

IBC Newsletter

Friends,

Happy Easter! I started this epistle just after hearing the news of the death of Pope Francis. I continue several days later as I digest the loss of our first Jesuit pope. May he rest in peace.

I want to recommend Paul Lakeland's article in *Commonweal* titled "Perfect Love Casts Out Fear: Francis may have been the most genuinely human pope of our time." I will personally miss his moral voice in this age of disruption and chaos and his attention to the gospels, our planet, and the poor. I saw Francis in the tradition of good St. Pope John XXIII and Jesuit Superior General Pedro Arrupe. So, let's pray for the Church, asking the Holy Spirit to guide the Church in the selection of the next pope. I am concerned about the power of money to buy elections and the loss of moral voice and witness in the world.

It is May and Mary's month, so the scripture reading from the Gospel of John picks up on the role of a woman seeing Jesus as the Messiah.

I offer two short articles for commentary on culture and details, because "the devil is in the details"! Good grist for a conversation. But if the death of a pope and a conclave become the topic of conversation, that is also a good thing.

My book recommendation for this month is a short work by Nathaniel Samuels, Ph.D., a professor at the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola, Chicago: *When Stories Wound*. This is a powerful exploration of understanding deep stories and strategies for living together responsibly in a polarized world.

Happy Mother's Day! We are moving into the season of the sacraments of baptism, Communion, and holy matrimony. They are always marker events in the lives of our families. Celebrate!

Pray for the pope and for the Church and for the renewal of the earth in spring. "He is Risen!"

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 4:39-42

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

ARTICLES

"A leader's handbook for managing culture,"

by Theodore Kinni. *Strategy+business.com*, January 21, 2022. A review of *Win from Within: Build Organizational Culture for Competitive Advantage* by James Heskett.

"Attention to detail matters,"

by Adam Bryant. *Strategy+business.com*, April 4, 2023.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Be attentive: Two articles—one focused on big picture, culture; the other, attention to detail. What caught your interest and why?

Be intelligent: (A) What has been your role in building culture in your work group? (B) How is your attention to detail? How has it served you or derailed you? Any stories?

Be reasonable: (A) What do you think about James Heskett's strategies for building successful cultures? (B) So attention to detail: nature or nurture? Go around the room and compare and contrast.

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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