

IBC Newsletter

Friends,

I hope February was as mild where you are as it was in Chicagoland and that Lent is proceeding with the usual mortifications!

I spent the weekend indulging in March Madness and watching my picks collapse or die. But the Cubs opened in Japan in their losing ways. March for me is usually a melancholy month. All the more reason to get out and meet in April to celebrate the coming of Spring and the Resurrection! But first, we need to do the walk through the "valley of death," the way to Jerusalem and the path through death on the Cross.

My two readings this month come from Gary Burnison's Korn Ferry reflections. One speaks to the last conversation with a dying colleague, an encounter with death in the workplace. The other deals with "Reflecting, Resetting, and Renewing." These readings come after the scripture readings on the death of Lazarus. When the seasons change, our linear goal-orientated selves encounter the cyclical nature of life. Life seems to tell us change is happening. Pay attention!

My first monthly book recommendation, Harry Kraemer's new work, *Your Values-Based Legacy: Making a Difference at Every Stage of Life* is a great intergenerational invitation to take seriously our call and responsibility to work for the good. Harry's musings have been part of monthly *IBC Topics*, and his other books have been touted in my IBC letters.

The second book is that of a colleague with the Ignatian Legacy Fellows, James Briggs. His book, *What's Next in Your Life? A Spiritual Guide to Retirement and Purposeful Aging*, is a short (93 pages) impactful read with exercises for reflection for those moving toward or in retirement or "re-wirement." I saw how Jim's wisdom helped our legacy leaders in their journey into retirement. One new fellow said upon reading it, "John, the quotes alone are worth the price of the book!"

Remember, we live in a rational, scientific, linear world, *and* we live within a story that began in a garden and leads to eternal life.

Blessed Easter to all!

Pax,

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 11:17-25

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

ARTICLES

"What Really Matters"

by Gary Burnison, Korn Kerry CEO, Special Edition.

"Picking Up the Pieces"

by Gary Burnison, February 24, 2025.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Be attentive: Given the Lazarus reading and Lent as a time for reflection, what affected you about the Korn Ferry readings, particularly the first reading, or what were your thoughts? Have you had a dying conversation with anyone? What of Gary Burnison's reflections in both articles? Your thoughts?

Be intelligent: How are you experiencing the ambiguity of the times, and how is it being played out in your workplace or at home?

Be reasonable: Are you "Reflecting, Resetting, and Renewing"? How about your organization and family? What are your strategies? And what are your obstacles? What is working?

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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