

Set the World on Fire with St. Ignatius de Loyola and St. Alphonse de Liguori

Catholic Faith Formation – August 3, 2025

St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Kibe Hall, Room 310.



Jubilee 2033



SAINTS & FEASTS

August 1:
St. Alphonsus
Ligouri



Jesuit Post's "One-Minute Homily"
- Go set the world on fire

July 31: St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest



SAINTS & FEAS



**July 31:
St. Ignatius
of Loyola**



**Discover the life of St. John Henry Newman to-be
Doctor of the Church | Pope Leo XIV**

TELL
ME!

#FINDIGGY



Iggy's Mission

www.findyourinneriggy.com



[WHAT IS IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY?](#) ▾

[IGNATIAN PRAYER](#) ▾

[MAKING GOOD DECISIONS](#) ▾

[IGNATIAN VOICES](#) ▾

[DOTMAGIS BLOG](#) ▾



The Ignatian Way

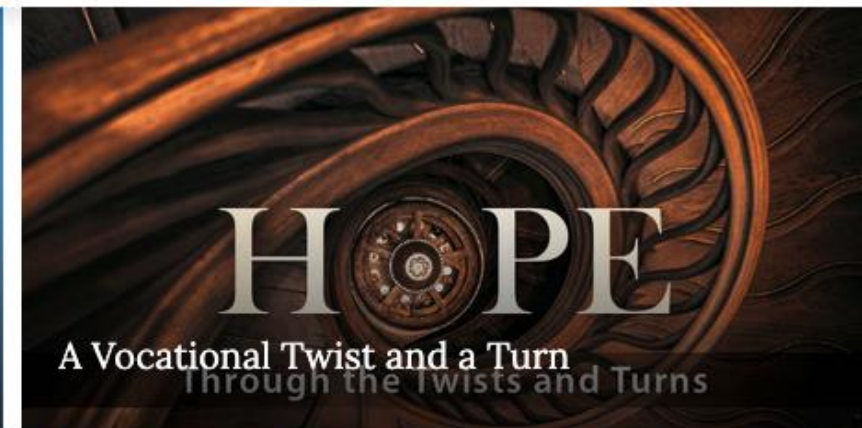
[Ignatian Organizations](#)

Jesuit Organizations

Education, Arts and Sciences

Social Justice

Theology and Ecclesiology



Ignatian Spirituality – Loyola Press

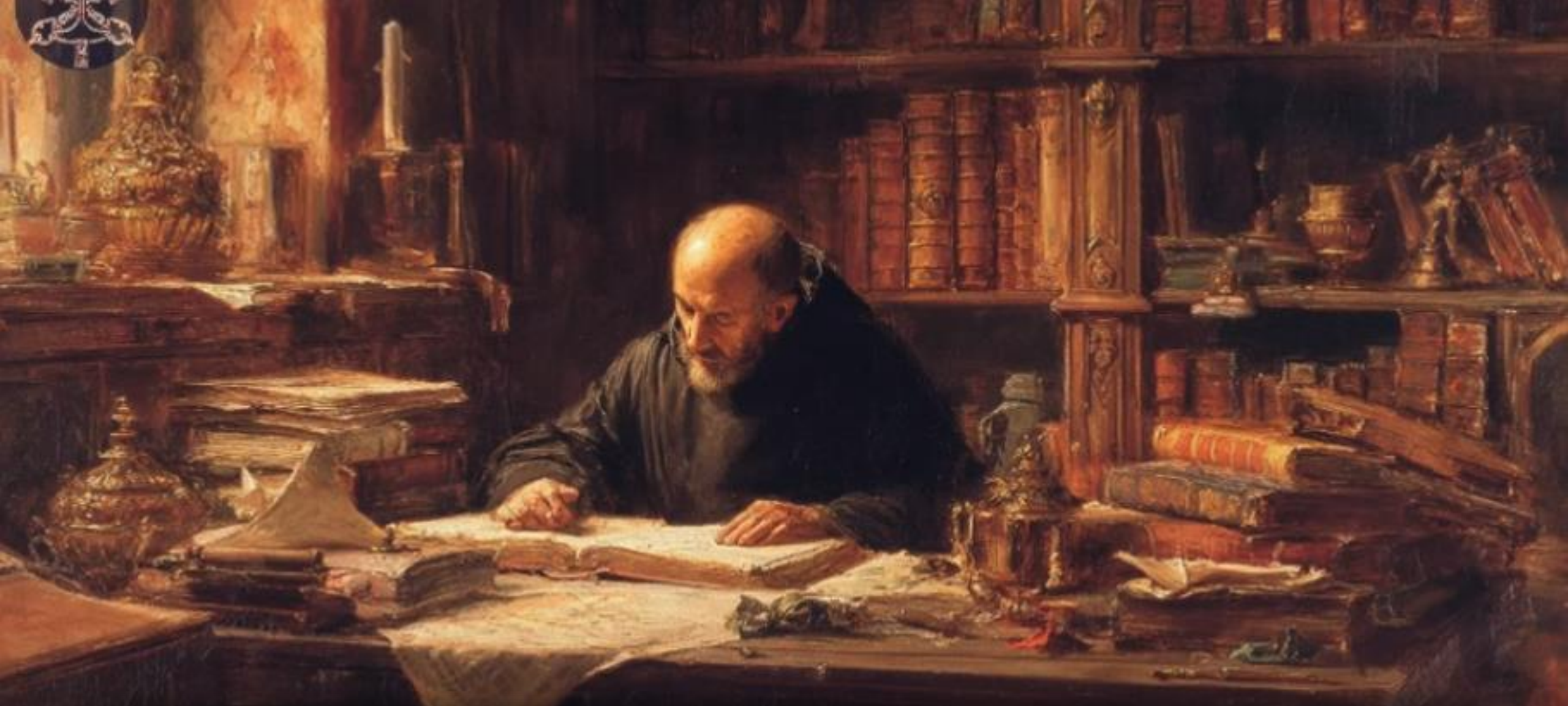
IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA



