

# Remembering Pedro Arrupe, S.J.

b. November 14, 1097 – d. February 5, 1991

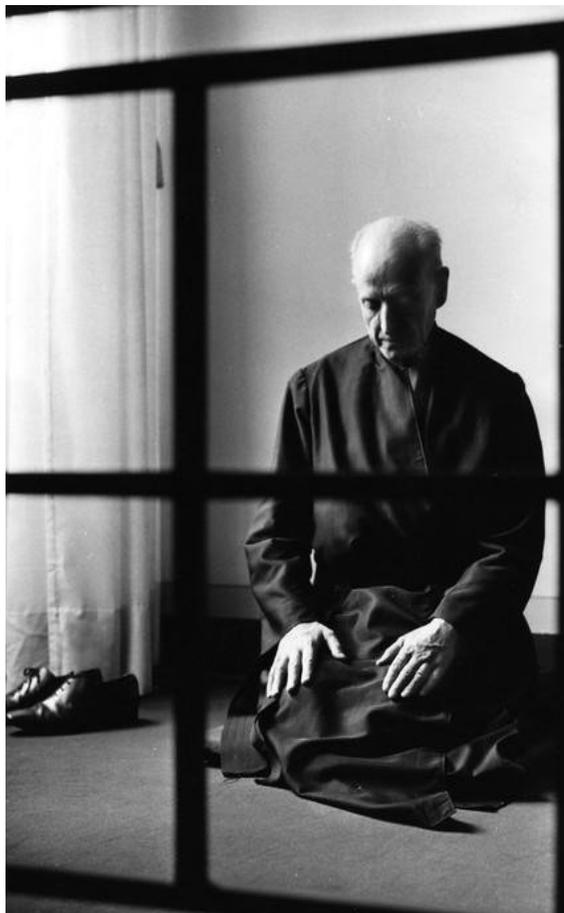
## CALL TO PRAYER

**Leader:** Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people. Enkindle in us a love that seizes our imagination and that will inspire us to work creatively to improve the world around us, beginning with ourselves, our families, neighbors, and places of employment.

**Reader:** We come together today to reflect on the life of our Jesuit brother, Pedro Arrupe, S.J.. He grew up in Bilbao near the birthplace of Ignatius of Loyola, whom he would follow as Jesuit superior general. Always stepping outside comfort zones of the mind, heart, and culture, he studied medicine and theology, experiencing Madrid, the Netherlands, Belgium, and the United States, and serving the vulnerable. Eventually, he followed in the footsteps of Francis Xavier to Japan in 1938, and immersed himself in that venerable civilization and served its people for 27 years.

**Reader 2:** Reader 2: Arrupe saw through petty allegiances to ages and cultures and the fog of disordered priorities, narrow identities, and xenophobia that blinded people to their common humanity. His brief detentions by the Japanese after Pearl Harbor and the Allies after war revealed how innocents could suffer from political, economic, and cultural conflicts and decisions of which they had no part. Later experiences in Latin America affirmed his analysis of systemic injustices and the commensurately formidable calling to choose different paths, for the service of faith and the promotion of justice.

**Reader 3:** As Arrupe and his brother Jesuits tended to Hiroshima's wounded, the nuclear devastation tested his Ignatian openness to find God in all things. The atomic detonation signaled a transformative moment for him, just as injury from a cannonball had shocked and radically redirected Ignatius's journey from self to service. In the years afterward, Arrupe's reflections on the lives of the poor helped him to see silent, slow-motion violence as well in income inequality, illiteracy, resource misallocation, corruption, and other affronts to the dignity of the human person, especially girls and women.



# PRAYER SERVICE

**Reader 4:** Just as Ignatius’s conversion from knight to humanistic preacher and artist of the heart paralleled the Renaissance, Arrupe crafted and advanced a millennium-ready voice for faith and justice amid a cacophony of ideologies. In his pastoral, thought, and executive leadership, he integrated scholarship and advocacy for positive transformations of himself, the Society of Jesus, the Church, and the world. With humility and purpose, he helped Jesuits and their friends embrace this integration and became in the words of Superior General Adolfo Nicolas, S.J., “a great missionary, a national hero, a man on fire.” How can we remain vigilant for such humble transformative opportunities amid the plot twists in our lives – and dare to take them? (Written by Lester A. Myers, President of Center of Concern, [2016 Signs of the Times Social Justice Calendar: Honoring People Who Inspire Us to Live Justly](#).)

