

## **Reflection on the Memorial of ST Ignatius of Loyola**

**1 Corinthians 10: 31 – 11:1**

**Luke 14: 25-33**

Today we read some challenging and direct words. First from St. Paul, in the Reading .... “Take me for your model, as I take Christ.” And then, in the gospel, Jesus words.....”Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me, cannot be my disciple and.....So, in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.”

St Ignatius of Loyola, like St. Paul, took these words and committed himself to the work of the missions. He co-founded the religious order of The Society of Jesus (The Jesuits) and became its first Superior General. He famously wrote a treatise called, The Spiritual Exercises, a simple set of meditations, prayers, and other mental exercises. The Jesuits were an important force at the time of the Counter-Reformation.

We might be daunted by the example of St. Paul and St Ignatius who, clearly, gave themselves to living out Jesus’ call in their lives in a profound way. And yes, we too must follow that call. Our “calls” may not be like Paul or Ignatius, but they will, none-the-less require discernment and cost.

But the reality of our following Jesus is perhaps best understood at its simplest level in the opening words of St. Paul in today’s Reading.... “Whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God.” This must surely be at the core of all we are called to be and do.