**Saint Ignatius of Loyola:
The Soldier Who Became a Saint**



**October 9:
St. John Henry Newman (England & Wales)**



Who Was Saint Alphonsus Maria de Liguori?
The Story of the Doctor of the Church



Betrayed by His Own Order: The Final Trial of a Saint

St. Alphonsus Liguori:

- **Devotion to Mary:**
- Liguori had a profound love for the Blessed Virgin Mary, emphasizing her role as a powerful intercessor and mother figure.
- **The Importance of Prayer:**
- Liguori believed that prayer is essential for spiritual growth, encouraging regular prayer and emphasizing the power of persevering prayer.
- **Spiritual Growth and Perfection:**
- Liguori wrote extensively on the path to Christian perfection, emphasizing the need for self-denial, virtue, and union with God.
- **Moral Theology and Confession:**
- Liguori was a renowned moral theologian who emphasized the importance of confession and seeking God's forgiveness.
- **Ministry to the Poor and Marginalized:**
- Liguori dedicated his life to serving the poor and marginalized, highlighting the importance of social justice and compassion.

“set the world on fire” through evangelization and missionary work:

- Discerning God’s Call to Mission
 - Inspired by St. Ignatius of Loyola’s Spiritual Exercises and his emphasis on discernment, discuss how participants can listen to God’s voice to discover their unique role in evangelization. Explore how Ignatius’s journey from soldier to missionary can inspire bold, purposeful action in sharing the Gospel.
 - Key Question: How can we use discernment to identify opportunities for missionary work in our daily lives?
 - Reference: Ignatius’s principle of “finding God in all things” and his call to “go forth and set the world on fire.”

“set the world on fire” through evangelization and missionary work:

- Preaching Hope to the Marginalized
 - Drawing from St. Alphonsus Liguori’s mission to the poor and his accessible preaching style, focus on evangelizing those who feel distant from God or the Church. Discuss how to communicate the hope of Christ’s love with simplicity and compassion, as Alphonsus did in his missions.
 - Key Question: How can we reach out to the overlooked in our community with the message of God’s mercy?
 - Reference: Alphonsus’s focus on preaching to the “most abandoned souls” and his emphasis on Jesus’ love in the Eucharist and Mary’s intercession.

“set the world on fire” through evangelization and missionary work:

- Friendship as a Path to Evangelization
 - Inspired by St. John Henry Newman’s theology of friendship, explore how building authentic, loving relationships can be a powerful form of evangelization. Discuss how personal connections, rooted in Christian love, can draw others to the faith.
 - Key Question: How can we cultivate friendships that reflect Christ’s love and invite others to encounter Him?
 - Reference: Newman’s sermon on friendship as a “foretaste of heaven” and a means to love the world wisely.

