

## The Life of Saint Ignatius Loyola (Part 5)



Ignatius had many years of hard work ahead of him. The Jesuits spread throughout Europe and the world, doing the work of the Church in the Name of Jesus. Ignatius, as the head of the Order, was busy writing letters of instruction to the members of the Jesuits in their world-wide missions. He became semi-retired in his later life, but when he tried to resign as General of the Order, his brothers refused to accept it.

As the need for missionaries spread throughout Europe and the world, the Society spread to Germany, Ireland, England, Scotland, Portugal, France, Spain, and mission fields in India, Japan, China, Korea, the Near East, the Middle East and North and South America.

In the summer of 1556, Ignatius was stricken with a fever. After a short illness, he died, peacefully at prayer, on July 30, 1556. He was beatified by Pope Paul V on July 27, 1609 and canonized by Pope Gregory XV on May 22, 1622. His body is buried under the altar of the Jesuit church in Rome, the Church of the Gesu.

Ignatius Loyola's life was a blessing for the Church. His spiritual and practical example of faithfulness and charity has served as an example for generations of Catholic who have benefitted from the Jesuit's work in education, in charity and in spirituality.

In the United States, we have been the beneficiaries of the Jesuits from the beginning. Among the names of famous explorers: are included Father Jacques Marquette (1637-1675), a French priest who explored Quebec and discovered the Mississippi River.

The North American Martyrs were all Jesuits: St. Jean de Brébeuf (1649), St. Noël Chabanel (1649), St. Antoine Daniel (1648), St. Charles Garnier (1649), St. René Goupil (1642), St. Isaac Jogues (1646), St. Jean de Lalande (1646), and St. Gabriel Lalemant (1649).

The first Bishop of the new United States, John Carroll, (January 8, 1735 – December 3, 1815) was the first bishop and archbishop serving as the ordinary of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore. He was also a Jesuit. (His brother John Carroll signed the Declaration of Independence.)

Among the Jesuit institutions in this country are: Fordham University in New York, Georgetown University, District of Columbia, Loyola University in New Orleans, Boston College in Boston and the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. We continue to benefit from the great legacy of the man who became a Knight of Christ.

~Ronald. Cormier