

# St. IGNATIUS LOYOLA

# WOMB TO TOMB

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# **St. IGNATIUS LOYOLA- BIRTH**



**Ignatius Loyola** was born in 1491 in Azpeitia in the Basque province of Guipuzcoa in northern Spain. He was the 13th child to his parents, Don Beltrán and Doña Marina.

Loyola's mother died when he was seven years old





Later, Loyola was put in the care of Maria de Garín, the local blacksmith's wife.



# **St. IGNATIUS LOYOLA- EARLY LIFE**

In 1506 Ignatius became a page in the service of a relative, Juan Velázquez de Cuéllar, treasurer of the kingdom of Castile



In 1517 Ignatius became a knight in the service of another relative, Antonio Manrique de Lara, duke of Nájera and viceroy of Navarre, who employed him in military undertakings and on a diplomatic mission



# **St. IGNATIUS LOYOLA- BATTLE FIELD**



While defending the citadel of Pamplona against the French, Ignatius was hit by a cannonball on May 20, 1521, sustaining a bad fracture of his right leg and damage to his left.



This event closed the first period of his life, during which he was, on his own admission, "a man given to the vanities of the world, whose chief delight consisted in martial exercises, with a great and vain desire to win renown"



# **St. IGNATIUS LOYOLA- TREATMENT**

It is the second period of Ignatius's life, in which he turned toward a **saintly life**, that is the better known.



After treatment at Pamplona, he was transported to Loyola in June 1521. There his condition became so serious that for a time it was thought he would die. When out of danger, he chose to undergo painful surgery to correct blunders made when the bone was first set.



# St. IGNATIUS LOYOLA- TOWARDS SAINT LIFE



The result was a convalescence of many weeks, during which he read a life of Christ and a book on the lives of the saints, the only reading matter the castle afforded





The version of the lives of the saints he was reading contained prologues to the various lives by a Cistercian monk .The religious work which most particularly struck him was the De Vita Christi of Ludolph of Saxony This book would influence his whole life, inspiring him to devote himself to God and follow the example of Francis of Assisi and other great monks.

This view of life profoundly moved and attracted Ignatius. After much reflection, he resolved to imitate the holy austerities of the saints in order to do penance for his sins.





In February 1522 Ignatius bade farewell to his family and went to Montserrat, a place of pilgrimage in northeastern Spain. He spent three days in confessing the sins of his whole life, hung his sword and dagger near the statue of the Virgin Mary as symbols of his abandoned ambitions, and, clothed in sackcloth, spent the night of March 24 in prayer.





The next day he went to Manresa a town 48 km (30 miles) from Barcelona, to pass the decisive months of his career, from March 25, 1522, to mid-February 1523.



He lived as a beggar, ate and drank sparingly, scourged himself, and for a time neither combed nor trimmed his hair and did not cut his nails

Daily he attended mass and spent seven hours in prayer, often in a cave outside Manresa



He probably could have reached the priesthood in a few years. He chose to defer this goal for more than 12 years and to undergo the drudgery of the classroom at an age when most men have long since finished their training.





In 1526 he transferred to Alcalá. By this time he had acquired followers, and the little group had assumed a distinctive garb; but Ignatius soon fell under suspicion of heresy and was imprisoned and tried. Although found innocent, he left Alcalá for Salamanca.



In Paris Ignatius soon had another group of disciples whose manner of living caused such a stir that he had to explain himself to the religious authorities. This episode finally convinced him that he must abstain from public religious endeavours until he reached the priesthood.



During his long stay in the French capital, Ignatius won the coveted M.A. at the Collège de Sainte-Barbe. He also gathered the companions who were to be cofounders with him of the Society of Jesus.



# **St. IGNATIUS LOYOLA- JESUITS**





In 1539, with Peter Faber and Francis Xavier, Ignatius formed the Society of Jesus, which was approved in 1540 by Pope Paul III. He was chosen as the first Superior General of the order and invested with the title of **''Father General''** by the Jesuits.



# St. IGNATIUS LOYOLA- DEATH



Ignatius died in Rome on 31 July 1556, probably of the "Roman Fever", a severe variant of malaria which was endemic in Rome throughout medieval history.

