.

St. Francis Xavier, of course, was St. Ignatius' Jesuit missionary son, the great Apostle to India, Japan, Borneo and the Maluku Islands.

In a letter to his spiritual father St. Ignatius, St. Francis Xavier once lamented the lack of missionary zeal in the Catholic universities of Europe. He writes: "Again and again I have thought of going round the universities of Europe, especially Paris, and everywhere crying out like a madman, riveting the attention of those with more learning than charity...I wish they would work as hard at (spreading the faith) as they do at their books, and so settle their account with God for their learning and the talents entrusted to them. This thought would certainly stir most of them to meditate on spiritual realities, to listen actively to what God is saying to them. They would forget their own desires, their human affairs, and give themselves over entirely to God's will and his choice. They would cry out with all their heart: *Lord, I am here? What do you want me to do?* Send me anywhere you like – even to India!"<sup>1</sup>

How happy St. Francis Xavier must have made St. Ignatius! How beautiful that they were canonized the same day.

### **STORY: St. Joseph's Prep in Philadelphia**

St. Teresa of Avila is the Feminine Genius, the Mystical Doctor of the Church, the author of *The Interior Castle* and *The Way of Perfection*. St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Teresa of Avila were both great mystic reformers, great figures of the Catholic counter-reformation.<sup>2</sup>

In St. Teresa of Avila and St. Ignatius Loyola, the feminine mystical genius and the masculine mystical genius meet in service to the mission of the Church.

---

<sup>1</sup>Liturgy of the Hours, Office of Readings, December 3 Memorial of St. Francis Xavier

<sup>2</sup> See Jerome K. Williams, *True Reformers: Saints of the Catholic Reformation*, (Greenwood Village, CO: Augustine Institute).

St. Philip Neri is considered in Church history the “Second Apostle of Rome” and “the Reformer of the Eternal City.” When I am in Rome, I always visit the Church of San Gerolamo della Carita and pray in an Oratory with inscriptions which memorialize St. Philip Neri receiving his many saint friends such as St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), St. Charles Borromeo (1538-1584), St. Camillus de Lellis (1550-1614) and many others. They all supported each other, learned from each other and inspired each other. St. Ignatius said that the person who sent him the most Jesuit vocations was St. Philip. No wonder in God’s providence that they were canonized together.

Finally, St. Isidore the Farmer. He and St. Ignatius of Loyola were incredibly hard workers who grounded their tenacity and the details of their daily work in Catholic contemplation and a trust in God.

As we celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the canonization of St. Ignatius Loyola, we give God thanks for the many American sons of St. Ignatius and his *Spiritual Exercises* such as the theologian Avery Cardinal Dulles, SJ (1918-2008) who in his evangelizing theology called for a rebirth of Catholic apologetics.

**STORY: Cardinal Dulles’ conversion and his *Testimonial to Grace***

We give thanks for Fr. John Courtney Murray, SJ (1904-1967) who had such a prominent role as the theological architect of the Second Vatican Council’s 1965 *Declaration on Religious Freedom (Dignitatis Humane)*.

**STORY: Fr. Murray’s grave at the Culinary Institute of America, Religious Liberty and Conscience Rights of all Americans**

We remember Fr. John Hardon, SJ (1914-2000) who at a time of great confusion in the Church after the Second Vatican Council was a steady hand and gave us *The Catholic Catechism* published in 1975 by Doubleday in Garden City. His work foreshadowed the release of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

**STORY: Praying with Fr. Hardon at St. Ignatius Loyola parish rectory on the Upper East Side of NYC**

We also remember and pray for the cause of canonization of Fr. Walter Ciszek, SJ (1904-1984), a native of Shenandoah, Pennsylvania in the Diocese of Allentown. Fr. Ciszek survived 15 years in a Russian prison camp – including five in solitary confinement. He tells his story and how his Catholic faith gave him courage to endure the Gulag in *With God in Russia* (1964) and in *He Leadeth Me* (1973).

**STORY: Meeting Fr. Ciszek as a college student at Fordham University and becoming the Bishop responsible for promoting his cause (Diocese of Allentown)**

In this Year of St. Ignatius, we, the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, pray that St. Ignatius of Loyola may be proclaimed a Doctor of the Church.

We ask the intercession of so many great Jesuit saints: St. Robert Bellarmine (1542-1621), St. Francis Borgia (1510-1572), St. John de Brebeuf (1593-1649), St. Edmund Campion (1540-1581), St. Peter Canisius (1521-1597), St. Peter Claver (1580-1654), St. Claude de la Colombiere (1641-1682), St. Aloysius Gonzaga (1568-1591), St. Rene Goupil (1608-1642), St. Isaac Jogues (1491-1646), St. Stanislaus Kostka (1550-1568), St. Paul Miki (1562-1597), St. Nicholas Owen (1550-1606), St. Alphonsus Rodriguez (1532-1617) and many more.

We send our gratitude, prayers and best wishes to Jesuits across the United States and to the network of Jesuit high schools and 28 Jesuit colleges and universities with their over one million living graduates.

We remember and pray for in a special way the Jesuit universities and colleges close to us: Fordham University, Canisius College, the College of the Holy Cross, Fairfield University, Boston College, Georgetown University, Le Moyne College, Loyola University, St. Joseph's University, St. Peter's University and the University of Scranton.

We also give thanks and prayers for all the Jesuits who served at **Innisfada**, the historic Jesuit retreat house that was located in Manhasset for many years.

Of course, we offer our prayers and thanks to all the Jesuit priests who have served in the Diocese of Rockville Centre at St. Anthony's parish in Oceanside and for the Jesuits who have assisted the Catholic presence and mission on Long Island.

As we celebrate this Ignatian year, as we celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his canonization tomorrow, and as we are inspired by the life and teaching of St. Ignatius of Loyola, we follow in his path – the path of He who is the Way, the Truth and the Life -- grounding every remaining moment we have on earth ***Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam – For the Greater Glory of God.***