

Saint Ignatius Message 2026 :

Message for the Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola – 31 July 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Companions in the Lord and Partners in the Lord's mission,

As we celebrate the feast of our holy founder, we give thanks for the living grace God continues to pour upon our Conference. Looking back over the month of July, our hearts echo the Psalmist: *"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy"* (Ps 126:3).

Indeed, July has been a month of abundant blessings. Across Africa and Madagascar, we have witnessed the joyful ordinations of priests and the First Vows of many young companions, signs that the Lord continues to call generous laborers into His vineyard. We have also seen the promising launch of the Collaborative Theology Initiative at Hekima and the peaceful transition of leadership in the Province of Central Africa (ACE). Together, these moments remind us that the Society of Jesus is renewed not primarily through structures but through lives generously offered to God's mission. As an African proverb says, *"When the roots are well watered, the tree does not fear the dry season."*

Yet the feast of St. Ignatius invites us not only to give thanks but also to ask what his life can say to Africa today.

Ignatius first appears as **a dreamer**. His dream, born of contemplating Christ, inspires us to believe that a more just, reconciled, and hopeful Africa is possible. Every apostolic work begins with the courage to imagine God's future taking root among His people.

He also stands before us as **a seeker of God**. His lifelong question—*"Lord, what do You desire?"*—remains at the heart of discernment. Amid the many voices shaping our continent, Africa's deepest renewal will come from women and men who seek God in all things and allow Him to guide their choices.

Finally, Ignatius is **a transformed man**. His greatest victory was not military but spiritual. Grace transformed an ambitious soldier into a humble companion of Jesus. His life reminds us that lasting social transformation always begins with the conversion of the human heart.

May this be our prayer on his feast: that we may continue to dream with God, seek Him faithfully, and allow Him to transform us day by day. Then the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar will remain a living sign of hope, serving the Church and our continent, **Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam**.

May St Ignatius of Loyola intercede for us all.

Fr. José Minaku, SJ

President

Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar (JCAM)