

HEY, CHURCH – DEAL ME IN

DAY 3 COMPANION SHEET

OVERCOMING PERSONAL DIFFICULTIES

The grace to ask for today is:

To overcome my personal difficulties with the Church

Scripture Passage: (Revelations 3.14-17, 20)

I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot.

I wish that you were either cold or hot.

So, because you are lukewarm,

and neither cold nor hot,

I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

For you say, 'I am rich, I have prospered,

and I need nothing.'

You do not realize that you are wretched,

pitiable, poor, blind, and naked...

Listen! I am standing at the door knocking.

If you hear my voice and open the door,

I will come to you and eat with you,

and you with me.

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

Invite Saint Isaac Jogues, S.J. (1607-1646)

to spend the day with you:

On hearing about Jean de Brébeuf's zealous missionary efforts in New France, Isaac Jogues had yearned ever since he joined the Jesuits at the age of 17 to be a missionary. He finally arrived in Québec on July 2, 1636. After a deathly illness that nearly killed him shortly after he arrived in Huronia, Jogues devoted himself to learning the Huron language and culture. In 1642, he and René Goupil and their Huron companions were captured by the Iroquois. He was tortured and had his left thumb chopped off. His response was gratitude that his torturers left his right thumb, allowing him to still write letters. Like the other martyrs, he chose to make his suffering redemptive for others and believed it would be generative – "the blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians." After much discernment, because he did

not want to abandon the Hurons who had been captured with him, he escaped back to France. The Jesuits there regarded him as Lazarus risen from the dead. But Jogues could not wait to return to the Hurons. In 1644 he got the chance, and when he arrived back, Marie de l'Incarnation exclaimed, "God has restored to us a true living martyr."

In 1646 he was sent back to the Iroquois as an ambassador of peace. Sensing this would end in his death, he wrote to a fellow Jesuit, "My heart tells me that if I am the one chosen for this mission, I shall go but I shall not return." In June of 1647, he died under the blow of a tomahawk after having endured two martyrdoms.

Read and reflect on what Pope Francis says:

"The path to social unity always entails acknowledging the possibility that others have, at least in part, a legitimate point of view, something worthwhile to contribute, even if they were in error or acted badly. We should never confine others to what they may have said or done, but value them for the promise that they embody, a promise that always brings with it a spark of new hope."

(Fratelli Tutti, #228)

"Authentic social dialogue involves the ability to respect the other's point of view and to admit that it may include legitimate convictions and concerns...Let's not forget that differences are creative; they create tension and in the resolution of tension lies humanity's progress."

(Fratelli Tutti, #203)

"The image of a polyhedron can represent a society where differences coexist, complementing, enriching and reciprocally illuminating one another, even amid disagreements and reservations. Each of us can learn something from others. No one is useless and no one is expendable. This also means finding ways to include those on the peripheries of life. For they have another way of looking at things; they see aspects of

reality that are invisible to the centres of power where weighty decisions are made." *(Fratelli Tutti, #215)*

Sing to yourself or recite: *Bridge Over Troubled Water*. Google: *Bridge Over Troubled Water (Live at Carnegie Hall) NYC 1969*.

Simon & Garfunkel

When you're weary

Feeling small

When tears are in your eyes

I'll dry them all

I'm on your side

Oh, when times get rough

And friends just can't be found

®Like a bridge over troubled water

I will lay me down

Like a bridge over troubled water

I will lay me down

When you're down and out

When you're on the street

When evening falls so hard

I will comfort you

I'll take your part

Oh, when darkness comes

And pain is all around ®

Sail on silver girl

Sail on by

Your time has come to shine

All your dreams are on their way

See how they shine

Oh, if you need a friend

I'm sailing right behind

Like a bridge over troubled water

I will ease your mind

Like a bridge over troubled water

I will ease your mind

Additional Scripture Passages:

John 3.1-21; Luke 24.13-35;

Acts 8.26-40; Acts 15.22-35.