“set the world on fire” through evangelization and missionary work:

- Living Boldly for Christ’s Greater Glory
 - Reflect on St. Ignatius’s motto, *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam* (For the Greater Glory of God), and how it calls Catholics to live with passion and purpose in spreading the faith. Discuss practical ways to embody this boldness in missionary work, whether locally or globally.
 - Key Question: What does it mean to “set the world on fire” for Christ in our everyday actions?
 - Reference: Ignatius’s founding of the Jesuits for missionary and educational work.

“set the world on fire” through evangelization and missionary work:

- Prayer as the Foundation of Mission
 - Highlight St. Alphonsus Liguori’s teaching that “our whole salvation depends on prayer” and connect it to the missionary call. Discuss how a deep prayer life, including devotion to Mary, empowers evangelization efforts and sustains missionaries in their work.
 - Key Question: How can we strengthen our prayer life to fuel our mission to share the Gospel?
 - Reference: Alphonsus’s title as “Doctor of Prayer” and his encouragement of intimate conversation with God.

“set the world on fire” through evangelization and missionary work:

- Defending and Sharing the Faith Through Reason and Love
 - Inspired by St. John Henry Newman’s intellectual rigor and pastoral heart, explore how Catholics can use both reason and compassion to engage others in faith conversations. Discuss how Newman’s journey from Anglicanism to Catholicism models a thoughtful approach to evangelization.
 - Key Question: How can we combine intellectual clarity and personal warmth to invite others to explore the Catholic faith?
 - Reference: Newman’s Essay on the Development of Doctrine and his emphasis on the “whole man” moving toward faith.

“set the world on fire” through evangelization and missionary work:

- Countering Cultural Challenges with Missionary Zeal
 - Connect the saints’ roles in the Counter-Reformation (Ignatius), moral theology reform (Alphonsus), and doctrinal development (Newman) to today’s need to address secular challenges with vibrant evangelization. Discuss how to share the faith in a world that may be indifferent or hostile.
 - Key Question: How can we adapt the missionary spirit of these saints to engage today’s culture?
 - Reference: Ignatius’s role in the Counter-Reformation and Newman’s response to anti-Catholic hostility.

Focusing on evangelization in Japan

- 1. **Discerning God's Call in Japan's Cultural Landscape**
- - Inspired by St. Ignatius of Loyola's emphasis on discernment, explore how Catholics in Japan can discern opportunities to share the Gospel in a culture that values harmony, tradition, and subtlety. Discuss how Ignatius's journey from a worldly soldier to a missionary can inspire Japanese Catholics to navigate societal pressures while boldly living their faith.
- - Application in Japan: Encourage small, intentional acts of witness (e.g., sharing faith through actions in workplaces or schools) in a society where overt proselytizing may be less effective.
- - Key Question: How can discernment help us find culturally sensitive ways to evangelize in Japan?
- - Reference: Ignatius's *Spiritual Exercises* and his call to "go forth and set the world on fire," adapted to Japan's understated social norms.

Focusing on evangelization in Japan

- 2. ****Preaching Hope to Japan's Marginalized****
- - Drawing from St. Alphonsus Liguori's mission to the poor, focus on reaching Japan's overlooked communities, such as the elderly, migrant workers, or those struggling with mental health in a high-pressure society. Discuss how Alphonsus's simple, heartfelt preaching can inspire sharing Christ's mercy in ways that resonate with Japan's emphasis on empathy and community.
- - Application in Japan: Explore outreach through acts of service (e.g., volunteering at shelters or supporting foreign workers) as a form of evangelization that aligns with Japan's collectivist values.
- - Key Question: How can we share Christ's hope with those on the margins in Japan's society?
- - Reference: Alphonsus's focus on the "most abandoned souls" and his devotion to Mary, which could resonate with Japan's reverence for maternal figures like Kannon.

Focusing on evangelization in Japan

- 3. **Friendship as a Path to Evangelization in Japan**
- - Inspired by St. John Henry Newman's theology of friendship, discuss how building trust-based relationships can open doors to sharing the faith in Japan, where personal connections are highly valued. Emphasize how authentic friendships can model Christ's love in a culture that prioritizes sincerity and mutual respect.
- - Application in Japan: Encourage forming genuine relationships in community settings (e.g., schools, workplaces, or local festivals) as a foundation for faith conversations, respecting Japan's indirect communication style.
- - Key Question: How can we build friendships that gently invite others to explore Christianity in Japan?
- - Reference: Newman's view of friendship as a "foretaste of heaven," adaptable to Japan's emphasis on relational harmony.

