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LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS
ESTABLISHED 2007

JSRI Supporters,

Sunday, July 31st, is the feast day of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus who died on that day in the year 1556. July 31st also marks the end of the Ignatian Year which celebrated the 500th anniversary of when Ignatius the soldier was injured by a cannonball in the Battle of Pamplona, a moment that led to his personal conversion which changed the world.

As I prepare for the year ahead, I am moved by the transformation of Ignatius the soldier to Ignatius the student, and then to Ignatius the leader and saint.

In the coming weeks, we will invite our first cohort of incarcerated students to start a new journey as Loyola students. Loyola University New Orleans Interim President, Fr. Justin Daffron, SJ, recently recorded a video for the inaugural class of the Loyola Prison Education Program where he noted the similarities between the life experiences of St. Ignatius and the Program's incoming students.

As Fr. Daffron explained, Ignatius was incarcerated twice early in his ministry. During his second incarceration, he was chained to a post while four ecclesiastical judges examined the Spiritual Exercises and questioned him on a variety of theological issues. He was warned to stop preaching until he had studied theology for four more years. He was eventually released from prison after twenty-two days. Soon after, at the age of 38, Ignatius became a student at the University of Paris.

Like our incoming students at Rayburn Correctional Center, Ignatius was a non-traditional student significantly older than the majority of his peers. He may have felt out of place, but he found his community with roommates Peter Faber and Francis Xavier. Together they laid the foundation for a new way of living the Gospels that they could not have imagined alone.

As our students at Rayburn Correctional Center build new communities and identities as Loyola students, I am excited for a world of possibilities that we cannot yet imagine.

At JSRI, we look forward to the new school year with hope, grateful to be a part of something greater than ourselves and united in the traditions of Jesuit education, all for the greater glory of God, *Ad majorem Dei gloriam.*

Best Wishes,

Dr. Annie Phoenix

Executive Director
Jesuit Social Research Institute
Loyola University New Orleans

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