

# The Jesuits

On August the 15th 1534, Ignatius Loyola and six other students at the Univeristy of Paris (Francisco Xavier, Alfonso Salmerón, Diego Laínex, Nicolás Bobadilla, Peter Faber and Simon Rodrigues) ment in Montmarte outside paris, the exact location unknown (probably the local abbey or the Chapel of St Denys). The group of friends created vows of poverty and chastity which they bound them selves by to "enter upon hospital and missionary work in Jerusalem, or to go without questioning wherever the pope might direct".



They named there group the "Company of Jesus", a name that echoed the military as well as discipleship. These were the initial steps of what would become the Society of Jesus in 1540.

The Company of Jesus traveled to Italy to seek the papal approval for their order. Pope Paul III gave theme a commendation and permitted them to be ordained priests. In Venice on June 24th the Bishop of Arbe ordained them. The devoted themselves to preach and do charitable work in Italy as conflicts made journeys to Jerusalem inadvisable.

Faber, Lainez, Adam, Richard and Ignatius made there way to Rome in October of 1538, to have approval of the constitution of the new order. A number of Cardinals reported favorably upon the new constitution presented. Pope Paul III confirmed the order on September 27, 1540 but limited the number of its members to sixty. The limitation was removed on March 14, 1543. Ignatius was the first superior-general chosen. He sent his colleagues as missionaries allover Europe to create schools, colleges and seminaries.

Once developed the Jesuits concentrated on three missons. They

started by forming schools all through out Europe. All Jesuit teachers were rigorously trained in both classical and theological studies. Their second mission was to convert non-Christians to Catholicism, they developed and set out missionaries. Their third goal was to stop Protestantism from spreading, they prevented it from spreading to Poland, Lithuania and Southern Germany.

The term "Jesuit" (meaning one who used too frequently or appropriated the name of Jesus), was first used in the society in reproach (1544-52) and was never employed by its founder.