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Let us pray:

Lord God, our loving Father, we thank you for calling us, sinful men that we are, to be companions and followers of your Son as Ignatius was. With him we beg you to place us with your Son especially as we prepare for GC 36. Bless the Society of Jesus with your Holy Spirit, so that with renewed faith, hope and love we may seek your will in our service of your people. We present you these petitions in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God, St Ignatius and all the Saints and Blessed of the Society of Jesus,
Amen.

On 8 December 2014, our Superior General Fr Adolfo Nicolás convoked the 36th General Congregation (GC). The GC is being convoked for two reasons: Fr. Nicolás' resignation, which consequently requires the election of a new Superior General, and the regular need to consider contemporary developments of major importance and long lasting impact on the Society of Jesus and its service of the Church and of the world.

GC 36 will begin with the celebration of the Eucharist on 2 October 2016 at the General Curia in Rome. In the meantime, Fr. Nicolás invites us to prepare for GC 36 through a process of deep and genuine spiritual discernment about our life and mission, particularly now as the universal Church celebrates the Year of Consecrated Life.

In his "Apostolic Letter to All Consecrated People", Pope Francis expresses his hopes that religious might rediscover the joy of consecrated life, recover our prophetic witness that 'wakes up the world,' truly become 'experts in communion,' and go 'out of ourselves to the existential peripheries.' Fr. Nicolás reminds us that "this is the kind of deep discernment we as a Society are called to make."

The Constitutions of the Society [693] emphasize the importance of daily prayers offered for those going to the Congregation and for the matters that it will deal with “so that everything may turn out as may be for God’s greater service, praise, and glory.”

Thus, we pray:



That the General Congregation may be a time of listening to your Spirit, we pray: **Lord, hear us.**

Lord, graciously hear us.



That those attending the General Congregation may receive the gift of discernment and make the right choices to serve the good of the whole Society of Jesus, we pray:

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.



That we may grow in our desire to serve the needs of the Church, giving of ourselves more and more fully, we pray:

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.



That our fidelity to the Holy Father, your Vicar on earth may be renewed, we pray: **Lord, hear us.**

Lord, graciously hear us.



That you renew in us the courage to make you known among all who have not heard of you, we pray:

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

That we may radiate the joy of the Gospel in loving the poor and marginalized, and in working for justice and peace in the world, we pray: **Lord, hear us.**

Lord, graciously hear us.



That we might have the heart of the good Shepherd who seeks and finds those who are lost, we pray: **Lord, hear us.**

Lord, graciously hear us.



That your wisdom may help us to promote an authentic dialogue between our faith and the cultures of our time and between people of different religions, we pray: **Lord, hear us.**

Lord, graciously hear us.



That you may grant vocations to the Church and to the Society of Jesus, we pray: **Lord, hear us.**

Lord, graciously hear us.



That you may graciously bless all our families, friends, and benefactors, we pray: **Lord, hear us.**

Lord, graciously hear us.

