

# IBC Newsletter



Friends,

Fifty-one years ago this August, on a beach in Martha's Vineyard in the summer of the filming of *Jaws*, a young Father Jack Wall, (now executive director of Catholic Extension) talked me into interviewing for a youth ministry position in a suburb of Chicago. Jack used this great line: "John, Dorothy Day had her Chicago experience. You need yours!" As they say, "The rest is history."

So I write from another lovely Chicago suburb and recommend that, before coming to your next meeting, you read the three-page Book of Jonah in the Old Testament—a good story to accompany our reading, "What *Jaws* can teach us about employee engagement 50 years on."

In the spirit of summer reading, I want to introduce you to the writing of a former *WSJ* and *Washington Post* reporter, poet, contemplative (Benedictine tradition), and retreat director, Judith Valente (St. Peter's College/University grad and honor's degree recipient). Her new book is *The Italian Soul: How to Savor the Full Joys of Life*. Judy is a friend from my days at Old St. Patrick's Church in Chicago, but she went to St. Aloysius Girls Academy in Jersey City, and I played basketball against St. Al's High School as a member of the team at St. Luke's High School in Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey. Judy received an honorary doctorate from her alma mater, St. Peter's University in Jersey City. One does not need to be Italian or from New Jersey to appreciate this book, but if you are ever to visit Italy, it's worth a read!

Enjoy the summer!

Pray for our new Pope Leo, for the Church, for peace and the end of violence, and for our democracy!

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:

### Jonah 1:15-16, 2:1

So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. But the Lord provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

## ARTICLES

### "What Jaws can teach us about employee engagement 50 years on"

by David Pullan and Sarah Jane McKechnie, Smart Brief, May 30, 2025.

### "Employee Engagement: One size can't fit all"

by Julie Winkle Giulioni, May 26, 2016



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

**Be attentive:** What effect, if any, did the motion picture Jaws have on you when you first saw it? Have you noticed a drop in employee engagement?

**Be intelligent:** What did you think of “Why Brody failed” and Brody’s fundamental mistakes? Any examples from your own experience of similar issues?

**Be reasonable:** How would you assess the practical applications for today’s workplace? Are you employing any of them?

**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.*

