

ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE - REFLECTION



I ask for what I desire as we begin this topic



I pray that my entire being become open to God's grace



I imagine these texts being addressed to me, and note my response

Grace: That I acknowledge the value in the culture of my organisation and to inspire other individuals with it

The expansion [of the Society of Jesus] is truly amazing; from a modest association of students to a world-wide power which ended by becoming as universal as the Church for which it fought; but superior to it in cohesion and rapidity of action - a world power whose influence made itself felt not only throughout Europe, but in the New World, in India, China, Japan; a world power on whose service one sees at work, actuated by the same spirit, representatives of all races and all nations: Italians, Spaniards, Portuguese, French, Germans, English, Poles and Greeks, Arabians, Chinamen and Japanese and even red indians; a world power which is something such as the world has never seen."

Thomas J. Campbell, S.J. - [The Jesuits 1534-1921 \(p. 348\)](#)

We omit the countless thousands of Jesuits who ever since the Society was established have striven in every possible way to realize its ideals; the heroes who have hurried with delight to the most disgusting and dangerous missions they could find in the furthest parts of the world; who have died by thousands of disease and exhaustion in the pest-laden ships that carried them to their destination or flung them dead on some desolate coast; or those who have been slain by savages or devoured by wild beasts; or who died of starvation in the forests and deserts where they were hunting for souls; or have given their lives with joy for the privilege of ministering to the plague-stricken. Nor do we mention here the great phalanxes of the unknown who, without a single regret for what they might have been in the world, have endeavored to obey, to some extent, at least, that startling admonition that they hear so often: *Ama nesciri et pro nihilo reputari*: "Love to be unknown and to be reputed as nothing," - the men who have truly lived up to that ideal in the repulsiveness of hospitals and jails and asylums, or in the ceaseless drudgery and obscurity of the class-room and the unchanging routing of household occupations.

Thomas J. Campbell, S.J. - [The Jesuits 1534-1921 \(p. 385-386\)](#)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What elements of your organisation unite the individuals that form it? Is it the spirit, the beliefs, the money, the perks?
2. Reflect on the tradition of your organisation, what moments have been relevant for what is it now?