

## The World That Christ Desires – Global Project



### Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	1
<b>"Students Imagining the World that Christ Desires" - Global Project</b> .....	3
<b>What does it involve?</b> .....	3
<b>Description and details of each step</b> .....	3
<b>Step 1: Context</b> .....	3
<b>Step 2: Experience</b> .....	4
<b>Step 3: Reflection and Sharing</b> .....	5
<b>Step 4: Creative Action</b> .....	6
<b>Gathering and Sharing of the creative work</b> .....	7

### Introduction

From May 2021 until July 2022, the Society of Jesus is celebrating an **Ignatian Year**. May 20, 2021, marks the 500th anniversary of St. Ignatius' conversion, which happened following his injury by a cannonball at the battle of Pamplona in Spain. Jesuits and the wider Jesuit family are invited to reflect on this moment of Ignatius' life and on their own personal experiences. We are all invited to open the eyes of our hearts and see *all things new in Christ* as the theme for this Ignatian Year challenges us to do.

As a global network of Jesuit schools, we wish to involve our community of students in this worldwide initiative by inviting them to participate in the Global reflective and creative activity: "Students Imagining the World that Christ Desires".

*To young people I say: "We want to learn to accompany you. We want to learn from you. Each one of you is unique, born with a special purpose. Ignatius struggled to discover the meaning of his life. In him you can find inspiration as you struggle to make your life meaningful and as you ask how you can contribute to building a better world, where the dignity of people is respected and where you live in a joy-filled harmony with nature. I*

*express our desire to accompany you through what we do and most especially through who we are – people willing to share our time, our dreams and our hopes.”*

*From the letter of Fr. General Arturo Sosa, SJ on the Ignatian Year*

### The Cardoner Moment – setting the context.



Ignatius, the young soldier, was injured by a cannonball at the battle of Pamplona in Spain in 1521. During his long recovery in Loyola, through his readings and reflection he encountered different personalities and perspectives to what he knew as a young courtier. They were the saints, like St. Francis of Assisi and St. Dominic and he also read the *Life of Christ*. He was in different company now. These spiritual encounters with heroes from the past and slow interior transformation led

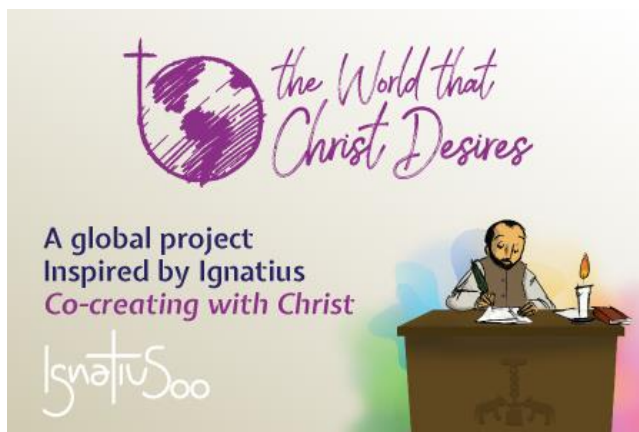
Ignatius from wanting to be the best soldier to wishing to be the best saint. But he didn't stop there. One day, while on his way to a chapel in Manresa, the town where he spent almost a year after his recovery in Loyola, he sat down by the River Cardoner for a moment. And what a moment it turned out to be! In his Autobiography (Chapter 3/30), Ignatius describes this as the moment when his "eyes of understanding opened" and he gained a new perspective on many things. He also says "all things seemed new" to him. What exactly he experienced and understood would be hard to describe. What we know is that he did not want to be the best soldier or the best saint anymore. Instead, he wanted to share the spiritual and intellectual gifts he received with others. After this experience, he certainly was able to seek and find God in all things.

Could he have imagined the following 500 years? The number of schools named after him and his birthplace? The number of pupils around the world educated in Jesuit schools, influenced by his spirituality and pedagogy throughout the centuries? Would he have imagined that in 2021 exactly 500 years later, students in our worldwide community of nearly 900 Jesuit schools would be here celebrating and imagining the next 500? Most probably not... Indeed, 500 years later we are here looking back on the time and legacy of St. Ignatius, and we are invited to imagine and dream the coming 500!

