

**Proclamation of the status of Periodic Jubilee Year for the
pilgrimage of the Ignatian Way
(December 31, 2022)**

Dear Superior and Jesuit companions, friends of the Society of Jesus, and friends
of the Society of Jesus

Jesus:

For many of you, it has not gone unnoticed the birth of a new pilgrimage in Spain, by the hand of the Autobiography of St. Ignatius and his experience of the Spiritual Exercises and you have joyfully celebrated the same experience of St. Ignatius this 2022, five hundred years after him.

As you probably already know, the work of building this new route, begun at the end of 2010 and entrusted to a small group of Jesuits and friends of Ignatian spirituality, bore mature fruit in the creation of the Apostolic Work of the Ignatian Way (OACI), which we officially constituted on July 31, 2014, dependent on the Provincial of Spain.

Its mission, both yesterday, today and in the future, is to keep the Ignatian spirit alive in the 700 km of pilgrimage that separate the sanctuary of Loyola from the sanctuary of La Cova, and reaching Barcelona, a city of pleasant memory for the Pilgrim. It will also be the meeting point with the civil society of the five autonomous regions that offer their paths to men and women of all peoples and nations, to walk with St. Ignatius. Today, more than 3000 pilgrims have already lived this experience and half of them are foreigners, from places as far away as Australia or Singapore. We hope that the number will continue to grow, with the help of ICAO and St. Ignatius.

The birth of the Ignatian Way as an instrument at the service of this Ignatian story is something we should celebrate regularly. No one is unaware of the great value that pilgrimages have within our practice of faith, as an instrument of personal growth and encounter with God, outside the normal environment where our lives take place. To go out, to set out on the road, to move out of our comfort zone is one of the elements that act radically in the interior of the pilgrim.

How many conversions do pilgrimages fail to produce? How many reformulations of the past to better orient the future? How many encounters with the Sacred One that unexpectedly enlighten a mediocre life? Those of you who have experience of accompaniment on pilgrimage, or those of you who have had this personal experience, know well what I am talking about. Certainly, the Ignatian Way is an instrument at the service of the Greater Glory of God.