Focusing on evangelization in Japan

- 4. **Living Boldly for Christ in Japan's Secular Society**
 - - Reflect on St. Ignatius's motto, *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*, and how it calls Japanese Catholics to live with purpose in a highly secular, materialistic society. Discuss how to embody missionary zeal through consistent witness in daily life, such as ethical work practices or quiet acts of charity.
 - - Application in Japan: Highlight the example of historical Japanese martyrs (e.g., the 26 Martyrs of Nagasaki) to inspire courage in living the faith publicly, even in subtle ways, in a society where conformity is valued.
 - - Key Question: What does it mean to “set Japan on fire” for Christ through everyday actions?
 - - Reference: Ignatius's missionary legacy through the Jesuits, who played a key role in Japan's early Christian history under St. Francis Xavier.

Focusing on evangelization in Japan

- 5. **Prayer as the Foundation for Japan's Evangelization**
- - Inspired by St. Alphonsus Liguori's teaching on prayer as the cornerstone of salvation, explore how a deep prayer life can sustain evangelization efforts in Japan's challenging spiritual landscape. Discuss incorporating devotions like the Rosary, which may appeal to Japan's meditative traditions.
- - Application in Japan: Encourage prayer groups or personal devotions that connect with Japanese spirituality, such as contemplative practices that echo Buddhist or Shinto mindfulness, to prepare for missionary work.
- - Key Question: How can prayer empower us to share the Gospel in Japan's unique religious context?
- - Reference: Alphonsus's title as "Doctor of Prayer" and his call for intimate conversation with God.

Focusing on evangelization in Japan

- 6. **Engaging Japan's Intellectual Culture with Faith and Reason**
- - Drawing from St. John Henry Newman's intellectual approach, discuss how Catholics in Japan can engage the country's highly educated, rational culture with a faith that appeals to both heart and mind. Explore how Newman's journey to Catholicism can inspire respectful dialogue with those curious about Christianity.
- - Application in Japan: Encourage apologetics tailored to Japan's context, addressing common questions about Christianity's place in a Shinto-Buddhist society, using Newman's method of combining reason and love.
- - Key Question: How can we use reason and compassion to make Christianity relatable in Japan's intellectual culture?
- - Reference: Newman's *Essay on the Development of Doctrine* and his approach to engaging skeptics.

Practical Suggestions for the Meeting in Japan

- **Practical Suggestions for the Meeting in Japan**
- - **Scripture Focus**: Use Matthew 28:19–20 (“Go and make disciples of all nations”) and connect it to Japan’s historical encounter with Christianity through St. Francis Xavier and the Jesuits.
- - **Cultural Sensitivity**: Emphasize evangelization through actions (e.g., charity, hospitality) over direct confrontation, aligning with Japan’s preference for subtlety and respect.
- - **Local Examples**: Share stories of Japan’s martyrs or modern Catholic initiatives, like the work of Catholic schools or charities in Japan, to inspire participants.
- - **Activities**:
 - - Small group discussions on personal experiences of sharing faith in Japan’s reserved culture.
 - - Plan a concrete action, such as organizing a community service event or inviting a friend to a church cultural event (e.g., a Christmas Mass, which attracts many non-Christians in Japan).
 - - Incorporate a prayer session with the Rosary or a meditation inspired by Ignatius’s *Spiritual Exercises*, adapted to resonate with Japan’s contemplative traditions.

Focusing on evangelization in Japan

- 7. **Countering Japan's Secular Challenges with Missionary Zeal**
 - - Connect the saints' historical roles in addressing challenges (Ignatius in the Counter-Reformation, Alphonsus in moral theology, Newman in doctrinal clarity) to Japan's modern secularism and religious pluralism. Discuss how to share the faith in a culture that may view Christianity as foreign or irrelevant.
 - - Application in Japan: Highlight the legacy of Japan's hidden Christians (*Kakure Kirishitan*), who preserved the faith in secret, as inspiration for creative, resilient evangelization in a society that values tradition over change.
 - - Key Question: How can we adapt the missionary spirit of these saints to Japan's unique cultural and religious challenges?
 - - Reference: Ignatius's Jesuit missions in Japan and Newman's response to cultural skepticism.