The experience at the River Cardoner enabled Ignatius *to see all things new in Christ – and the following 500 years are the fruit of that vision and a dynamic that invites us to dream up and contribute* "to building a better world, where the dignity of people is respected and where young people live in a joy-filled harmony with nature". These are some of the hopes Fr. General Arturo Sosa has for our students, but how do they imagine **the world that Christ desires**? What are their dreams, hopes, plans for a more *a more reconciled, just, peaceful, and compassionate world*? We are all called to *"create a hope filled future"* (Third UAP).

## "Students Imagining the World that Christ Desires" - Global Project

We would like to invite students from your school to a reflective and creative journey with a big scope. We invite them to imagine and illustrate the *world that Christ desires...now and in the coming 500 years!*



### What does it involve?

**Step 1 – Context:** Introduce students briefly to the story of Ignatius of Loyola, focusing especially on his experience of conversion and change of perspective.

**Step 2 – Experience:** Invite students to a prayerful experience linked to this theme that allows students to acknowledge their present situation and look towards (contemplate) the future. The Global Citizenship Examen could be used for this purpose.

**Step 3 - Reflection and Sharing:** Invite students to **reflect** and view/imagine the world with Christ, as a friend by their side... Then, **share** some fruits of their reflection in small groups.

**Step 4 – Creative Action:** Invite students to use insights they gained from this experience and reflection and use their imagination to capture these experiences and feelings by way of a creative piece in the form of a drawing, a painting, a photo, or a poem. These will then be shared on Educate Magis.

### Description and details of each step

#### Step 1: Context

In this first step, introduce students briefly to the story of Ignatius of Loyola, focusing especially on his experience of conversion and change of perspective. There are several resources that can help you do that; additionally, there are videos you can show or stories/short biographies you can read (or invite students to do their own research about Ignatius). Above you will find a

very brief introduction to one of the main events of Ignatius' story (*the Cardoner moment*). His experience on the river led Ignatius to see things in a new light. He began to reevaluate many of his previous ideas and beliefs, which helped him to start dreaming about the future. Most importantly, he began taking steps to make his new future a reality.

#### Videos:

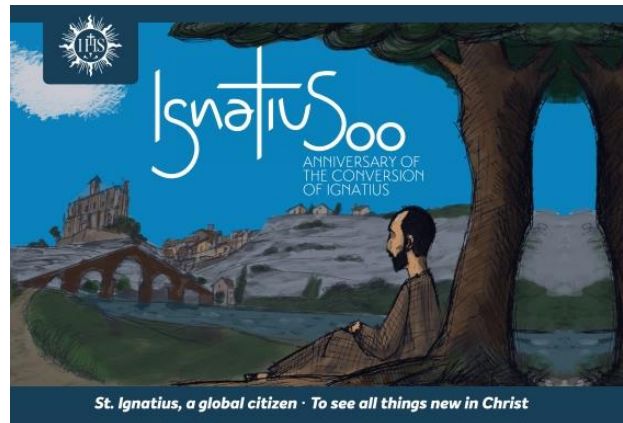
- [Ignatius of Loyola – Finding God In All Things](#) (Source: Jesuits in Britain)
- [A Story Told by an Olive](#) (Source: Fairfield University Media Center)
- [Animated Video Series on the life and spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola with these video series.](#) (Source: Jesuit Curia in Rome, on the Ignatius500 Global website)

#### Written Stories:

- [Early Life of St. Ignatius. A short biography written by Rev. Norman O'Neal, S.J. for the Ignatian Year](#) (Source: Loyola University Chicago)
- [Short story and resources on St. Ignatius from the Jesuit Institute \(London, UK\)](#)

## Step 2: Experience

Invite students to do an Examen, a prayerful experience linked to this theme, acknowledging our present situation and looking towards the future. The Global Citizenship Examen is a great resource that could be used to guide this prayerful reflection. Students can do this as a group prayer with their religion class or in another context (e.g. a day retreat, etc.). The Examen can be prayed together as a full class or in smaller groups. If done in smaller groups, choose a student to lead the Examen.



### Global Citizenship Examen

*“An offering...”*

*Find a quiet place and take one or two deep breaths.*

#### 1. Gratitude

**I give thanks to God, as we are all fellow humans wonderfully made.**

Where did I encounter God today?

#### 2. Consciousness

**I pray for awareness to recognize my place and responsibility in our interconnected world, both locally and globally.**

Do I possess judgments, perceptions or experiences that limit my ability to see as God sees?

