

August 2022

Community Newsletter

Thrive For Life

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GOSPEL

Luke 12:32-48

OTHER READINGS

Wisdom 18:6-9, Psalm 33, Hebrews 11:1-19

MONTHLY EXAMEN

We invite you to prayerfully reflect:

Presence

Become aware that God's presence is active at each moment of your life, looking at you with love, desirous of speaking directly to your heart. How do you feel at this moment?

Ask

Ask God for the grace to see the ways God is working in your life.

Gratitude

Be grateful. Thank God for the gifts, both big and small of the day.
What are you most grateful for today?

Review

Trust that God is with you at each moment of day, during the good and challenging moments. God never abandons you.
What were the good moments of today?
What were the greatest challenges of today?

Respond

You are not stuck. Tomorrow is a new day. Ask God to give you the grace to be the loving and generous person you were created to be.
What can you do tomorrow to be more generous and loving?

Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.



WHERE IS YOUR HEART?

I'm sure you're familiar with the phrase: "Home is where the heart is." It means that home—your family, your loved ones, whomever it may be—always has the deepest connection, the deepest "tug" on your heart. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus gives a familiar phrase: "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be" (Lk 12:34). Just before saying this, Jesus also tells his disciples that there is a treasure in Heaven that "no thief can reach, nor moth destroy" (Lk 12:33). This treasure in heaven awaits all of us – it is the gift of God's love for each and every one of us, without condition or qualification. The question remains, however, is this your treasure?

What is the treasure that has the "tug" on your heart? Is it the treasure of God's love? Or is it something else? While some other "treasures" are good, like your loved ones and friends, nothing and no one compares to the love of God, the gift to us from Heaven. Take some time today and reflect on what it means to have your heart set on the treasure in Heaven. Invite God to have the ultimate pull on your heart and give Him all your most valuable treasures.

*C. Germosen, Seminarian of the
Archdiocese of New York*

FORGIVENESS AND TRANSFORMATION IN OURSELVES

It seems like a lot of the stories that I hear make holy people seem a lot more perfect than I can ever be. Alessandro Serenelli is a powerful example of how many holy people experienced moments of conversion when they turned to God. Alessandro was a very gentle man who did odd jobs as a lay brother in a monastery in Italy. He was often in prayer and people asked him to pray for them.

What makes this so amazing is that Alessandro spent 27 years behind the walls for the attempted rape, and then the murder of Maria Goretti. As she laid dying, she forgave Alessandro, saying that she wanted him to be with her in heaven. Six years into his sentence, Alessandro had a dream in which Maria forgave him and handed him flowers. Maria's forgiveness meant so much to Alessandro that he dedicated the rest of his life to helping others follow Jesus Christ.

We might be able to learn from Alessandro. No matter what our sins are, we need to own them. We can allow them to make us bitter and closed-off, especially when they hurt others, or we can remain open. This openness can hurt, especially if we do not think that we are worthy of forgiveness. But, like Alessandro, once we allow ourselves to be forgiven by others, we might be able to start to forgive ourselves. Then we can continue to change our lives to follow the dreams that God has for us.

L. Lapean, Jesuit Scholastic at Ciszek Hall, Fordham University

ST. IGNATIUS' DAY BBQ AT IGNACIO HOUSE

On July 31st, the Church remembers St. Ignatius of Loyola, a Spanish priest and founder of the Society of Jesus, also known as the Jesuits. St. Ignatius is the author of the Spiritual Exercises that Fr. Zach and Thrive For Life Spiritual Mentors facilitate in more than 10 correctional facilities in the states of New York and New Jersey.

This year, we celebrated St. Ignatius Day at Ignacio House. The celebration started with Mass. During the homily, Fr. Zach shared the impact that joining the Jesuits has had in his life and the joy of sharing the Spiritual Exercises with thousands of women and men behind walls. Deeply moved, Fr. Zach expressed how delighting it is to see lives being transformed by the love of God through the Exercises of St. Ignatius. Certainly, Fr. Zach is proud of being a Jesuit priest and feels honored for this calling.

Right after Mass, Rob Lorenz, a Jesuit Scholastic, guided the attendants through the life of St. Ignatius, from his noble origins to his military career, to his conversion and mission as founder of the Society of Jesus. This was a meditation that helped us see how each one of us is also a story of conversion, another Ignatius seeking God and finding Him day to day. Afterwards, residents, staff, benefactors, family, and friends joined in a BBQ sponsored by the faithful of St. Pius X, in Scarsdale. The night concluded with the movie "Ignatius of Loyola" and popcorn.

Do you have a favorite episode of the life of Ignatius?

BECOME A RESIDENT SCHOLAR AT IGNACIO HOUSE OF STUDIES!

If you are passionate about your education and wish to continue your academic journey post-release, Ignacio House offers transitional supportive housing along with a holistic suite of services for formerly incarcerated students. Find a sense of purpose and overcome barriers to employment, housing, and education.

Interested in joining? Send the following to our contact information at the top of this page:

- Full name & DIN number •
- Current college you are enrolled in and/or where you will study post-release •
- Contact information for college/university where you will study •