

**St. Ignatius,
a Mystic and a Beggar,
Teaches Trust and Generosity**

By Marina McCoy



**Feast of
St. Ignatius of Loyola
- July 31st**

One can see a statue of Ignatius as a beggar by the Catalonian sculptor Lau Feliu, on the steps in the Church of Santa Maria del Mar in Barcelona.

Last June, I traveled on a group pilgrimage to many places that were significant in St. Ignatius's journey, including Manresa and Barcelona. Manresa, for Ignatius, was a place of solitude and an intense experience of a vivid and personal relationship with God, as well as service to the poor at a local hospital. Later, Ignatius went to Barcelona, from which point he planned to go and live in Jerusalem, as the destination of his pilgrimage. In Barcelona, which he saw as just a waiting point, Ignatius begged for money for his daily sustenance. At the end of the day, he would give away whatever remained to others, rather than hang onto it. Although Ignatius knew that he would require additional funds for his passage to Jerusalem, he gave away whatever he had at the end of the day, trusting in God to provide.

Eventually, Ignatius did embark on a ship to the Holy Land. But he was forced to return due to unrest in the Holy Land, nearly as soon as he had arrived! On my own pilgrimage, I joked with one of the group leaders: imagine what would happen if we were put on a plane to Jerusalem and told to expect time visiting the holy sites. But then as soon as we arrived and unpacked at the hotel, imagine we were told we had to go back and not stay for any planned activities! I can imagine a good deal of discontent. Ignatius argued, insisted, and resisted but eventually ended up back in Barcelona, where he studied Latin in preparation for the priesthood.

Learning to Trust

While I was already familiar with these parts of Ignatius's story from reading his autobiography, my experience of pilgrimage brought home for me the ways that his mystical experiences at Manresa must have been deeply interconnected with his experience as a beggar and pilgrim there and in Barcelona. Ignatius was filled with the palpable experience of God, so present to him in the cave at Manresa. Perhaps it is really there that he learned to trust in God's intimate, personal love and providence. Surely these graced moments of prayer provided a kind of "reservoir of love" and a trust in God's abundant generosity to him, a trust that allowed him to give away all that he had—rather than to cling to wealth, honor, or any other good one might place above God. Ignatius gave himself away in service at the hospital in Manresa, and he gave himself away to others in Barcelona too. Even the records of his own spiritual experiences were ones that he gave away, as they were gradually developed into the Spiritual Exercises.

Movement from the Graces Received in Prayer to Generosity

This kind of movement from the graces received in prayer to generosity in ordinary life can apply to our own lives. Like Ignatius, we are all gifted in our own ways by God's love and generosity. While how we pray or experience God, or what kinds of gifts and talents we receive, varies from person to person, God loves and knows each one of us intimately.

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July 26, 2020

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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PASTOR: **Rev. Robert Wong, SJ**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday

9:30 am – 1 pm / 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULES

WEEKDAYS: **9:00 am**

SATURDAYS: **9:30 am & 5:00 pm**

SUNDAYS: **9:00 am & 11:00 am**

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS: **4:30 pm – 4:55 pm**

CONFESSIONS: 10 MINUTES BEFORE DAILY

MASS OR BY REQUEST AT OTHER TIMES

NOVENA TO

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

WEDNESDAYS: **7:00 pm**

MASS FOLLOWED BY NOVENA

& BENECTION

BAPTISM COURSE

EVERY 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT **6 pm**

BAPTISMS

4th SATURDAY AFTER 9:30 am MASS

HOUSE BLESSINGS

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

The wise seek God

When Solomon asked for an understanding heart to lead his people, he must have known that it was the one gift that opened the door to every other gift. For wisdom (prudence) is the virtue that guides all other virtues, and grounds judgment. This wise seek God, and those who know him seek to know him more, as Solomon, and the parables demonstrate.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

God tells Solomon to ask for anything, and he asks for an understanding heart to lead his people. Saint Paul writes to the Romans that *all things work for good for those who love God*. In the Gospel, Jesus uses three parables [buried treasure, pearl of great price, and a full fish net] to explain the kingdom of heaven.

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Today's Readings:

1st: 1 Kings 3.5-12

Psalms: 119

2nd: Romans 8.28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13.44-52

