

INTRODUCTION

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In this issue of the Review, we would like to invite the reader to celebrate the first centenary of the birth of Pedro Arrupe, S.J., (Bilbao, Basque Country, November 14th 1907) in the light of Ignatius of Loyola and, in some way, re-read Ignatius in the light of Fr. Arrupe's heritage. It will be a very fruitful spiritual exercise, giving us new insights in our apostolic commitments and our way of proceeding in the world today. Fr. Arrupe proved to be a real master of this pedagogy according to the 'signs of the times': the dual dynamism of going back to our spiritual roots and opening our minds and hearts to the Lord's working in today's new world. The result of this process of personal and community discernment is a deep religious and apostolic renewal.

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Fr. General's letter to the whole Society commemorating the fifth centenary of the birth of Jerome Nadal (Palma de Mallorca, Spain, August 11th 1507), which appears in this issue, will serve as a bridge and a catalyst in our effort to relate Ignatius and Arrupe. It challenges us, in the words of Nadal himself, to do that "*practice*" through the richness of diversity and plurality of God's gifts forming one apostolic body, one spirit in Christ. We do this as a result of "*Spiritu*", that spiritual movement, operating out of the inspiration of the Spirit and its affective integration, "*corde*", a gift of God in which we can see our life as having direction, and meaning.

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In the section “*In remembrance and in gratitude: Pedro Arrupe, S.J.*” are treated three facets of the personality and apostolic thrust of this holy, charismatic and spiritual leader of our times:

- “*Men of the Constitutions*”: *on the use made by Fr. Pedro Arrupe during his generalate*”, by Urbano Valero, S.J., helps us see, in a deeper perspective, the permanent use and reference of the spirit and internal dynamics of the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus, in the government and way of proceeding of Arrupe as Superior General. (1965- 1981). It is a timely invitation to all of us to be ‘formed as’ and also ‘be’ ‘*men of the Constitutions*’, adequate instruments in the hands of the Lord, willing and prepared to discern our apostolic mission today. It is what our next GC35 is meant to be about.

- “*A metamorphosis of a Perception: seeing P. Arrupe across 30 years*” by Gianni La Bella. Reading La Bella’s outstanding work, “Pedro Arrupe: A man for others” (Un uomo per gli altri, Società Editrice Il Mulino, 2007, pp. 1084), presents an excellent “composition of place” in this time of preparation for the next GC 35 of the Society of Jesus in January 2008. What we live and the challenges we face today are put into a historical context and perspective through this research work. The metamorphosis of Arrupe’s image experienced by Gianni La Bella during his life by being in touch with the man for more than thirty years, is very insightful. It brings us back to the core of God’s work and the intimate relationship which Pedro Arrupe had with his Lord.

“*The Jesuit/Ignatian Charism*”: *A personal synthesis and tribute to Fr Arrupe*” by Herbert Alphonso, S.J. is chiefly inspired by Ignatius’ mystical experiences at the River Cardoner and La Storta, and Fr. Arrupe’s vision as embedded in his trilogy, “Our Way of Proceeding” (1979), “The Trinitarian Inspiration of the Ignatian Charism” (1980), and “Rooted and Grounded in Love” (1981). The rediscovery and renewal of Ignatian Spirituality in all its richness and apostolic thrust lived by Fr. Arrupe is historic. It marked a new era for the Society of Jesus and all the Ignatian family.

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The first Ignatian Spirituality Conference for Asia, was held in Hong Kong from the 24th to the 27th November, 2006 inclusive, with the theme, “*Finding God in the 21st Century*”. In the second section of this issue we are

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offering to the readers three central papers presented in the Conference: “*The mysticism of Ignatius of Loyola*”, by Brian O’Leary, S.J., “*Here I am: Ignatian Ways of Serving*”, by David L. Fleming, S.J. and “*Ignatius, an ancient sage with an ancient wisdom*”, by Paul Coutinho, S.J. The three conferences complement each other and offer new visions imbued in Ignatian Spirituality.

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The new “Diccionario de Espiritualidad Igaciana” [Dictionary of Ignatian Spirituality], Ediciones Mensajero – Sal Terrae, Colección Manresa No. 37-38, 2007, Spain, is a landmark regarding a new reference material to Ignatian Spirituality. It is also a paradigm of team work from the very inception of the idea to its full realisation. Carlos Coupeau, S.J. and José Garcia de Castro, S.J. members of the GEI [Grupo de Espiritualidad Ignaciana] comment on the seven years’ ordeal of this work of love, in “The Genesis of DEI, going across together”. In a time when many of our great ‘gurus’ in Ignatian Spirituality of the last decades have died or are already advanced in years, publications like this, the fruit of team work and research are very promising.