

IBC Newsletter

Friends,

It was a beautiful June day in Cook County, Illinois, days after celebrating my 75th turn around the sun, disturbed only by the news at 5:30 p.m. It could be a long, hot summer.

I chose a scripture reading from 1 Kings 12:1-11 for your reflection, but, if you have a chance, read the rest of the chapter. Power is an old game.

Our article this month is from *Forbes Magazine* with permission for Harry Kraemer to post on his website. It is his application for "values-based leaders." There is much food for thought and grist for the mill!

Also, don't miss, in *America* magazine's review, "Recognizing our lives as pilgrimages" by Kristy Savage. It is a great review of Christine Marie Eberle's book *Finding God Along the Way*, her story of walking the Ignatian Camino with some Ignatian Volunteer Corp members. A good summer read!

Finally, I am reading with Cohort 1 of the Ignatian Wisdom Fellows a chapter a month of Austen Invereigh's *First Belong to God: On Retreat with Pope Francis*. It is a rich synthesis of Pope Francis's thought in the context of the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius. If you want to do a summer retreat without going to a retreat house by slowly moving through each chapter, you will understand the insight and power of the *Spiritual Exercises* and how Pope Francis, through his writing and speaking, carried a vision and a message to the Church and the world.

Pray for our new Pope Leo and for the Church and for peace and the end of violence and for the Spirit of Pentecost!

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:

1 Kings 12:1-11 A new king's duplicity

Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard of it (for he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from Egypt. And they sent and called him; and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and said to Rehoboam, "Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke that he placed on us, and we will serve you." He said to them, "Go away for three days, then come again to me." So the people went away. Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the older men who had attended his father Solomon while he was still alive, saying, "How do you advise me to answer this people?" They answered him, "If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever." But he disregarded the advice that the older men gave him, and consulted with the young men who had grown up with him and now attended him. He said to them, "What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, 'Lighten the yoke that your father put on us'?" The young men who had grown up with him said to him, "Thus you should say to this people who spoke to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you must lighten it for us'; thus you should say to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's loins. Now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.'"

ARTICLES

["Why Leaders Cannot Avoid Talking about Tariffs,"](#)

by Harry Kraemer. *Forbes*, May 27, 2025.

["Recognizing Our Lives as Pilgrimages,"](#)

by Kristy Savage. *America*, May 15, 2025



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Be attentive: How are you currently reading the tariff issue? Is it a concern of yours?

Be intelligent: How is your business organization impacted by tariffs? What are your observations regarding CEOs addressing this topic?

Be reasonable: How would you approach the conversation on tariffs as a “value-based leader” or a risk manager? What implications are you seeing for your customers and employees?

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.

Send forth thy Spirit, Lord
And renew the face of the earth.

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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