

Jesuit Sources, cont.

Some of us were French, others Spanish, or Portuguese. After meeting for many sessions, there was a cleavage of sentiments and opinions about our situation... While we all had one mind and heart in seeking God's gracious and perfect will according to the scope of our vocation; nevertheless regarding the more readily and more fruitful ways of achieving God's will for ourselves and others, we held diverse views!

-- *The Deliberations of Our First Fathers*, 1539

We proposed to ourselves some questions worthy of careful consideration and forethought at this opportune time. Throughout the day, we were accustomed to ponder and meditate on these and to prayerfully search into them. At night each one shared with the group what he judged to be more appropriate and helpful.

-- *The Deliberations of Our First Fathers*, 1539

For those who see tensions between the sponsoring identity and an institution's Catholic identity, it is important to emphasize that the sponsoring group is first and foremost Catholic, but Catholic in a particular way or style characteristic of the religious order or congregation and lived within a particular history and culture.

Moreover, that particular style of being Catholic can seem more attractive and welcoming than being more generically Catholic.

-- Some Distinctive Features of Jesuit Higher Education Today
Charles L. Currie, S.J., *Journal of Catholic Higher Education*, 29:1

I invite you to discover your vocation in downward mobility. It's a scary request... The world is obsessed with wealth and security and upward mobility and prestige. But let us teach solidarity, walking with the victims, serving and loving. I offer this for you to consider – downward mobility.

And I would say in this enterprise there is a great deal of hope.

Have the courage to lose control.

Have the courage to feel useless.

Have the courage to listen.

Have the courage to receive.

Have the courage to let your heart be broken.

Have the courage to feel.

Have the courage to fall in love.

Have the courage to get ruined for life.

Have the courage to make a friend."

-- Dean Brackley, S.J., Downward Mobility: Social Implications of St Ignatius' Two Standards, *Studies in the Spirituality of Jesuits*, 1988

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Xavier Cabinet
A Conversation in the Spirit:
Challenges for Clarity
About Our Catholic Identity

Prelection

Prelection is an opportunity to open oneself and examine one's disposition in preparation for conversation in the spirit.

Scripture

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

-- Colossians 3:12-17

Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius

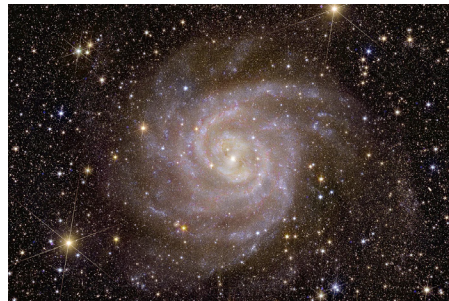
The most important quality in the person who enters into these Exercises is openness and generosity. As a retreatant, my one hope and desire is that I can really put myself at the disposal of God so that in all ways I seek only to respond to that love which first created me and now wraps me round with total care and concern. (Annotation 5)

Love ought to be shown more in deeds than in words. (#230)

Poetry

The Ponds

Still, what I want in my life
Is to be willing
To be dazzled
To cast aside the weight of facts
And maybe even
To float a little
Above this difficult world.
I want to believe I am looking
Into the white fire of a great mystery.
I want to believe that the imperfections are nothing
That the light is everything-that is more than the sum
Of each flawed blossom rising and fading. And I do.
-- Mary Oliver



Voices of Wisdom

I'll tell you something, Jesus believes in you, in each one of you and us, because to him each one of us is important, and that is Jesus. . . In the church, there is space for everyone, and when there isn't, please, let's work so that there is -- also for who makes mistakes, for who falls, for who it is difficult.

Repeat with me: "Everyone, everyone, everyone! *Todos, todos, todos!*"

That is the church, the mother of all; there is room for all.

-- Pope Francis, World Youth Day, Lisbon, Aug 3, 2023

Whatever may be the tensions and the stresses of a particular day, there is always lurking close at hand the trailing beauty of forgotten joy or unremembered peace. Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it.

-- Howard Thurman

The prayer of man and woman is closely linked to the feeling of wonder. Human greatness is miniscule when compared to the dimensions of the universe. The greatest human achievements seem to be few and far between when compared to God's creations.

-- Pope Francis, General Audience, May 20, 2020

Jesuit Sources

Jesuit apostolates participate in the mission of Jesus Christ, the Reconciler, by recognizing the dignity of every person; by cultivating a culture of hospitality where others may encounter the Risen Lord; and by advancing God's efforts to gather all persons into a community of belonging. No matter our disagreements, we believe that by recognizing dignity, extending hospitality, and nurturing belonging, we serve God's Reign and prolong Christ's reconciling ministry by inviting others to find their place at God's table.

Our apostolates must labor to cultivate a culture of hospitality where everyone feels wanted and needed.

-- *A Place at the Table*, Jesuits USA Midwest Province, 2023

For Reflection

- What draws you, from any of these words or your own reflection?
- What is a hope you have?
- What is a disposition you pray for?