*Pause for a moment of silence.*

**Leader:** Pedro Arrupe reminds us that “to be just, it is not enough to refrain from injustice. One must go further and refuse to play its game, substituting love for self interest as the driving force of society.” As God’s people, called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of our global community.

**All:** Jesus, may our change of hearts and actions bring relief and joy to those who suffer.

**Reader 5:** “Teach us your way of looking at people: as you glanced at Peter after his denial, as you penetrated the heart of the rich young man and the hearts of your disciples. We would like to meet you as you really are, since your image changes those with whom you come into contact.” (Pedro Arrupe, S.J.)

**All:** Jesus, may our change of hearts and actions bring relief and joy to those who suffer.

**Reader 6:** Have mercy on us when we fail to offer hospitality to those in our world who suffer injustice, oppression, and poverty.

**All:** Jesus, may our change of hearts and our actions bring relief and joy to those who suffer.

**Reader 7:** Have mercy on us when we disrespect the faith traditions of our Muslim sisters and brothers.

**All:** Jesus, may our change of hearts and our actions bring relief and joy to those who suffer.

**Reader 8:** Have mercy on us when we look down on the homeless in our neighborhoods, town, and cities, where poverty and indifference leave no room for hope in their lives.

**All:** Jesus, may our change of hearts and our actions bring relief and joy to those who suffer.



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# PRAYER SERVICE

**Reader 9:** Have mercy on us when we sit apathetically and allow world leaders to pass laws that are not in the best interest of the common good.

**All:** Jesus, may our change of hearts and our actions bring relief and joy to those who suffer.

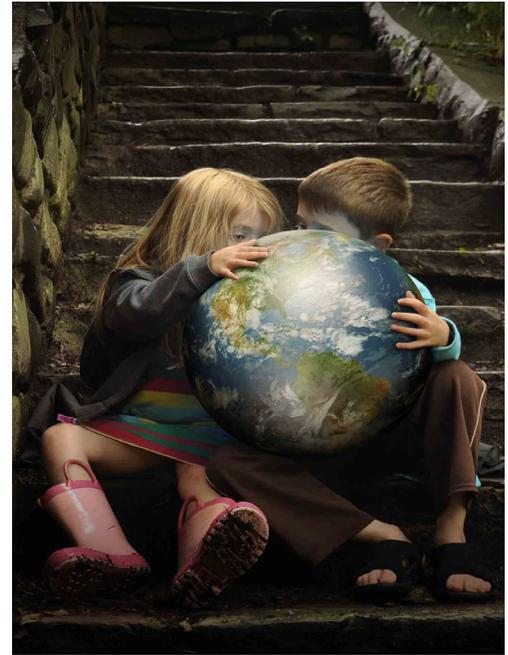
**Reader 10:** Have mercy on us when we fail to care for our common home, and which has environmental repercussions that affects billions of people in our world, especially the lives of the world's poorest.

**All:** Jesus, may our change of heart and our actions bring relief and joy to those who suffer.

**Reader 11:** Have mercy on us when we allow our fears to triumph over the call to solidarity.

**All:** Jesus, may our change of hearts and our actions bring relief and joy to those who suffer.

*Pause for a moment of silence. Leader invites participants to share their prayers.*



**Closing Prayer:** “Teach Me Your Ways” by Pedro Arrupe, S.J.

**All:** Grant me, O Lord,  
To see everything now with new eyes,  
To discern and test the spirits  
That help me read the signs of the times,  
To relish the things that are yours,  
And to communicate them to others.  
Give me the clarity of understanding that you gave Ignatius.  
— Pedro Arrupe, S.J.