

## Gifts of Our IJ Heritage



Loving God,  
We come to you filled with gratitude for  
making us partners in your ongoing work of  
creation.  
You call us to be part of this community  
and bless us with a unique legacy  
That began with Nicolas Barre and has been  
passed  
From generation to generation.

The gift of our spirituality, founded on  
God's love for us in the Incarnation and in  
God's Providence enables us to trust in  
God's Providence in whatever situation we  
are in.

The gift of our mission, founded on the  
practice of reflection and discernment,  
Enables us to make decisions which call us  
to stand in solidarity and kinship  
With all those who share our earthly  
journey  
And moves us to perform active service  
rooted in truth, justice, freedom and love.

These gifts of our IJ heritage invite us to be  
part of a tradition  
That builds on the wisdom of the past  
With a vision open to the opportunities of  
the future.

These gifts also challenge us to move  
beyond our norm,  
To broaden our imagination,  
To deepen our trust,  
To move beyond self  
and beyond now, always choosing life.

Fill us with enthusiasm and wonder as we  
receive these gifts  
With open minds, generous hearts, and a  
willing spirit.

Following the example of Nicolas Barre,  
may we, too,  
"labour and ask for no reward except that  
of knowing we are doing your will."  
May we take full possession of this heritage  
and joyfully pass it on  
To those generous men and women  
Who walk behind us into the future.

Help us open our hearts and minds  
to our own largesse  
that we might become the people  
You love to call Your own

We ask on this day that you lead us to value  
and to celebrate our diversity,  
And to recognize and to offer up on the  
altar of our common purpose  
the distinctive gifts by which we enrich each  
other and our mission.  
Help us to cherish both our talents and our  
interdependence as we make  
common cause in the service of you and all  
your people.  
Amen.

