



ST. PIUS X PARISH

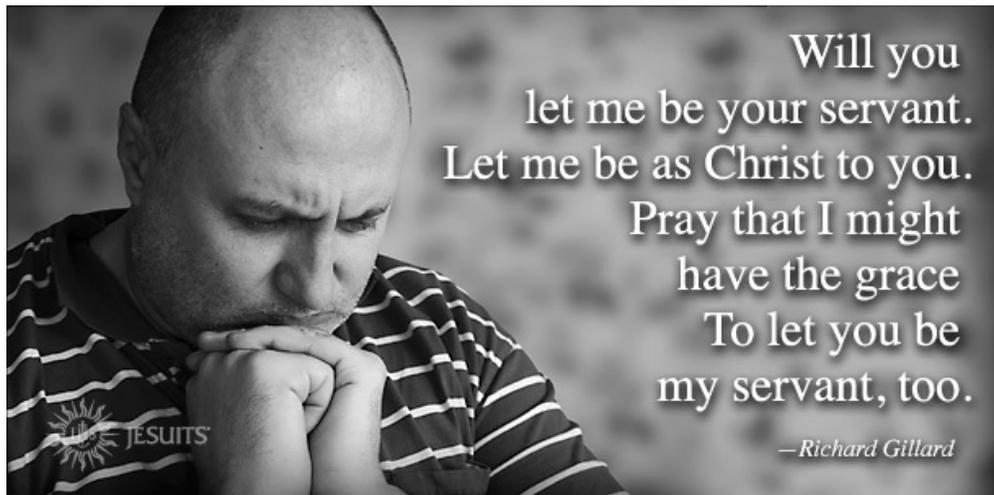
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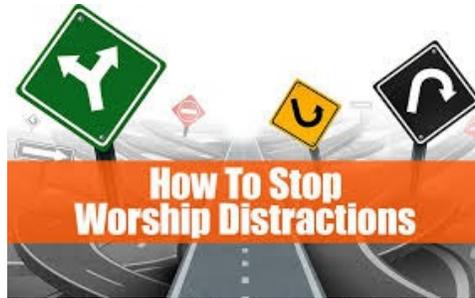
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OUR PIUS UPDATE June 29, 2021



WHAT DISTRACTS FROM YOUR MISSION?



The Gospel reading from Matthew reflects part of Jesus' ministry in Galilee. He's busy traveling, preaching, and healing. Many people surround him with questions and requests. I can imagine Jesus feeling weary, but there's also a sense of resolve. He doesn't mince words when a disciple asks if there's time for an important family obligation – his father's funeral. Jesus' terse reply: *"follow me, let the dead bury the dead."* Not the compassionate response one would expect from Jesus, is it? But here I'm reminded of the times in my household when my three sons and I are rushing to get somewhere. They are invariably distracted by everything but our immediate goal to leave the house, and I burst out: *"Come on, let's go people!"* I wonder if Jesus might be expressing a similar sense of exasperation. Jesus isn't saying the funeral is unimportant, rather he's just trying to reinforce the significance of the immediate spiritual mission at hand.

When have I been similarly distracted from my spiritual mission? How often do I let day-to-day details in life lead me away from practicing my faith? What terse reply might Jesus offer me in those moments?

PRAYER

*Good and gracious God,
I am grateful for your constant patience and love.
Help me to focus on what's truly important in life -
my spiritual mission, my calling.
Strengthen my resolve to always follow you,
especially when distractions emerge,
and give me the patience to support others
who are also trying their best to live according to your teachings.
I ask this in Jesus' name,
who has shown us all the way,
and supports our every step.
Amen.*

—Bryan Sokol

SOURCE: www.jesuitprayer.org, Bryan Sokol, June 28, 2021
Bryan Sokol is a faculty member at Saint Louis University and the father of three sons (the oldest will begin attending Gonzaga University this fall).

FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD



One of the most appealing **Ignatian ideas** is the notion that we can relate to God like a friend. Ignatius says as much: *“I talk with Jesus like a friend”*, he writes in the ***Spiritual Exercises***. He urges us to talk to Jesus *“as one friend to another, making known his affairs to him and seeking advise in them”*. The Jesuit spiritual writer **William A. Barry, SJ** says that friendship is always on God’s mind. *God desires humans into existence for the sake of friendship*, he writes in his book **“A Friendship Like No Other”**.

Of course, **Ignatius and his companions** didn’t invent the idea that a relationship with God can be intimate. The Bible is full of images of God’s tender mercy and love for us, and Jesus call his disciples *“friends”*. There’s a rich Christian tradition of devotion and prayer that’s meant to bring God close. And there is another devotional tradition that emphasizes God’s majesty and apartness, and counts the *“fear of the Lord”* among the great virtues. These traditions wax and wane in the life of the Church.

The **Ignatian tradition** is to **hold God close**. The dynamic of the ***Spiritual Exercises*** is to get to know Jesus intimately as a friend, companion, and mentor. We walk with him and strive to think and act like him. **Ignatius** thought that once Jesus becomes your friend, everything else will fall into place.

Intimacy with Jesus is one of the themes of **Pope Francis’s** preaching. An example: *“Let the risen Jesus enter your life - welcome him as friend, with trust: he is life! If up till now you have kept him at a distance, step forward. He will receive you with open arms”*. Words like these come straight from the Pope’s **Jesuit formation**.

SOURCE: **Ignatian Spirituality A to Z**, Jim Manney, pages 93 and 94

SUMMER STARS



*A quiet sense of oneness
ripens in me as a gaze
into evening's summer sky.*

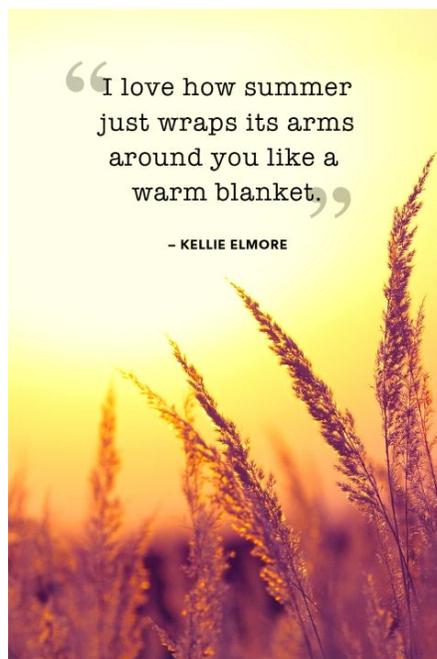
*I behold this endless space
filled with sparkling lights,
speaking of a world unknown,
luring my heart into mystery.*

*Dancer of the Stars,
I am at home with you
when I view these galaxies
of ageless beauty.*

Today: I take time to gaze at the stars and be amazed.

The Circle of Life, page 136

SOURCE: *Anchors For The Soul*, Joyce Rupp





*As the sun rises,
Lord,
Let your light shine on me.
Destroy the darkness about me,
Scatter the darkness before me,
Disperse the darkness behind me,
Dispel the darkness within me.
Let your light shine on me.
As the sun rises, Lord,
Let your light shine on me.
The warmth of your Presence,
The brightness of your love,
The radiance of your joy,
The shining of your hope.
Let your light shine on me.
As the sun rises, Lord,
Let your light shine on me.
Your light to guide,
Your light to lead,
Your light to direct,
Your light to brighten.
Let your light shine on me.*

SOURCE: *Power Lines: Celtic Prayers About Work*, by David Adam