

Third Anniversary of the Foundation ^{1/2}

Paris, Thursday, July 31, 1862

[...]

[Today is] the feast of St. Ignatius. The Good Lord permitted this anniversary to fall on the feast³ of such a great saint who used to say: **All for the greater glory of God.** This is how he began his order. There were nine at Montmartre, what is surprising is that these hidden underground passages have been left untouched since the time they were buried during the Revolution. Men change, things remain the same. This saint did so much good. His liturgical prayer says: Lord, you sanctified St. Ignatius for the greater glory of your Name... that was the motto of his order. We would say it otherwise; but the Jesuits bear the name of Jesus alone. They are not dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament. We would say: All for the greater glory of Jesus in the most Blessed Sacrament. I realize that from worship we go to the person. Still we say: **To the greater glory of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.**

My poor Daughters, don't forget this day: you must renew your gifts. In so doing, you will have the same grace, providing you are motivated by the same love. Novices must look forward to this moment; it will be their contract, their marriage with the Lamb (cf. Rv 19:7). In the world, people look forward to a beautiful and magnificent ceremony; our upbringing has only this in mind. Now, my good Daughters, work hard: don't insult our Lord by making him wait for you. This honor is so great that those who come after you will be amazed. Once in heaven you will marvel that you were given so great a grace. Our Lord **cannot give you more than to invite you to surround his adorable person.** Beyond, there is only heaven. Enter fully into this spirit; understand its excellence. If you understand it well, you will be in jubilation every day. Yes I realize that we are in a valley of tears, but the sun will soon melt whatever ice there may be and pierce the mist.

Keep in mind that every religious body has its mission. St. Ignatius came to fight Protestantism, as is mentioned in his office. God called him to combat Protestantism, in fact, he fought a good fight. St. Dominic had the mission to battle the Albigensians. St. Francis had the mission to confront simony that had slithered into the ranks of the Church. St. Benedict had the mission to renew his century dulled by passions. **We are called to fight against the indifference that surrounds our Lord.** By serving him we touch everything. The evil of our century is indifference, the total neglect of our Lord. Our age is frozen and paralyzed: we must surround this ice with fire. This is the enemy we must confront. Our service must be to surround our Lord, adore him day and night. This is what we have to do.



Points for reflection:

Faced with the needs of our world, where does Father Eymard place our Congregation? What solutions does he propose?

¹ Number 428. *Troisième anniversaire de la fondation.*

² This instruction is also found in Book # 3, Section E.

³ The perpetual profession of the first sisters took place on the feast of St. Ignatius in 1859.