

February Newsletter

Friends,

I write from the polar vortex in Chicago a day after MLK Day, the inauguration, and a Notre Dame loss. So, my choice for our *Topics* is an historical look at climate change.

This article should provoke some good discussion. It evoked my memory of a great Sunday dinner debate with my father in the early 1970s. Earth Day was being inaugurated, and my father had a firm belief in American ingenuity to tackle any issue. I would sometimes tease him about his “magic-pill theory” of fixing climate change. But fast forward 50 years, and the debate continues. Where do we place hope? I also just received in today’s mail my Kellogg School of Management quarterly and, lo and behold, there is an article, “What Every MBA Should Know About Climate, Lesson one? Don’t lose hope.”

Our scripture reading is also a little provocative. So, I hope you catch the spirit of Galatians and remember it was written about the Jewish/gentile debate.

Sticking with climate change and the future issue, my reading recommendation for this month is *Beyond Shareholder Primacy: Remaking Capitalism for a Sustainable Future* by Stuart L. Hart. The prologue title captures it all: “*Better Angels Versus Animal Spirits.*” This is a thoughtful book positing the development of “sustainable capitalism.” My father might have liked it.

Have a Happy Valentine’s Day. Stay warm, and healthy!

John Fontana



MISSION

The Mission of the Ignatian Business Chapters is to establish and lead a national and international network of business executives to explore their respective religious traditions in order to help the individual executives

- integrate faith, family, and professional life,
- develop a corporate culture that is reflective of their religious faith and values, and
- exercise a beneficial influence upon society at large.

The chapters, grounded in the Roman Catholic tradition, welcome believers who are open to and respectful of one another's religious traditions. They are committed to the conviction that ethics and values grow out of one's religious heritage.

SCRIPTURE READING:

Galatians 3:1-9. Christian Faith and Liberty

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified! The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? Did you experience so much for nothing?—if it really was for nothing. Well then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you.” For this reason, those who believe are blessed with Abraham who believed.

ARTICLE

[“A tale of two ways to think about climate change”](#)

by Mike Jakeman, strategy+business, August 28, 2023.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Be attentive: In this clarifying yet provocative article did you identify with the “cornucopians” or the “finitarians”? Why?

Be intelligent: How has this choice or belief impacted your leadership at work and at home?

Be reasonable: Where are your sympathies on the UN Climate Accords and do you see generational differences?

Be responsible: What were key insights that surfaced in today’s discussion? Any food for further contemplation? Any action steps? What are the implications for you at work, in your community and at home? Leverage the conversation for good!



CLOSING PRAYER

Personal Prayer of Pedro Arrupe, S.J.

Grant me, O Lord, to see everything now with new eyes;
to discern and test the spirits that help me read the signs of the times;
to relish the things that are yours, and to communicate them to others.
Give me the clarity of understanding that you gave Ignatius.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen!

The scripture passage is taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Catholic Edition, copyright © 1989, 1993 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

