

# October Newsletter

Friends,

It is late September; the school year has started. The fall equinox marked the changing of seasons and a start to the time of harvest. Our non-stop political climate is heating up as the temperature in Chicago is finally cooling down from 80 and 90 degrees to a comfortable 65 as I write. The baseball season is winding down in anticipation of the World Series, and there is a football competition almost every day. It seems the football sabbath is now Tuesday. And I am writing on Tuesday!

The readings in our Topics this month start with the Letter of James and a short discourse on true wisdom. The Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University published a timely and thoughtful piece by Ann Sweet and John Pelissero: "The Ethics of Citizenship: Why it's the duty of citizens to care about our democracy, its purpose, and potential, even in a divided culture."

The second article springs from the motto of Dartmouth College, "Vox clamantis in deserto"—"A voice crying in the wilderness." Our other article is the voice of our Pope giving a passionate talk on social justice the morning of September 20. Food for thought, conversation, and discernment as we encourage all to vote!

In light of the heaviness of this political season, I offer as my book of the month, *My Life with the Jedi: The Spirituality of Star Wars* by the America magazine commentator Eric Clayton. If you were ever enamored with the Star Wars phenomenon, this is a playful way into Ignatian spirituality. I believe it is a great intergenerational tool for families that springs from our culture (movies) and connects with that mystic Ignatius and mines the way of the pilgrim. The jacket back cover has this quote: "Dive into the interior galaxy where the mysteries of the Force meet the depths of Ignatian spirituality and hope—that ever-present virtue of Jedi and Rebels alike—leads to profound decision-making, renewed relationships, and a purpose-driven life." As an old high school theology teacher, I wonder if this book is being used in religion/theology classes. I would have jumped on the opportunity!

May the Force be with you! Get out the vote! And do not miss the beauty of this season of color and God's grandeur!

AMDG,  
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:

### James 3: 13-18. True Wisdom

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

## ARTICLES

### [Pope Francis says tax billionaires, stop sports betting in fiery economics speech](#)

by Gerard O'Connell, America: The Jesuit Review, September 20, 2024.

### ["The Ethics of Citizenship"](#)

by Ann G. Skeet and John P. Pelissero, Santa Clara Magazine, September 20, 2024.



## REFLECTION

### Reflection Questions

**Be attentive:** How are you reading “the signs of the times,” and what of the relevance of both articles to you as November 5 approaches?

**Be intelligent:** How do you manage the tension between “voting our pocketbook” (self interest) and social justice (common good)? Do Pope Francis’ insights have any influence, and what about today’s scripture reading from the Letter of James?

**Be reasonable:** As leaders, we are “signal senders” at work, at home, and in our communities. What responsibility do we have in this election season?

**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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