

On Sunday February 18th, 2018, Rev Judith spoke of the great "contemplative in action " :-

St Ignatius.

I first made acquaintance with his writings some forty three years ago and as I told the congregation on Sunday, " the little religious bookshop where I lived in the States, Princeton, New Jersey, could hardly keep up with my almost insatiable demand for books of his writings and books about him. "

The Sunday sermon began a Lenten Study of Praying With The Saints. One cannot do justice second-hand to Ignatius work but I outline some of the main aspects.

1. Ignatius (this is the Latinized form of his Spanish name) lived 1491-1556 basically sixteenth century Spain, a nobleman and soldier from the northern Basque region.
2. After severe injury at the Battle of Pamplona, he was captured and during his recuperation changed the direction of his life.
3. A basic work is his Spiritual Exercises, (1548) and it is an introduction into the chief aspects of his spirituality
4. Ignatius and his companions form the Society Of Jesus, known popularly as the Jesuits, now the largest single religious order of priest and brothers in the Catholic Church and responsible worldwide for the foundation of many educational establishments.
5. Ignatian Spirituality places great emphasis on discerning God's presence in the activities of everyday life. It encourages the use of imagination in Biblical reading and study, the interpretation of feelings. In particular what is known as the Examen,, a looking over the day and seeing where God felt close or distant. A spiritual director is encouraged.

To better appreciate Ignatian Spirituality in its fullness, there are many excellent books part from Ignatius' own works,

" Retreat in the Real World" by Andy Alexander SJ is very readable

James Martin SJ has written extensively.

Margaret Silf has written an engaging book entitled " Just Call me Lopez" and covers the basics of his spirituality in an imaginative way. There is also a phone App called " Pray As You Go "

To get to the heart of St Ignatius - dive in !! "

Rev. Judith