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Rossano Zas Friz De Col S.J.

La transformación cristiana de San Ignacio de Loyola

JACQUES SCHEUER S.J.

The Ignatian Spiritual Exercises and non-Christian traditions

GIOVANNI MASCIA

La pala d'altare con i Cinque Santi nel convento di Toro (Molise)

da The Way: OSCAR MOMANYI S.J.

The Ignatian Year and the pandemic.
Reflections from a Field Hospital

da Mysterion: Guglielmo Cazzulani

Discernere questo tempo. Il cristiano di fronte all'epidemia

da Manresa: Luis María García Domínguez

«Tercera Semana de Ejercicios y pandemia»

presentazione



Our commemorations of St. Ignatius's original "cannonball experience" in May 1521 have continued despite humanity's own ongoing cannonball experiences during these months of the special Ignatian year. Pandemic, war, economic dislocation, forced migration, the threat of famine—to say nothing of our personal, quotidian disruptions—constantly disturb our accustomed ways of proceeding. Yet these interruptions also provide nearly constant opportunities for us to see and experience the world differently, for us to be distracted from our usual distractions, so that grace can break into our lives in the unexpected ways that God so often uses to bless us in spite of ourselves.

This number of *Ignaziana* explores dimensions of Ignatian spirituality from a number of different perspectives. The contribution of Rossano Zas Friz De Col S.J., of the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, Berkeley is a Spanish translation of a paper he presented on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Institute of Psychology of the Pontifical Gregorian University. He focuses on the lifelong Christian transformation of Ignatius after his initial experience of conversion in 1521.

Jacques Scheuer, S.J., long connected with Lumen Vitae in Namur and Centre Sèvres in Paris, surveys numerous personal attempts by diverse authors to relate Ignatian spirituality to non-Christian traditions. Although neither he nor *Ignaziana* intend his extensive though not exhaustive bibliography to be the authoritative word about the topics introduced, it provides a helpful starting point for further reflection and investigation.

Giovanni Mascia focuses our attention on a hidden gem of 17th century painting conserved in a small convent church in Toro (Molise). The canvas brings together the five saints canonized five hundred years ago: Teresa of Avila, Ignatius Loyola, Isidore the Farmer, Francis Xavier, and Philip Neri. His analysis reminds that our experience of God is not limited to the so-called famous "centers" of artistic, intellectual, and economic activity.

Three previously published articles concentrate our attention on the pandemic. *The Way* has allowed us to reprint an article by Oscar Momanyi, S.J., a retreat and spiritual guide at Mwangaza Jesuit Spirituality Centre in Nairobi, entitled "The Ignatian Year and the Pandemic: Reflections from a Field Hospital." Don Guglielmo Cazzulani, parish priest of the diocese of Lodi, is the director of the diocesan catechetical office as well as professor of spirituality at the Istituto Superiore di Scienze Religiose in Crema. His 2020 article from *Mysterion*, "Discernere questo tempo. Il cristiano di fronte

PRESENTAZIONE 2

presentazione



all'epidemia," is an early attempt to propose a Christian response to the pandemic. "Tercera Semana de Ejercicios y pandemia" originally appeared in Manresa. Luis María García Domínguez, S.J. proposes that we examine our response to the pandemic through the lens of the Third Week of the Spiritual Exercises.

Father Sosa proposed the special Ignatian anniversary year as a way to help us see all things new in Christ long before the pandemic or the war in Ukraine. The contributions provided in this number of *Ignaziana* can help us not only see all things in new ways but also enable us to act in new ways, more and more like the One who became what we are that we might become what He is.

PRESENTAZIONE 3