

March Newsletter

Friends,

I am writing early this month - on February 8, before Valentine's Day, Ash Wednesday, and the Super Bowl. On Saturday, I head for Tucson with the Ignatian Wisdom Fellows Cohort 1 for volunteer work with the Kino Initiative at the border and some retreat time with the group. So enjoy February this leap year and prepare yourself for the winds of March and Holy Week and the great movement through death to life and the celebration of Easter.

My hope is that you will consider joining us at the *Seton Values Summit: Faith & Work* on March 9 at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey. The conference is co-sponsored by RENEW International. Besides the headliners, Chris Lowney and Carolyn Woo, Ignatian Business Chapters will do two presentations about our process. I invite all of you to come and, if you are able, to give short witness statements of the value of IBC in your life. In fact, I might suggest you start your March meeting, after the Scripture reading, by answering why you participate in IBC meetings and what value our meetings provide. If you cannot attend the summit but have a passion or insight to communicate, drop me a few lines I could use. (Your meeting may be after the event but pass your insight along anyway through your coordinator or by email to jjfontana3@aol.com—it will be “good for the record.”)

Finally, for my usual reading add-on, my wife and I had the pleasure of hearing this past Sunday a terrific talk by Neil King Jr., the author of *American Rabble: A Walk of Memory and Renewal*. It is an American pilgrimage, walking from Washington D.C. to Central Park in New York City. It is a beautifully written walk through personal history and the history of our country. It is a secular story infused with religious language and meaning written by a globe-trotting Wall Street Journal writer.

Let the contemplation we encourage at IBC encourage you to walk the Lenten Journey to the Hope of Easter! And pray for peace in our world and the eradication of evil.

Happy Easter!

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:

Luke 2:25-35

Presentation in the Temple

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

ARTICLE

["Taming the Demon," *Commonweal*,
February 2, 2019](#)



REFLECTION

Reflection Questions

Be attentive: In switching from the Ignatian tradition to the Benedictine tradition of “Ora et Labora” (prayer and work), how did you see values operative in the author and the abbott?

Be intelligent: Reflect on the significant decisions made by the abbott and the monks involved in the various works.

Be reasonable: How does the Benedictine spirit of work encounter your engagement with work? Any changes now? What about as you retire?

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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