The Feast of St. Ignatius Day

From Phoenix, AZ
Written by John & Teresa Vu

To celebrate Ignatius Day, our community (Đồng Hành CLC Nazarét) attended mass together, share a Sunday Brunch, watched new movie on Ignatius of Loyola and had a wonderful faith sharing on how Ignatian Spirituality had helped me better live out my Christian Vocation. Our day was full of God’s love and companionship. We are very grateful to St. Ignatius for a wonderful spirituality gift to the church and to CLC...
From Houston, Texas  
Written by Minh-Thuy and Thai Le

In the sweltering heat of Texas late July, many members of the Houston Dong Hanh – CLC group gathered to pray, to reflect and to learn more about St. Ignatius of Loyola on his feast day. Though situated way out in the countryside in Waller county noone seemed to mind the driving distance and the inconvenience of the never ending construction along 290. Pilgrims converged on Ane Le Thi Thanh retreat house as if they all looked forward to getting out of the city in a hurry, to be in the suburb where the horizon is vast, the trees are lush and the breeze flows free. Ane Le Thi Thanh retreat center has been “home” of the Dong Hanh-CLC Houston group for a number of years. The serenity of this setting has always provided many a sense of peace and love from God.

Starting with a hearty breakfast prepared with love, the day began with much laughter and hugs. After that, DH-CLC’ers gathered in the modest chapel named after Fr. Viet Anh for the morning prayers, followed by touching faith sharing that everyone had experienced leading up to the celebration, the Novena to St. Ignatius. This exercise had helped members to focus on St. Ignatius’ life, his teaching and his connection to God and Mary. After a brief break presenters: Mong Hang and Nam Phuong, guided the group through practical issue that face many groups during the growing process: “Tensions in Dong Hanh - CLC community”.
From Orange County, California
Written by Quang Pham

On Sunday July 30th on the eve of St Ignatius of Loyola feast day, about 50 members (including children) of Dong Hanh Southwest region gathered to celebrate the life of the founder of the Jesuits, St Ignatius of Loyola. The Ignatian spirituality has been the foundation and guiding principle of CLC and has helped many Dong Hanh members in their spiritual life since the late 80's. We owe our immense gratitude to St Ignatius of Loyola and we thank God for giving us this great saint to the Church.

As a community, we invited our members to embark on a 9-day novena to pray and meditate on the life of St Ignatius using a reflection that was written by the Jesuits brothers in Vietnam. This reflection material was really helpful in guiding some of our members in learning and deep appreciation of St Ignatius' spirituality. Fr. Doan Hoang, SJ who is the presider of the Mass pointed out that Ignatius' real name is "Inigo" which means flame. Relating to this "flame", Fr. Doan also made a reference to Jesus' saying in the Scripture: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" (Luke 12:49) How fitting it is for the founder of the Jesuits!

During Mass, a few members had an opportunity to share on the beautiful graces that they have received as well as the practical way of living out Ignatian spirituality in their daily lives. After sharing in the breaking of the bread around the altar, we shared the delicious foods around the dinner table. It's the CLC way of life and the companions on this journey that bring us together in this beautiful gathering on this special day, remembering all our friends and Jesuits who walked with us through the years.

May the "flame" that once inspired Inigo of Loyola continue to set a fire within us to go forward as "men and women for others."

A.M.D.G