

## CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

## Searching for greatness

By Janaan Manternach  
NC News Service

Ignatius was born in a castle in 1491. His parents were rich and powerful people in Loyola, Spain.

Ignatius wanted to be great and famous. When he was young, he loved to read stories of great generals and kings. He enjoyed love stories in which a beautiful princess falls in love with a handsome knight.

As a young man, he seemed to live up to his dreams. He became a brave soldier and went to war to defend his country. He fell in love.

Ignatius wanted fame and power and money. For him that is what made a person great.

All was going well for him, until one terrible day. He was leading a group of soldiers during a battle. A cannonball hit him in the leg. He was seriously hurt.

His friends carried him to a nearby castle. They laid him in bed. A doctor put his leg in a cast but did a bad job. There were complications. The leg took a long

time to heal. Ignatius had to spend painful months in bed.

To take his mind off his pain and to fill the empty days, Ignatius asked his friends for books about his favorite kinds of stories about wars and beautiful women. But they did not have any books like that in the castle.

They had only two books. One was a life of Jesus. The other told stories of saints. Ignatius began reading these books because there was nothing else to read.

Soon he began to feel a big change taking place inside himself. Reading about great men and women saints made him change his ideas about greatness. He now wanted to be great like St. Francis or St. Dominic.

Ignatius read how Jesus and the saints became great by doing whatever God wanted them to do. They prayed. They reached out to help other people, especially people who were suffering. They were more concerned with helping the little people of the world than with becoming great and

famous.

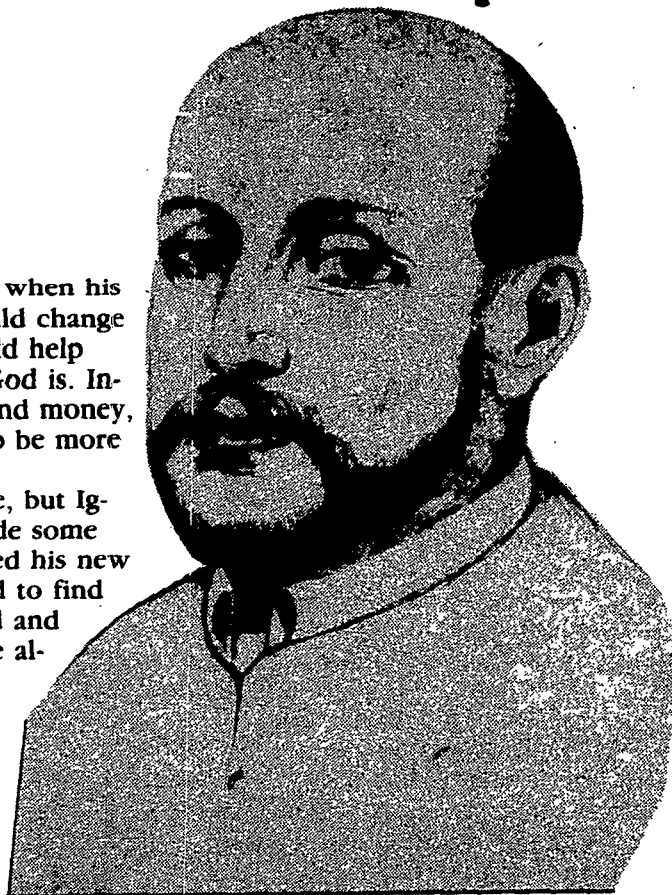
Ignatius decided that when his leg was healed, he would change his whole life. He would help people see how great God is. Instead of fame, power and money, Ignatius now wanted to be more like Jesus.

It was a hard struggle, but Ignatius changed. He made some good friends who shared his new ideal. They also wanted to find greatness in loving God and other people. The pope allowed Ignatius and his friends to become a community called the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits.

The Jesuits took as a motto: "All for the greater glory of God."

Ignatius became a great Christian, a saint. We celebrate his feast day in the church each July 31.

(Ms. Manternach is the author of catechetical works, scripture stories and original stories for children.)



a game

### Missing Vowels

Fill in the vowels in the phrases below. All of the phrases are contained in this week's children's story.

1. st\_r\_s f gr\_t gn\_r\_ls
2. t\_\_ n\_\_rby c\_\_stl\_\_
3. p\_\_nf\_l m\_nths \_\_n b\_d
4. st\_r\_s f s\_\_nts
5. ch\_ng\_\_ h\_s wh\_l\_l\_f

Answers: 1. stories of great generals, 2. to a nearby castle, 3. painful months in bed, 4. stories of saints, 5. change his whole life

a game



## It's your move.

Maria was born into a community without options. Or resources. It couldn't even afford the services of a mission priest.

Today things are better. The parish has a priest who can stay and serve because his expenses are paid by the Catholic Church Extension Society. And that's what Extension does—it brings the Church to Americans who would otherwise be without it.

The priest who serves Maria's community is able to stay because he receives an expense subsidy made possible by the Catholic Church Extension Society.

Your parish has more options than Maria's did. It can choose to distribute Extension Calendars. By exercising that option your parish will have a direct hand in bringing the Church to poor and remote communities here in the United States.

It's your move. Check your parish calendar. If it's an Extension calendar, why not thank the sponsor or your pastor for helping us continue our work. If it's not, write us at: Extension Calendars, Room 400 F, 35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601. And we will be happy to send you one.

## HOW ABOUT YOU?

□ St. Ignatius of Loyola is a man who changed greatly in the course of his life. What causes people to change? Have you ever changed in some big way — developing a new interest or changing the way you spend your time? What caused you to change?

### Children's Reading Corner

"Last Was Lloyd" by Doris Buchanan Smith is a story for adults and children to read together. Then you might talk about things that helped you in difficult and frightening situations. You might talk as well about times when growth occurred in your lives. The story tells how Lloyd is always chosen last for ball games. He hides the fact that he's a superb hitter. Gradually it begins to leak out how well he can hit. A classmate becomes his friend and Lloyd begins to move out of his shell. (The Viking Press, 625 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. 1981. Hardback. \$8.95.)


**The Catholic Church**  
**EXTENSION** Society  
 35 East Wacker Drive, Room 400F • Chicago, Illinois 60601