### 3. Compassion

**I ask for the grace to look within myself as a true companion in pursuit of a sustainable earth and a more humane world.**

In what ways have I expressed my love, care and solidarity today?

### 4. Conversion

**I pray for fortitude and wisdom in turning toward God in our mission of reconciliation and justice.**

When have I fallen short in my responsibility as a global citizen to encourage interconnectedness with others and with Creation?

### 5. Action

**I ask for the grace of generosity, joy, and mercy as I commit to becoming a discerning global citizen.**

Where is God inviting me to be an instrument of peace, reconciliation and justice?

### 6. Prayer

**Good and Loving God help me bear love for all humans sowing peace and joy in our world and taking care of our beautiful common home so that we all may live in love, reconciled with You, with one another and with Creation.**

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The **Global Citizenship Examen Printable Cards** are available on this page:

<https://www.educatemagis.org/global-citizenship-an-ignatian-perspective/>

There is a video/audio of the Global Citizenship Examen available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqsti46hgkQ>

## Step 3: Reflection and Sharing

For this step you can use the method of Ignatian Spiritual Conversation. [Here is a short document](#) with the process of Spiritual Conversation.

After praying the Examen, which can be considered as the first step of Spiritual Conversation (if you use that method) invite students for a short imaginative reflective exercise. Saint Ignatius proposed imaginative prayer in the Spiritual Exercises. One of the meditations is on the mystery of Incarnation, that is when God decides to send Jesus into the world. In this meditation Ignatius asks us to “enter into the vision of God.” In this exercise we will do something similar,

imagining, seeing the world through Jesus Christ's eyes. We see God intervening by sending Jesus into the maelstrom of life. This type of imagining can help students see things from God's (Jesus Christ's) perspective and take on Jesus Christ's qualities of hope, love, compassion, and understanding. To read more about Ignatian imaginative prayer [see this article](#).

### *Imaginative Reflection:*

After praying the Examen, ask students to reflect on the following steps:

- Starting from where you are at in your life, in your studies, try to place yourself near Jesus, as if He were a good friend of yours...
- Imagine that Jesus joins you as a friend and start imagining the world together...
- How is Jesus seeing the world at this moment, with all that is going on, worldwide, your country, your own school...
- Remember that Jesus also looks at people and the world with his hearts' eyes...
- Now imagine how Jesus might see our world in the future...
- How does He imagine our world in the next five centuries? What do you see?
- What are some of the great opportunities and achievements in our humanity that He and you wish to see in the future?
- What are some of the challenges our world might be facing?
- What are the feelings He and you are feeling as you look towards the future? (Joy, sadness, hope, love, compassion?)

### *Peer Sharing:*

In pairs or groups of three, have students share some thoughts that occurred to them as they prayed the Examen and reflected / imagined the world Jesus Christ desires. You could use the following prompts to start the sharing.

- What came up for you in this prayer experience?
- Where does your reflection lead you? To a challenging place? To a positive and hopeful place?
- What is your biggest hope/dream for the future? For the next 500 years?

## Step 4: Creative Action

Invite students to use insights they gained from this experience and reflection and use their imagination to capture these experiences and feelings by way of a creative piece. in the form of a drawing, a painting, a photo, or a poem.

- Give students the option to use this prompt for their creative work if it is helpful: *I see the world that Christ desires as...*

## Gathering and Sharing of the creative work

Dates for the project: July 31<sup>st</sup> – Nov 5<sup>th</sup> 2021

- Launch on July 31<sup>st</sup> (St. Ignatius Day)
- Gather material during this period (Aug - Oct)
- Grand opening of the "Students Imagining the World that Christ Desires" virtual global artistic exhibition on November 5th (All Saints of the Society of Jesus)

**Schools will be invited to** share drawings, paintings, photos, art pieces and poems on Educate Magis by using this, dedicated [Photo album](#). Longer poems that would look too small on a photo can be uploaded in the Global Stories section of Educate Magis or please send them to [info@educatemagis.org](mailto:info@educatemagis.org)

This Gallery of artwork will also be shared on the Educate Magis Facebook page.

## Printable collage

The Educate Magis team will create a printable collage of the artwork at the end of this project. The idea is to create a "Students Imagining the World that Christ Desires" printable collage, similar to the Schools Printable Map that would show the result of the Jesuit schools' effort to celebrate the Ignatian Year as a global network. It will be published on Educate Magis and available to all Jesuit schools to print out in different formats.