

May Newsletter

Friends,

Today is Earth Day and Passover. This letter seems to pick up on the issues of our times. But this is the May letter, not April, and May is the Marian month, and our scripture reading borrows from the Old Testament Book of Ruth. If you have time, read the whole book; it is just five pages. You might also pick up Ilana Pardes' book, *Ruth: A Migrant Tale* in which Ruth "is admired for being a paradigmatic migrant woman."

Keeping the focus on women and migration, I highly recommend the new motion picture (which I saw on the large screen on Saturday)—*Cabrini*, the life of Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, the first American saint and an immigrant. It is a powerful presentation. Its executive producer is Eustace Wolfington III who was a Woodstock Theological Center Board Member and lives in Philadelphia. Look him up on YouTube; he tells a great story about the making of the movie. As a descendent of Italian immigrants from New York, I was moved by this motion picture. And Mother Cabrini's story parallels that of Ignatius in her ability to inspire global institutions. I

recommended it to my good friend Bob Bies at Georgetown as a great story of the leadership of women and immigrants.

Following up on my experience in February at the Kino Border Initiative, America published a terrific article by Most Rev. Mark J. Seitz, bishop of El Paso: "Look at the border through the eyes of migrants." My friend Kevin Kelly in his "CEO Musings" post shares his story of running a packaging company for agriculture customers: "Leading with Heart." The last of the articles is by Kristine Mackey: "Assuming the Best in Others" from the Midwest Jesuits magazine. She connects Annotation 22 from the Spiritual Exercises to suggest that Ignatius may have some good advice in engaging people in this time of polarization.

So I may have overdone the Tom Danks reading strategy of more than one article but see the connections and have a rich conversation and meeting!

Let us pray for the repose of the soul of William Byron, S.J., who died on April 9, and remember his contributions to the Woodstock Business Conference and the Philly chapter of IBC as chaplain. Bill coined the phrase "affirming the relevance of religious faith to business practice" and it is why we gather. He will be remembered for the leadership and humanity he exercised at Scranton University, St. Joe's Prep and University, Loyola Maryland and New Orleans, Catholic University, Georgetown University, and at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Washington, D.C. where he was pastor. And pray for migrants and refugees and for peace in our world and the eradication of evil.

Our Lady, pray for us!
 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:

Ruth 1:12-18

Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.



ARTICLES

Bishop Mark J. Seitz, ["Look at the border through the eyes of migrants."](#)

Kevin Kelly, ["Leading with Heart"](#)

Kristine Mackey, ["Assuming the Best in Others"](#)

REFLECTION

Reflection Questions

Be attentive: Three articles—a bishop, a CEO, and a retired executive reflecting on St. Ignatius. Which articles caught your attention and why?

Be intelligent: As immigration is a political issue, notice how these articles are connected and a resource for conversation and dialogue.

Be reasonable: As business professionals write these articles, reflect on what Bill Byron S.J. suggested in coining "the relevance of religion to business practice."

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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