

San Ignacio de Loyola

1491-1556

A Poem by Fr James Janda (1936 – 2010)

Priest of the Archdiocese of Salt Lake City

He gave up
thoughts
of suicide

to be of
help
to souls

after a
cannonball
shattering
his knee
taught him
something
of the world

and legends
read
during recovery
pierced
those places
where
sinew
joins bone

finding
God
in agony

first
but then
in
stars by night
and
later at day
in
a blade of grass

an orange leaf

he began his
mornings with
"What shall we
do
for God today?"

letting the
Spirit
blow
through his soul
as
wind through
a
field of poppies.