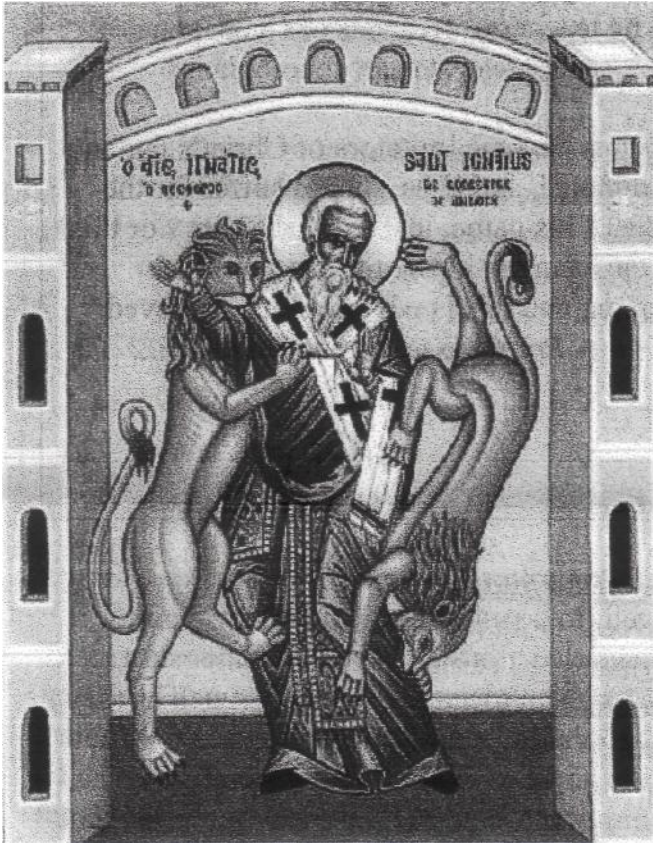


The Cloud of Witnesses

Luke 9:23-24: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

Ignatius of Antioch (late 1st century - early 2nd century AD)



- Bishop of the city of Antioch; martyred in Rome
- Possibly the child mentioned in Matthew 18:1-4

"Grant me nothing more than to be poured out as an offering to God....It is good to be setting from the world to God in order that I may rise to Him."

- *Ignatius to the Romans 2:1-2*

"Now at last I am beginning to be a disciple! Fire and cross and battles with wild beasts, mutilation, mangling, wrenching of bones, the hacking of limbs, the crushing of my body, cruel tortures of the devil—let these come upon me, only let me reach Jesus Christ!....Him I seek, who died on our behalf; Him I long for, who rose for our sake."

- *Ignatius to the Romans 5:3-6:1*

How should we respond to persecution?

"Pray continually for the rest of mankind as well, that they may find God....Allow them to be instructed by you, at least by your deeds. In response to their anger, be gentle; in response to their boasts, be humble; in response to their slander, offer prayers; in response to their errors, be steadfast in the faith; in response to their cruelty, be civilized; do not be eager to imitate them. Let us show by our forbearance that we are their brothers and sisters, and let us be eager imitators of the Lord."

- *Ignatius to the Ephesians 10*