



# ignaziana

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The year 2021 has included commemorations of a number of important events that touch on Ignatian spirituality in many different ways. Pride of place certainly belongs to the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of Pamplona, which has focused our attention on St. Ignatius's "cannonball moment." That single incident initiated a chain of incidents that transformed and molded the life of an unknown and unimportant Basque courtier so that he has become a significant influence in the lives of thousands of people throughout the world. In response to Father Arturo Sosa's initiative, communal events as well as opportunities for personal reflections have enabled people in diverse contexts to consider the ongoing impact of a brief moment on May 20, 1521 when one man's life changed forever. The momentous developments that followed Ignatius of Loyola's injury continue to unfold today. One gunner's aim did more than initiate the redirection of Inigo's: a chain of consequences in the past five centuries links thousands of people in expanding and ever-renewed networks that demonstrate how the solidarity of human lives across seemingly insurmountable barriers of time and space. At the same time, our changing perspectives on that single event demonstrate the uniqueness of each generation and each individual within those generations.

This year also marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St. Robert Bellarmine. A recent conference organized and hosted by the Pontifical Gregorian University examined the life and after-life of an important figure whose significance seems to change in every generation. This extraordinary man, whose unique pedigree and remarkable talents marked him from early in life as one who could do great things, became perhaps even more remarkable because of the way Ignatian spirituality molded his development and channeled his energies. Bellarmine's reputation has undergone giant oscillations in the past four centuries as perceptions, interests, and preoccupations have changed with regard to this multifaceted individual who was remarkably capable in diverse fields of interest. In addition to his well-known activities in scholarship, teaching, and governance, Bellarmine had notable pastoral skills, even finding time and energy for the spiritual direction of young Jesuits.

One of the young Jesuits who profited from Bellarmine's spiritual accompaniment was Luigi Gonzaga. Another was Jan Berchmans, a native of Flemish Brabant who died at the age of 22, a month before his 78-year-old esteemed mentor. Fidelity to the Ignatian way of proceeding stands out in the life of Berchmans. The spirituality of St. Ignatius, as he learned it from men like Bellarmine, gave him categories and practical methods for pursuing the holiness he believed God invited him to embrace. The shifting response of his contemporaries and subsequent generations to Berchman's sanctity indicate the impossibility of reducing human beings to simple categories, even as we try to do so in the light of shifting fashion, altered contexts, and new ways of viewing the signs of the times.

The articles in this edition of *Ignaziana* demonstrate how the resources of Ignatian spirituality have served different generations in widely diverse circumstances. Although interests and viewpoints change over time, the lens of Ignatian spirituality has proved helpful for interpreting the human experience and response to the Ineffable One who took on flesh for us.



Chiara Vasciavero brings her training as a specialist in ophthalmology and moral theology to her studies of St. Maria Magdalena de' Pazzi. Her article, "Virgilio Cepari S.I. e la Compagnia di Gesù al Carmelo fiorentino di S. Maria Maddalena de' Pazzi," explores the relationship between Carmelite and Ignatian spirituality in a particular setting—Florence at the turn of the 16th century.

Christian Belin, professor at the University Paul-Valéry, Montpellier and an expert in 17<sup>th</sup> century French literature, is particularly interested in the relationship between literature, philosophy, and theology. He brings his multidisciplinary perspective to "L'arrivée des jésuites au Japon et en Chine : « Voir la grande contenance du monde et son pourtour ... »."

Nicola Soldo, is a professor of Fundamental Theology at the Pontifical Theological Faculty of Southern Italy, section "S. Luigi" in Naples, who also teaches Theological Anthropology. His contribution to this edition of *Ignaziana* examines "L'atto di fede secondo Karl Rahner e la consolazione senza causa precedente (*Esercizi Spirituali*, 330)."

Scrutinizing "La toma de decisiones en el acompañamiento espiritual ignaciano. El aporte del método teológico-decisional" is the goal of Cristóbal Rodríguez Hernández, who recently completed a license in spiritual theology from the Institute of Spirituality of the Pontifical Gregorian University (Rome). He is currently a doctoral student in the same faculty.

Three articles republished from recent publications concentrate on how a single individual, Pope Francis, makes use of Ignatian spirituality. Our colleagues at *Manresa* have graciously allowed us to make available an article by Gabino Uríbarri Bilbao, SJ, professor of theology at Comillas in Madrid. He points out in "*Gaudete et exsultate* como propuesta ignaciana de santidad apostólica," *Manresa* (93, n. 366, 2021) that the Holy Father has masterfully emphasized important Ignatian themes without imposing a perspective that would deny the value and importance of other forms of spirituality for the life of the Church.

In an article that originally appeared in *Gregorianum* (99/3, 2018), Jacques Servais, S.J., Director of the Casa Balthasar and President of the Balthasar-Speyr-Lubac Association, describes "Jorge Bergoglio and the Theologians who Shaped his Reading of the *Spiritual Exercises*." The article highlights important dimensions of our human interconnectedness.

When Austen Ivereigh, writer, journalist, papal biographer and fellow in contemporary church history at Campion Hall, presented the Campion Lecture in 2020, he related Edmond Campion's famous Brag to the resistance that Pope Francis has experienced in his attempts at reform. The lecture was first published *The Way* (59/4, 2020).

Whether we know it or like it, we are linked with one another and all creation in astonishing ways, as the shifting light of perspective sometimes reveals and other times obscures the warp and woof of our connections. Like the householder Jesus describes in Matthew 13: 51-53, each of the authors in this edition of *Ignaziana* reveals how the perennial truths of the Spiritual Exercises lead people of different generations to new insights and perspectives about Emmanuel, God-with-us.