

VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES - REFLECTION



I ask for what I desire as we begin this topic



I pray that my entire being become open to God's grace



I imagine these texts being addressed to me, and note my response

Grace: To return to our roots and integral vision of who we are, with the knowledge that there are many others who, like us, hear the call to labor with Christ.

More to the point, he [Ignatius] early set out on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, where he in fact wanted to remain in order 'to help souls', as he recalled in his *Autobiography*. When at Paris in 1534 he and his companions vowed to head for ministry to the same city, they were 'Journeying to the infidel'. They thus took a vow to be missionaries, although the word itself was not in their vocabulary at that time. Within a few years, however, they had begun to use *missio* to describe this aspect of their lives, influenced in that regard certainly by their keen desire to be faithful disciples of Jesus as indicated in the meditations in the *Exercises on the Kingdom of Christ and the Two Standards*, but probably also by the humanistic reappropriation of the vocabulary of the New Testament.

John O'Malley SJ - *Mission and the Early Jesuits*

Whoever desires to serve as a soldier of God beneath the banner of the cross in our Society, which we desire to be designated by the name of Jesus, and to serve the Lord alone and the Church, his spouse under the Roman pontiff, the vicar of Christ on earth, should, after a solemn vow of perpetual chastity, poverty, and obedience, keep what follows in mind. "He is a member of a Society founded chiefly for this purpose: to strive especially for the defense and propagation of the faith, and for the progress of souls in Christian life and doctrine, -by public preachings, lectures and any other ministries whatsoever of the word of God, and further -by Spiritual Exercises, and -by the education of children and unlettered persons in Christianity, -and particularly by the spiritual consolation of Christ's faithful through the hearing of confessions and -by the administration of other sacraments. "Moreover, this Society should show itself no less useful -in reconciling the estranged, -in devoutly assisting and serving those who are found in prisons or hospitals, and indeed -in performing any other works of charity according to what will seem expedient for the glory of God and the common good

The "Formula of the Institute" (1550), in *Expositio debitorum*

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. I am inspired with the mission and vision of my institution?
2. How do I inspire others to follow them?