

**July 31, 2022 – Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola**

**The Name of the Future is Hope**



## Introduction

**Leader:** To Christians, the future does have a name, and its name is Hope. Feeling hopeful does not mean to be optimistically naïve and ignore the tragedy humanity is facing. Hope is the virtue of a heart that doesn't lock itself into darkness, that doesn't dwell on the past, does not simply get by in the present, but is able to see a tomorrow. *Pope Francis, 2017*

**Leader:** As we celebrate the Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola, we are invited to reflect and remember how his life story and conversion can give us hope for our lives and in our world today. Ignatius was a product of his culture shaped by dysfunctional power, structures, war and greed. We all begin somewhere, born in a specific time and place – with its positives and its negatives.

St. Ignatius' life did not move in a straight line, nor do ours. His developing spiritual life was more ego-driven than Spirit-driven. And yet, Ignatius listened to people and he learned to listen to God. He learned the difference between his own strong will and God's desires for him – and understood eventually that our deepest, truest desires are also God's desire's for us. Each of us are invited to do the same.

St. Ignatius had no reason to expect that God would gift him with insight that would help people's spiritual lives for centuries to come. He was simply praying, trying to listen, learning to pay attention, becoming humble enough to receive whatever life God gave him, walking with Jesus and discerning God's will.

We do not know what God will do with us as we simply go through each day, learning to listen better, pray more freely, and love more fully. And that's all right as long as we remember that God will do whatever His holy love chooses to do through us, in us and for us. Celebrating the Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola gives us hope for the future.

*Source: Adapted from Vinita Hampton Wright, Four Facts About Ignatius that can give us hope,*



## **ALL: Opening Prayer**

### **You Called Me By Name**

Oh, Lord my God,  
You called me from the sleep of nothingness  
merely because in your tremendous love  
you want to make good and beautiful beings.  
You have called me by my name in my mother's womb.  
You have given me breath and light and movement  
and walked with me every moment of my existence.  
I am amazed, Lord God of the universe,  
that you attend to me and, more, cherish me.  
Create in me the faithfulness that moves you,  
and I will trust you and yearn for you all my days.  
Amen. — *Joseph Tetlow, SJ, Source: Hearts on Fire: Praying with Jesuits*

**Reader 1:** “Do not fear...I have called you by name,” Yaweh says to Isaiah. Once you understand the relational value of naming – or not– these become among the strongest words in scripture. The thought is overwhelming: Our God knows us. Our God has a personal relationship with each of us. Our God takes note of us. So much for a mechanistic world. — *Joan Chittister, OSB, Source: Listen with the Heart: Sacred Moments in Everyday Life.*

**Reflection** *with permission from Sr. Eileen Power, CND*

**Reader 2:** Do not lose hope. Most particularly because, the fact is that we were made for these times. Yes. For years we have been learning, practicing and being in training for and just waiting to meet on this exact plain of engagement. [there have never been more awakened souls than there are right now across the world. And they are fully provisioned and able to communicate with one another as never before in the history of humankind]. Didn't you say you were a believer? Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor, suffering world, will help immensely. It is not given to us to know which acts or by whom, will cause the critical mass to tip toward enduring good. What is needed for dramatic change is an accumulation of acts, adding, adding to. Adding more, continuing. We know that it does not take everyone on Earth to bring justice and peace, but only a small,

determined group who will not give up during the first, second, or hundredth storm...there can be no despair when you remember why you came to Earth, who you serve, and who sent you here. The good words we say and the good deeds we do are not ours. They are the words and deeds of the One who brought us here. ---  
*Clarissa Pinkola Estes*

**All: Prayer:** God of Hope, we open our hearts to your love and to your hopes for us, individually, and for the global community. May we continue to create in Your world places of justice and peace. Grant us hearts overflowing with compassion and love. May Your love for us be the source and foundation of our love and of our hope. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Reader 3:** ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares our God. ‘Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’  
(Jeremiah 29:1)

‘Behold I am with you always, until the end of the age.’ (Matthew 28: 2)

‘I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which God has called you.’ (Eph 1:18)

### **A SONG OF HOPE St Louis Jesuits**

‘I know the plans I have for you,’ says the Lord. ‘Plans of fullness, not of harm. To give you a future and a hope.’

After a time has gone by, then I will visit you  
Fulfill my promise to you and bring you back.’

‘Then you will call upon me and you will pray to me  
And I will listen to you and bring you back.’

‘You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all of your heart, I will be found by you.’

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZd2msyuqIE&ab\\_channel=OCPmusic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZd2msyuqIE&ab_channel=OCPmusic)

**Quiet reflection:** How has my hope grown? For what do I give thanks?

**Time to share.**

