

April Newsletter

Friends,

Today is St. Joseph's Day and a blustery 56 degrees in my corner of Northern Illinois. It was 71 degrees last week, and we are expecting snow on Friday---March Madness---and the tournaments begin this week! The Holy Cross women's team (16 seed) heads to Iowa---lambs to slaughter --- but hope for a first-game victory against UT Martin. This is a case of divided loyalty as my son-in-law has tickets for my wife and me and the granddaughters for the Albany regional, and everyone wants to see Caitlin Clark.

A number of Jesuit and Catholic schools in the tournaments; be kind as you fill out your brackets. There is nothing like a good sports article (St. Joe's 1961 basketball scandal) to combine with a business article to explore decision-making and courage of conviction with a scriptural backdrop of St. Peter.

A quick report on the RENEW International and Seton Hall faith-and-work conference. Chris Lowney gave a great talk on leadership, and Carolyn Woo, Ph.D. spoke on grace in a competitive world. Our IBC members Tom Danks, Wally Kennedy, and Patrick McMahon spoke eloquently about the IBC experience, and I am told the first IBC women's group was forming at the meeting.

Just a fast report from my visit to the Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Mexico. First, Fr. Eusebio Francisco Kino, S.J. was known in the 1600's as The Padre on Horseback (book by Herbert Eugene Bolton, Loyola University Press). This is a great missionary story of engagement and accompaniment with the indigenous people of the Southwest. Second, Sean Carroll, S.J. founded the Kino Border Initiative right on the border to meet the needs of migrants seeking asylum. What we experienced was the human face of the "migrant crisis," Catholic Social Teaching in action, and Matthew 25 lived. We met the newly arrived migrant individuals and families. With staff and volunteers (migrants in waiting), we fed and played with the children, celebrated Ash Wednesday liturgy, and led a prayer service. If after April 15 you are looking for a corporal work of mercy, here is a contact email: Sister Terry Horan, thoran@kinoborderinitiative.org. There is also an Amazon link that allows one to target the needs. Check with Sr. Terry.

Finally, my book recommendation for the month is Ethics for Beginners: Big Ideas from 32 Great Minds by Peter Kreeft (184 pages). This is a neat little reference and commentary on philosophers and religious thinkers from the ancient world to the present.

In closing, let the contemplation we encourage at IBC inspire you to walk in the hope of Easter! And pray for peace in our world and the eradication of evil.

Easter Blessings!

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:

John 13:36-38

Peter's Denial Predicted

Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow afterward." Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times."

ARTICLES

[Do you have the courage of your convictions?](#)

[A Forgotten Classic and the Complicated Legacy of the 1961 St. Joe's Hawks](#)



REFLECTION

Reflection Questions

Be attentive: Two articles juxtaposed state an ideal and then examine the motivations and decisions at St. Joe's in 1961. What are your stories of exercising courage in your work life?

Be intelligent: Reflect on the significant decisions made by the three basketball players and their coach, Jack Ramsey.

Be reasonable: Whom do you see exhibiting courage in your work or family? How do you encourage or mentor the young to be courageous?

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!

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