

Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
*All Saints and Blessed of the Society of Jesus*

To fellow members of the Ignatian Family around the world,



Over these last two years there has arisen amongst some members of the Ignatian family a real concern about the way young people are being drawn into a violent fundamentalism in a perversion of religious faith. There is a deep desire amongst young people to commit themselves to a cause often amidst a cultural context within which there is ingrained hopelessness despair and hedonism. Pope Francis has issued a challenge to young people not to lose hope, saying that the saddest thing is to see a young person who has, as it were, retired into hopelessness. A key ingredient of the vow formula of

Jesuits and some members of the Ignatian family is the 'care of youth'. It is grounded in the vision of the Principle and Foundation of the Exercises that we are created to praise reverence and serve Christ Our Lord. It is elaborated in that call to mission and service of the Call of Christ the King and exalted in the *contemplatio* when we come to see all things as coming from and returning to the Father in and through the work of Christ in the world. As we search for new ways to share the inspiration and encouragement of the love of God at work in our world we offer this prayer to the Jesuit and Ignatian families throughout the world.

**Gracious God,  
 you have placed at the heart of our  
 vocation  
 a special care for young people.**

**Give us we pray hearts and minds  
 that are attuned to the contemporary  
 needs  
 of young men and women.**

**Inspire us with your love and grace  
 that we might share that inspiration.**

**Cause us to be signs of that hope and  
 joy  
 which you so desire to share with all  
 people.**

**May we encourage young people  
 to walk the path of peace, justice and  
 service  
 without violence and hatred;  
 so that they in turn may be a source  
 of inspiration and hope to others.**

**Amen.**

*L.D.S.*