

NEVER THE SAME AGAIN
DAY 4
COMPANION SHEET

The grace to ask for today is:

*A deeply felt knowledge of God's dream
for the world; awe and wonder
at the mystery of the Incarnation.*

Scripture Passage: John 1.14

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us. And we have seen His glory. The glory as of a Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.”

During the day if you wish (but only if you find it helpful) you can do the following:

**Invite St. René Goupil (1607-1642)
to spend the day with you.**

As a young man, René had a strong desire to become a Jesuit. He entered the novitiate but after a few months was asked to leave because of poor health and deafness. However, he still wanted to consecrate himself in service to God, so, after recuperating he asked to come to New France as a lay volunteer or *donné*. He arrived in Québec in 1640. There he cared for the sick, because he had some medical training. He saw the Lord in the persons of his patients. Isaac Jogues asked that he be sent to Huronia, because the Hurons badly needed a surgeon. René and Isaac were ambushed on the way to Huronia and taken prisoner by the Iroquois. When they seized him, René said to Isaac, “Father, may God be praised; He has allowed this, He has wished it. May His holy will be done: I love it, I will it, I cherish and embrace it with all my heart.” He asked Isaac if he could become a Jesuit, and pronounced the 3 vows of poverty, chastity and

obedience before him. While being severely tortured by his captors, he kept murmuring: “Jesus, Mary and Joseph.” One day he made the sign of the cross on the head of a child. For this, they killed him with a blow to the head on Sept. 29, 1642.

Read and reflect on what Pope Francis says:

“If I encounter a person sleeping outdoors on a cold night, I can view him or her as an annoyance, an idler, an obstacle in my path, a troubling sight, a problem for politicians to sort out, or even a piece of refuse cluttering a public space. Or I can respond with faith and charity, and see in this person a human being with a dignity identical to my own, a creature infinitely loved by the Father, an image of God, a brother or sister redeemed by Jesus Christ. That is what it is to be a Christian! Can holiness somehow be understood apart from this lively recognition of the dignity of each human being?”
#98, *Gaudete et Exsultate* (2018).

Sing to yourself or recite:

Google “*Twas in the moon of Wintertime – Michael John Trotta (You-Tube)*”
“*Twas in the moon of Wintertime*” (1926) by J.E. Middleton. The original Huron carol “*Jesous Ahatonhia – Jesus, he is born*” was composed by Jean de Brébeuf and maybe also by Antoine Daniel. The song's melody is based on a traditional French folk song, *Une Jeune Pucelle (A young maid)*”

T'was in the moon of wintertime,
when all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi-Manitou,

sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wond'ring hunters heard the hymn,
Jesus, your King is born....
Jesus is born.... In excelsis Gloria!

Within a lodge of broken bark,
the tender babe was found.
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round.
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angels' song rang loud and high.
Jesus, your King is born....
Jesus is born.... In excelsis Gloria!

O children of the forest free,
O Sons of Manitou,
the Holy Child of earth and heaven,
is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace and joy.
Jesus, your King is born....
Jesus is born.... In excelsis Gloria!

To Jesus from the ends of earth
three wise men came this day.
To him they brought their precious gifts.
Before Him they did pray.
Like them we come to thee, O Son.
Like them with joy we kneel before
Thee.
Jesus, your King is born...
Jesus is born... In excelsis Gloria!

Additional Scripture Passages:

Jn 1.1-5, 14-18; Lk 1.26-28;
Mt.1-18-25; Lk 2.8-20