

GOSPEL FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Mark 8:27-35

OTHER READINGS

Matthew 16:13-23



Resident of Ignacio House of Studies.

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

REFLECTION

Suffering in The Key of Jesus

Jesus says to Peter in the Gospel of Mark that is proclaimed on September 12th, 2021, "You are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Jesus was teaching the disciples that he must accept his suffering and death to reach the glory of our Resurrection.

Peter "rebukes" Jesus for speaking like this. The passage does not state why Peter was rebuking Jesus. What was it about suffering and death that perturbed Peter?

Maybe Peter did not see the glory of the Resurrection in Jesus' suffering and death? Maybe Peter thought Jesus was glorifying suffering? Some misunderstand this passage as a command to seek suffering as if it were the truest path to union with God.

Perhaps Jesus' message would be easier to grasp if this Gospel read that you "will," not "must," suffer and bear your cross. Like Jesus, all of us will suffer and die. We do not have much control over that. Like Jesus, however, we have control over the goal of our suffering. If we follow the way of Satan, we will use our suffering as a reason to inflict additional suffering upon ourselves and others. If we follow Jesus' countercultural worldview, we can transform suffering into our Passion for a better world with the help of God. Jesus did not save us because of his suffering. He saves us in spite of it.

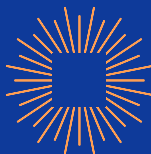
John B., spiritual mentor

moments of today? What were the greatest challenges of today?

Respond

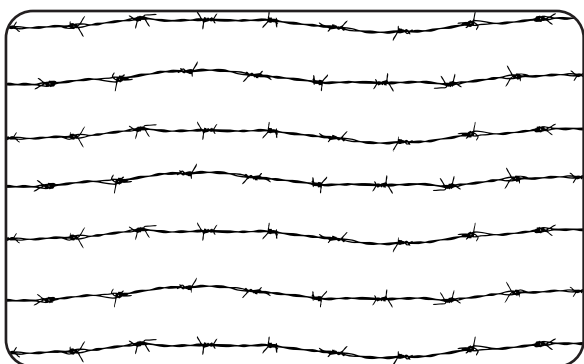
You are not stuck. Tomorrow is a new day. Ask God to give you the grace to be the loving and generous person you were created to be. What can you do tomorrow to be more generous and loving?

Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.



A REFLECTION ON THE U.S. PRISON SYSTEM

By Nina Valmonte, Ignatian Volunteer Corps



Today's US prison system is intended to be punitive, driven by the false notion that a way to avoid recidivism is to make offenders suffer while imprisoned. In the harshness of life behind bars, many are separated from their support system, lose their sense of self-worth and of any hope of truly turning their lives around.

Thrive for Life Prison Project dares to challenge this system with an approach that seeks to rehumanize the incarcerated. It begins by holding monthly retreats behind prison walls based on St. Ignatius of Loyola's spiritual exercises. Trained volunteers offer reflective tools designed to develop one's self-awareness, restore human dignity and build confidence in one's inherent value and potential.

God's love and mercy are reflected in the personal accompaniment by the volunteers; hope and trust in a higher power are kindled regardless of faith tradition.

The individual's renewed sense of Purpose becomes the necessary foundation for Thrive's comprehensive strategy aimed at successful and permanent reentry. Upon release, motivated former offenders can become Resident Scholars at Ignacio House of Studies. Here they benefit from Thrive's continuity of care delivered through a suite of supportive services and a robust support system of dedicated staff, volunteers, and peers. Focus is on achieving the critical drivers to successful reintegration: Higher Education, Gainful Employment, and Permanent Housing. With Thrive for Life as partners from behind and beyond prison walls, formerly incarcerated individuals, once devoid of hope and ambition, become their own powerful agents of change.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Summer and Fall enrichment activities at Ignacio House of Studies

- † Community BBQ celebrating the life and ministry of St. Ignatius of Loyola
- † Welcome Home Enrichment Activities
- † Stress Management Seminars
- † Semester Beginning Picnic
- † Weekly Hour of Prayer and Contemplation
- † Technology Literacy Courses

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, we urge you to consider becoming a Resident Scholar at Thrive for Life's Ignacio House of Studies.

At Ignacio House, we offer formerly incarcerated students transitional supportive housing along with a holistic suite of services to help them find a sense of purpose and overcome barriers to employment, permanent housing, and education. If you are interested in joining us, please send us the following:

- † 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.

To reach us, please see our contact information at the top of this page.